This document identifies UA’s overall General Education Learning Outcomes and the Tier/Strand Learning Objectives that guide instruction in courses comprising the GE Program. The GE Learning Outcomes represent a set of knowledge, understandings, and abilities that all UA students will have achieved upon completion of their GE programs. The Tier/Strand Learning Objectives are statements describing the knowledge, understandings, and abilities that students will demonstrate in each GE course they complete. The Learning Objectives serve as guidelines for course development and assessment of student learning. We expect that each Tier 1 or 2 course will include: (1) opportunities for students to achieve at least one of the Learning Objectives associated with the Tier/Strand in which the course is offered, and (2) assessment of students’ success in achieving the selected Learning Objective(s).

General Education Learning Outcomes (approved by the UWGEC 05/17/2006)

At the end of their General Education program, students will be able to:

Think critically
1. Exercise synthetic, analytic and/or computational reasoning as needed to solve problems.
2. Raise salient questions about the evidence, inferences, and conclusions of inquiries, including one's own inquiries.
3. Infer and assess the ambiguities, assumptions, values, and purposes at issue in inquiries, including one’s own work.

Communicate effectively
4. Interpret and clearly present information in varied formats, including graphs, charts, and multimedia projects.
5. Compose correct and clear written material in multiple formats such as research logs, researched reports, exam answers, and reflective essays.
6. Improve written and visual documents in response to feedback.

Understand and value differences
7. Assess how different modes of inquiry and expression are appropriate in varied cultural and disciplinary contexts.
8. Examine how differences in cultural and individual viewpoints expand our understanding of human experience.

Use information effectively
9. Access and evaluate the reliability of information from varied sources, including internet and library resources.
10. Use information sources ethically and responsibly.
Tier/Strand Course Level Learning Objectives (approved by the UWGEC 05/14/2014)

Tier 1: Individuals and Societies
Students will be able to:
   a. Describe the formal and informal structures and behaviors at the individual and/or social levels that constitute systems of knowledge, language, culture, society, religion, philosophy, government, and/or economy, and differentiate and interpret the structures, processes and/or individual behaviors that make them work as they do.
   b. Demonstrate how various theories of individual knowledge, human behaviors, languages, cultures, social systems, governments, religions, philosophies and/or economies are used to explain what we see in everyday contexts.
   c. Explain various patterns of individual behavior and/or cognition as they relate to social, cultural, and/or linguistic systems, governments, religions, philosophies and/or economies.
   d. Analyze various theoretical and ideological interpretations or depictions of these behaviors, structures, or systems in popular media, scholarly discourse, or other relevant discourses.

Tier 2: Individuals and Societies
Students will be able to:
   a. Summarize how various theories of individuals and/or societies are articulated in a particular disciplinary or interdisciplinary theoretical context, and then apply them in a new context.
   b. Compare and contrast different worldviews on issues relevant to individuals and societies and express those comparisons in written and/or oral form.
   c. Generalize from primary and secondary data sources how and in what ways individuals and/or societies create particular linguistic, cultural or social systems, governments, religions, philosophies and/or economies.
   d. Assess the value of various theories relevant to individuals and societies in relation to the wider academic literature

Tier 1: Traditions and Cultures
Students will be able to:
   a. Obtain and recall knowledge of fundamental concepts and ideas in a broad topical area in history, traditions and cultures.
   b. Have a broad general understanding of the sweep of human history and the roles of individuals, peoples, and cultures in establishing civilization as we know it.
   c. Consider perceptions, values, beliefs, and customs of other cultures before judging or rendering a decision on their behavior.
   d. Compare and contrast their own world view with those of others, and defend their world view through written and/or oral communication.

Tier 2: Arts
Students will be able to:
   a. Use appropriate vocabulary, in written and spoken forms, to describe and analyze artistic works.
   b. Identify and analyze similarities, differences, and interrelationships among the arts.
   c. Identify and analyze basic formal elements, principles and compositional structures in the fine arts of cinema, dance, music, theater, and the visual arts.
   d. Identify and analyze the impact of cultural and historical factors on the creation and reception of artistic works, as well as evaluate the significance of artistic works, both metaphorically and in larger cultural contexts.
Tier 2: Humanities
Students will be able to:
   a. Read primary documents and be able to place them in their historical context, as well as relating arguments and ideas from literature and historical documents to the circumstances under which they were written.
   b. Explain the impact of cultural and historical factors on creation and reception of artistic and literary works.
   c. Explain how historical and social contexts influence various types of artistic expression.
   d. Articulate significant social, ethical, literary, and political perspectives found in humanities.

Tier 1: Natural Sciences
Students will be able to:
   a. Interpret scientific results from popular sources, incl. reading data presented in graphs, charts, or tables, and including recognition of whether sources are peer-reviewed publications.
   b. Describe the Scientific Method (hypotheses – predictions – tests based on observations) and recognize the role of statistical methods in the context of testing hypotheses (this implies understanding that data may display variance and stochasticity).
   c. Evaluate the strength of evidence that a popular science media report is based on, i.e. between direct result of peer-reviewed publication and pure speculation by non-expert.
   d. Extract the main conclusions from a sample of original scientific literature at the level of popular-science-understanding.

Tier 2: Natural Sciences
Students will be able to:
   a. Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental concepts and ideas in a broad topical area in natural sciences.
   b. Demonstrate understanding of what questions are answerable/complex/inaccessible using the Scientific Method (hypotheses – predictions – tests based on observations).
   c. Understand how scientific theories in a particular disciplinary or interdisciplinary context are tested using the Scientific Method.
   d. Apply the Scientific Method to issues/problems in everyday life/the student’s own experience.