

Core Curriculum

STATEMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL VALUES

Inherent in all curricula at Southwestern Michigan College is a set of instructional values that we believe are an integral part of any higher education experience. These values include understanding and valuing cultural and global diversity; being able to work effectively as part of a team; and thinking critically and solving problems. The College strives to embed these values into our courses and other college experiences through enculturation and professional development of faculty and staff; faculty training in appropriate pedagogical strategies; and the incorporation of these principles into multiple extracurricular experiences.

All students obtaining an Associate degree at Southwestern Michigan College must demonstrate mastery of certain core competency skills. Consequently, all Associate degrees at SMC require students to take a core set of courses designed to teach these skills or otherwise demonstrate mastery of these skills.

We believe that all students obtaining a degree from SMC should possess the following skills:

1. WRITING – Communicate effectively through the written word.

- A) Organize, select and relate ideas; outline and develop them in coherent paragraphs; write standard English sentences; use correct spelling and punctuation; achieve a varied writing style including vocabulary and sentence structure for different readers and purposes.
- B) Locate and gather information from primary and secondary sources; write a paper or report using this research; quote, paraphrase, summarize accurately and cite sources properly.

In order to master the above competencies you must complete ENGL 103 and ENGL 104 or ENGL 103 and ENGL 105 with a minimum grade of C.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATION – Speak and listen completely in an organized and critical manner and effectively express ideas and opinions.

In order to master this competency you must complete SPEE 102 or SPEE 104 with a minimum grade of C.

3. COMPUTER LITERACY – Understand major computer applications including the ethics involved. Apply this knowledge by using a hands-on approach.

In order to meet this competency you must demonstrate competency through testing or complete ISYS 110 with a minimum grade of C or complete a computer intensive AAS curriculum.

4. MATHEMATICS - Understand and perform computations using linear equations, statistics, graphing and quadratic equations.

In order to meet this competency you must complete MATH 129 or above for the AS degree; Math 101 or above for the AA or AAS degree, with a minimum grade of C or obtain a satisfactory algebra assessment test score.

5. WELLNESS – Demonstrate knowledge of personal health and wellness or knowledge of workplace health and safety.

In order to master this competency you must complete with a minimum grade of C PHED 103 for an Associate in Arts and an Associate in Science degrees or the specific required wellness course for an Associate in Applied Science degree.