Guiding Principles for General Education at UC Merced

UC Merced is planning educational experiences designed to prepare well-educated people of the twenty-first century for the workplace, for advanced education, and for a leadership role within their communities. UC Merced graduates will be exceptionally well-prepared to navigate and succeed in a complex world. The principles guiding the design and implementation of our academic program are envisioned within a continuum that ranges from preparatory and advanced curricula in general education and in the majors, through a variety of educational activities, inside and outside the classroom.

All UC Merced graduates will reflect these principles, which provide the foundation for their education:

- **Scientific literacy:** To have a functional understanding of scientific, technological and quantitative information, and to know both how to interpret scientific information and effectively to apply quantitative tools;

- **Decision-making:** To appreciate the various and diverse factors bearing on decisions and the know-how to assemble, evaluate, interpret and use information effectively for critical analysis and problem-solving;

- **Communication:** To convey information to and communicate and interact effectively with multiple audiences, using advanced skills in written and other modes of communication;

- **Self and Society:** To understand and value diverse perspectives in both the global and community contexts of modern society in order to work knowledgeably and effectively in an ethnically and culturally rich setting;

- **Ethics and Responsibility:** To follow ethical practices in their professions and communities, and care for future generations through sustainable living and environmental and societal responsibility;

- **Leadership and Teamwork:** To work effectively in both leadership and team roles, capably making connections and integrating their expertise with the expertise of others;

- **Aesthetic Understanding and Creativity:** To appreciate and be knowledgeable about human creative expression, including literature and the arts; and

- **Development of Personal Potential:** To be responsible for achieving the full promise of their abilities, including psychological and physical well-being.