

# Mission Statement

De Anza College provides an academically rich, multicultural learning environment that challenges students of every background to develop their intellect, character and abilities; to realize their goals; and to be socially responsible leaders in their communities, the nation and the world.

De Anza College fulfills its mission by engaging students in creative work that demonstrates the knowledge, skills and attitudes contained within the college's Institutional Core Competencies.

## Institutional Core Competencies

The Institutional Core Competency statements are a promise to the communities that support De Anza College that students graduating with an A.A. or A.S. degree, or who will transfer to a four-year college or university, will be able to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes contained within all of the five competency areas, based on general education and discipline-specific courses at the lower division level. Students who earn a certificate, or have taken courses for personal educational development, will be expected to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes specified within one (or more) of the five competency areas.

### **(1) COMMUNICATION AND EXPRESSION**

Students will communicate clearly, express themselves creatively, interpret thoughtfully and logically, and engage actively in dialogue and discussion, while paying attention to audience, situation, and (inter) cultural context. Communication and expression may be written or oral, verbal or nonverbal, informational or artistic.

### **(2) INFORMATION LITERACY**

Students will recognize when information is needed and locate, critically evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in various formats. They will use appropriate resources and technologies while understanding the social, legal, and ethical issues for information and its use.

### **(3) PHYSICAL/MENTAL WELLNESS AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Students will recognize lifestyles that promote physical and mental well-being, engage in self-reflection and ethical decision-making, explore career choices and life goals, practice effective individual and collaborative work habits, and demonstrate a commitment to ongoing learning.

### **(4) GLOBAL, CULTURAL, SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

Students will recognize their role as local, national, and global citizens. They will participate in a democratic process, respect social and cultural diversity, appreciate the complexity of the physical world, and understand the significance of both environmental sustainability and social justice.

### **(5) CRITICAL THINKING**

Students will analyze arguments, create and test models, solve problems, evaluate ideas, estimate and predict outcomes based on underlying principles relative to a particular discipline, interpret literary, artistic, and scientific works, utilize symbols and symbolic systems, apply qualitative and quantitative analysis, verify the reasonableness of conclusions, explore alternatives, empathize with differing perspectives, and adapt ideas and methods to new situations.