

A Vision for Core Academic Skills at Northern Essex Community College

Northern Essex Community College (NECC) students will emerge from our caring academic community prepared and motivated to become self-aware, engaged members of the communities in which they live and work. To do so, it is essential that all NECC students learn to think critically and gain problem solving skills. By helping them to look at their assumptions, ask penetrating questions, formulate hypotheses and draw conclusions based on sound evidence, we prepare them for the complex challenges they will face as citizens, in their careers, and in their personal lives.

Critical thinking requires the development of these five core academic skills:

Communication: Students will develop and express ideas by applying the tools of discussion, debate, research and inquiry. They will demonstrate the capacity to listen, speak, read and write with increasing complexity and sophistication, attending both to purpose and to the diversity of audiences, and to communicate their ideas using appropriate oral, written, visual or technological means.

Global Awareness: Students will develop an understanding of the diverse cultures, ways of thinking and historical traditions in today's world. They will learn to use this knowledge to address increasingly interdependent global issues such as the environment and human rights.

Information Literacy: Students will learn to identify their information needs, then locate, evaluate, and appropriately integrate information to accomplish a specific purpose. Students will demonstrate the ability to use current technology as well as other research resources to successfully find, and then effectively communicate the information.

Quantitative Reasoning: Students will learn to interpret and manipulate quantitative information and apply mathematical concepts and skills to solve real-world problems.

Science and Technology: Students will learn to explain how science and technology influence each other and how both can be used to explore natural and human-created systems.