

**University of Puerto Rico
Office for Academic Affairs
General Education Program**

The Institutional Student Profile

The University of Puerto Rico in Carolina, through its General Education Program, ensures that our graduates have made significant progress toward becoming truly educated individuals regardless of their field of study.

The Program provides the means whereby:

A. Graduates will acquire the ability to think clearly, logically, and critically, to reason quantitatively and to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

B. Graduates will acquire appreciable knowledge about their own bodies and minds, about society, about the physical and natural world, about the cultural endeavors and legacies of their civilization and the other cultures with which they share the planet.

C. Graduates will acquire an understanding and appreciation of the principles, methodologies, value systems, and thought processes engaged in methods of inquiries.

It is the ultimate aim of the program to:

D. Create in the students habits of thought and discussion, of being curious and creative, of having an inquiring mind and a taste for discovery, and that these will persist throughout the lives of all students.

The Main Objectives of the General Education Program

1. To provide a General Education program for its students that fosters the development of the whole person: by providing an integrated educational experience where students make connections across the core curriculum, the academic major and the elective courses; and where students think critically, analyze, evaluate, and choose to act with a sense of social awareness and responsibility.
2. To promote the development of an educated citizen: one with knowledge of the fundamental disciplines, who communicates effectively, and appreciates and cultivates ethical and aesthetic values.
3. To promote in learners a global vision anchored in the student's historical reality: fostering an awareness of self, of cultural diversity and of international interdependence.

4. To develop in students the capacity to anticipate changes in society and in their chosen fields, and the flexibility to adapt to such changes.
5. To develop in students both independent and collaborative skills in the process of inquiry and problem solving, utilizing a variety of research methods, tools, and styles of inquiry.
6. To develop student's skills in maintaining a life span of physical wellness and fitness.

The Goals of the Program

GenEd GOAL 1: Computer and Information Literacy

Students will use technology proficiently and responsibly and demonstrate the ability to search for, organize, evaluate, synthesize and document information from a variety of sources.

GenEd GOAL 2: Major Disciplines

Students will acquire an effective knowledge of the facts and information that comprise the major disciplines: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences and Natural and Physical Sciences.

GenEd GOAL 3: Modes of Inquiry

Students will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of systematic methods of inquiry, applying appropriate principles and procedures to investigate problems of a physical, biological, philosophical and social nature.

GenEd GOAL 4: Qualitative, Quantitative and Statistical Analysis

Students will show competence in the following quantitative reasoning skills: Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and Data Analysis exploring the application of quantitative and qualitative methods to questions in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, or Humanities.

GenEd Goal 5: Critical Thinking

Students will demonstrate the ability to think analytically by examining issues logically and responsibly, and by formulating hypotheses and arguments to important questions and answering them effectively: all in the pursuit of relevant and reliable knowledge about the world that is focused on deciding what to believe or do.

GenEd GOAL 6: Communication

Students will demonstrate the ability to use language effectively; they will learn to listen, speak, read, and write in the vernacular and in English as a second language, and if feasible, in a third language; and they will use various resources and technology to support and communicate their ideas including graphics, electronic media, computers and quantified data.

GenEd GOAL 7: Ethics

Students will gain an understanding of the standards and issues relevant to personal and social behavior, scholarly conduct, and community responsibility, and apply them to their personal, social and professional life.

GenEd GOAL 8: Aesthetics: Visual/Performing Arts, and Literature

Students will develop an appreciation of aesthetic and creative activities as an expression of imagination and experience.

GOAL 9: Interdependence and Diversity

Students will gain an understanding of international interdependence and an appreciation of cultural diversity; they will be aware of the implications of globalization and develop consideration for values, lifestyles, traditions, and ethnic and gender affiliations that may differ from their own.

GenEd Goal 10: Life Skills

Students will acquire life skills necessary to succeed in their professional and personal lives enabling students to reflect on their own thought processes, acquire strategies to enhance self-confidence, set timed goal and priorities, and develop the flexibility to anticipate and adapt to change.

GenEd GOAL 11: Collaborative and Responsible Involvement

Students will be able to participate effectively and responsibly in groups engaged in the identification, exploration, and solution of problems.

GOAL 12: Physical Wellness

Students will be able to demonstrate the knowledge necessary to plan and execute a personal wellness program.