What is a General Education Learning Outcome (GELO)?

General education learning outcomes are the “big ideas” students should be able to articulate, put into action, or utilize (theoretically or pragmatically) when taking general education courses for transfer or a degree.

MJC has five GELOs, and when students take courses that qualify for these areas, students should be able to:

Demonstrate proficiency in NATURAL SCIENCE by:
1. Explaining how the scientific method is used to solve problems.
2. Describing how scientific discoveries and theories affect human activities.

Demonstrate proficiency in SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE by:
1. Describing the method of inquiry used by the social and behavioral sciences.
2. Describing how societies and social subgroups have operated in various times and cultures.
3. Analyzing the ways that individuals act and have acted in response to their societies.

Demonstrate proficiency in the HUMANITIES by:
1. Demonstrating awareness of the various ways that culture and ethnicity affect individual experience and society as a whole.
2. Demonstrating the ability to make well considered aesthetic judgments.

Demonstrate proficiency in LANGUAGE AND RATIONALITY by:
1. Demonstrating awareness of the interactive nature of communication involving effective listening, reading, writing, and speaking.
2. Demonstrating critical thinking in the analysis and production of communication.
3. Demonstrating the ability to find, evaluate, and use information in a variety of formats.

Demonstrate proficiency in HEALTH EDUCATION by:
1. Describing the integration of the physiological and psychological human being.
3. Evaluating the impact of daily decisions on life and health.
Where are GELOs stored, and are they publicly accessible for students and the community?

GELOs can be found in three locations:

- **First**, GELOs are primarily housed in MJC’s curriculum management database, CurricUNET. GELOs are also stored and assessed in eLumen.

- **Second**, GELOs are **publicly accessible** for students and our community through the college website on the outcomes assessment page:

  https://www.mjc.edu/instruction/outcomesassessment/outcomes.php

- **Third**, GELOs and their respective quantitative assessment data are **publicly accessible** for students and our community through the college research website and the outcomes assessment webpage above.

### Instructional Learning Outcomes Data

MJC has publicly accessible data dashboards for GELOs.

- **Fourth**, GELOs are accessible for students in the college catalog.

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In the college catalog, all GELOs are accessible for all students.
What can we learn from the assessment of GELOs?

The assessment of GELOs isn’t only a snapshot of how students understand the material in a general education area and its courses. One of the primary goals of GELO assessment is to provide insight about how learning might improve in a given general education area—whether it be online, in a classroom, or happening in another context.

As with CLOs, dialogue is central to the process (see section, “What can we learn from the assessment of CLOs?”). But, GELOs are a different kind of level, and they are designed to bring together data on a set of related courses that, when successfully completed, lead to transferable general education credit or the satisfaction of general education units toward a degree. Both full-time and part-time faculty that teach courses inside of general education should discuss how students are meeting the general education learning outcomes through the courses they take.

Rather than understanding success as general education completion, GELO assessment provides insight into what students are actually learning in relation to the big ideas of the courses and the general education units they aim to complete. In Program Review, GELO data is disaggregated so that faculty can analyze how student populations are learning inside of their general education coursework, and departments that teach general education courses can focus more strategically on equity and success.
How are GELOs assessed?

The data for GELOs is generated through CLO assessment:

- **Courses are mapped to GELOs.** When faculty assess their GELOs, they draw on CLO assessment data. Faculty complete the mapping process in eLumen, relating each CLO statement to any analogous GELO statements. In other words, if a CLO helps to fulfill a GELO, faculty mark the corresponding box, thereby delineating a relationship.

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Course Learning Outcomes are mapped to applicable General Education Learning Outcomes in eLumen.
• **Course assessment quantitative data informs inform GELOs.** When mapping is done for all courses in a department that fulfill a particular degree, certificate or award, *eLumen* will populate the data for GELOs. This data can be disaggregated in Program Review via the GELO data dashboard.

*General Education Learning Outcomes assessment results are disaggregated for analysis in Program Review.*
GELO assessment data (quantitative and qualitative) is analyzed in Program Review. In Program Review, faculty are asked to analyze the results of the disaggregated GELO data. The analysis includes: setting a goal for GELO success, examining whether or not the goal was achieved, constructing an action plan for overall GELO improvement, analyzing equity gaps in GELO performance, and constructing an action plan to address equity gaps in GELO outcomes.

Student Learning and Outcomes Assessment

Please review your Student Learning Outcomes data located on the MJC Student Learning Outcomes Assessment website and below, in regards to any applicable Program, and General Education, and Institutional Learning Outcomes.

For each PLO, GELO, or ILO that your course learning outcomes inform, you will find your overall rate. On the MJC Student Learning Outcomes Assessment website, you will also see that overall rate disaggregated across student populations. You can use this information to understand how different student populations are learning in your courses and programs.

After you have examined your rates and disaggregated data, reflect on the data you encountered. Please address any applicable program outcomes (PLO), general education outcomes GELOs, and institutional outcomes (ILOs) in your analysis.

General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO)

If your program has General Education outcomes, what is your set goal for GELO success? Do your overall rates meet this goal?

Continuous Quality Improvement

If your rates for success for any PLOs, GELOs, and ILOs are lower than your goals, what are your plans to improve them?

Equity and Success

Do your rates for your PLOs, GELOs, and ILOs vary across student populations? How do you plan on addressing issues of equity? In other words, how do you plan on closing the learning gaps across student populations?

General Education Learning Outcomes assessment results are measured, analyzed, and addressed through analysis in Program Review.
**When are GELOs assessed?**

The Academic Senate recommends a general policy that all regularly offered programs have their respective GELOs assessed once every two years, followed by Program Review. The GELO data will come from two years of course learning outcomes (CLO) assessment, with each course in a discipline being assessed at least once. Data will be disaggregated whenever possible to measure student learning across subpopulations, including those identified in the Modesto Junior College Student Equity Plan.

The following graphic represents the college-wide two-year outcomes assessment & program review cycle: