Philosophy of General Education

Bismarck State College is dedicated to providing innovative educational programs that develop individual abilities, strengthen human relationships, enhance community life, and heighten global consciousness. The General Education requirements at Bismarck State College promote the development of an informed and educated person who recognizes and respects the diversity of communities; understands the value of active, critical thinking; and is competent and proficient at fundamental skills which encourage a positive attitude toward lifelong learning and equip students to participate in a complex, interdependent world.

The ability to successfully function in a diverse society requires knowledge and awareness. This includes:

- recognition of the diversity of people;
- examination of one’s attitudes, values and assumptions;
- recognition of the impact of past events on contemporary society; and
- knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in society.

The ability to communicate one’s thoughts to others is essential in interpersonal relationships, working environments, and civic duties. This includes:

- clarity of thought, organization, and presentation ability in oral and written communication;
- organization, presentation, and transfer of ideas by electronic means; and
- communication of ideas and emotions through creative expression.

The ability to think in a manner that is imaginative, methodic, and even provocative can be the cornerstone of success for a student. This includes:

- recognition of the impacts of technology on society and of the responsible and ethical use of technology;
- identification of a problem and an approach to the solution that is realistic and/or creative;
- recognition and analysis of arguments that support divergent theories and perspectives; and
- interpretation of results and the reasonable drawing of conclusions.