Michigan State University Undergraduate Institutional Learning Goals

Analytical Thinking – The MSU graduate uses ways of knowing from mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and arts to access information and critically analyzes complex material in order to evaluate evidence, construct reasoned arguments, and communicate inferences and conclusions.

Dimension	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Exemplary
Acquires, analyzes, and evaluates information from multiple sources.	Seeks information from basic types of sources with minimal regard for relevance or quality.	Retrieves information from a limited range of sources and identifies biases, strengths, and weaknesses within those sources.	Designs and implements effective strategies to find relevant sources based on purpose. Critiques biases, strengths, and weaknesses of information sources.	Uses analysis to defend information choices and reach original conclusions.
Synthesizes and applies information within and across disciplines.	Recognizes multiple perspectives among sources of information.	Identifies how information can be conceptualized differently within various disciplines.	Examines and integrates relevant information sources from multiple disciplinary perspectives.	Creates a defensible, compelling work using multiple disciplinary perspectives.
Identifies and applies, as appropriate, quantitative methods for defining and responding to problems.	Recognizes the need for and performs basic quantitative methods.	Identifies a range of quantitative methods and employs them to make judgments.	Selects quantitative methods for making sound judgments and drawing plausible conclusions based on the situation.	Critiques biases, strengths, and weaknesses of quantitative approaches to reflect on conclusions and propose responses to a situation.
Identifies the credibility, use and misuse of scientific, humanistic and artistic methods.	Recognizes a range of inquiry methods and acknowledges that they can be misused.	Describes the effective use of methods and identifies their misuse in a given contexts.	Judges if methods are credible and ethical in given contexts.	Selects inquiry methods ethically and with an understanding of the consequences of their misuse.

Cultural Understanding – the MSU graduate comprehends global and cultural diversity within historical, artistic, and societal contexts.

Dimension	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Exemplary
Reflects on experiences with diversity to demonstrate knowledge and sensitivity	Shows openness to different experiences and recognition of one's cultural background.	Demonstrates respect for different experiences, attitudes, and values and exhibits an awareness of one's cultural norms and assumptions.	Engages in purposeful interactions with others, understands commonalities and differences, and evaluates how both aspects contribute to a deeper understanding of self and others.	Creates environments that facilitate productive and respectful relationships in intercultural contexts with the knowledge and ability to span boundaries.
Demonstrates awareness of how diversity emerges within and across cultures	Recognizes multiple definitions and expressions of culture and diversity.	Understands culture and diversity as dynamic and contextual.	Investigates and analyzes how culture and diversity evolve and are expressed in multiple contexts.	Effectively negotiates intercultural contexts by applying knowledge of diversity as an evolving, nuanced, and complex concept.

EFFECTIVE CITIZENSHIP – The MSU graduate participates as a member of local, national, and global communities and has the capacity to lead in an increasingly interdependent world.

Dimension	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Exemplary
Understands the structures of local, national, and global governance systems and acts effectively within those structures in both individual and collaborative ways.	Demonstrate an awareness of institutional structures and the need for individual and collaborative approaches to address societal issues.	Identifies strengths and challenges within institutional structures to address societal issues in individual and collaborative ways.	Engage in and reflect on individual and collaborative participation within institutional structures to address societal issues.	Exercises leadership within institutional structures to address societal issues.
Applies knowledge and abilities to solve societal problems in ethical ways.	Demonstrate awareness of societal issues and their ethical dimensions.	Identifies knowledge and ethical reasoning to address societal issues.	Evaluate and synthesize knowledge and apply ethical reasoning to address societal issues.	Exercises leadership and ethical reasoning to address societal issues.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION– The MSU graduate uses a variety of media to communicate effectively with diverse audiences.

Dimension	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Exemplary
Identifies how contexts affect communication strategies and practices.	Recognizes that communication depends on context and understands relationships between communication and contexts.	Describes key components of communication contexts. Identifies communication as an interactive, purposeful, and consequential process.	Analyzes communication context, message, purpose, and motivation to select effective strategies and media.	Assesses how communication emerges in diverse contexts and can anticipate alternative scenarios or outcomes.
Engages in effective communication practices in a variety of situations and with a variety of media.	Demonstrates an awareness of how communication practices and media relate to context.	Connects strategies and media to engage in purposeful interaction with some consideration of role and context.	Employs effective communication strategies and media in various roles and contexts.	Designs and implements strategies and media that adapt to dynamic contexts; reassesses strategies and outcomes in relation to emerging ethical dimensions.

INTEGRATED REASONING – The MSU graduate integrates discipline-based knowledge to make informed decisions that reflect humane, social, ethical, and aesthetic values.

Dimension	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Exemplary
Critically applies liberal arts knowledge in disciplinary contexts and disciplinary knowledge in liberal arts contexts.	Recognizes that there are disciplines that vary in their goals, methods, standards, and practices; and that both breadth and depth of study is essential to a university education.	Identifies and connects relevant knowledge that spans the boundaries between and within disciplines.	Effectively selects, integrates, and applies knowledge that spans the boundaries between and within disciplines and considers relationships among multiple ways of knowing.	Integrates knowledge from across the university experience to formulate innovative strategies for identifying, reframing, or solving problems.
Uses a variety of inquiry strategies incorporating multiple views to make value judgments, solve problems, answer questions, and generate new understanding.	Recognizes that there are diverse ways of knowing and acquiring new knowledge.	Identifies distinct and valid inquiry strategies associated with specific fields of study. Experiments with applying these strategies within and/or across disciplines.	Applies multiple inquiry strategies to make judgments, solve problems, and answer questions, understanding that these strategies and their application are inherently value laden.	Generates new understanding and evaluates outcomes using inquiry strategies that reflect an integrated perspective.