HOW WILL STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM GENERAL EDUCATION?

Further developing the skills that are introduced to students long before they arrive at college, General Education at ETSU strengthens those foundational skills in ways that will enhance and inspire a lifetime of learning. General Education at ETSU enhances students’ abilities to:

THINK CRITICALLY

COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

UNDERSTAND SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL WORLDS

CULTIVATE AESTHETIC AWARENESS

COLLABORATE AND BUILD COMMUNITY

GROW AS A RESPONSIBLE AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZEN

**Critical thinking** involves the use of reasoning and evidence to reach sensible judgments about methods, assumptions, and results. Critical thinkers evaluate the relevance of evidence and its significance. They can distinguish reliable from flawed information and use appropriate mathematical concepts. They are alert and responsive to the effects of their personal biases and limitations, and familiar with suitable methods for analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data.

**Effective communication** includes sharing ideas through appropriate oral and written forms of expression, in ways that demonstrate awareness of audience, purpose, and context. Communication takes many forms, including writing, public speaking, and conversation, and utilizes artistic expression and information design. Effective communication involves mindful interpretation along with active reading and listening.

**Understanding the social and natural worlds** requires careful observation, experimentation, reasoning, and analysis. It is achieved by identifying reliable sources of information and integrating evidence from variety of perspectives, but also by cultivating a sense of curiosity, asking questions, and learning how to find useful and credible answers.

Studying the fine and performing arts **cultivates aesthetic awareness**, which is essential to the human experience, providing us with valuable forms of expression and important lenses through which we can better understand ourselves, our circumstances, and the worlds we inhabit. Artistic expression is developed through creation and performance, as well as the analysis of artistic works.

In a world of increasing specialization, solving complex problems requires significant **collaboration** and interdisciplinary innovations. Social problems also require the ability to develop and evaluate moral arguments, in ways that are sensitive to different social values and perspectives. General education teaches us how to build **communities** and better understand our roles within them.

Productive **citizens** are resilient and self-aware. They monitor their own welfare and circumstances, and they strive to maximize their physical, financial, emotional, and social wellness. They look outwards as well as inward, developing awareness of the differences between diverse cultures and their significance. They interact respectfully with people from diverse communities and backgrounds and work towards creating a more equitable world.