

ACADEMIC DIVISIONS

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Academic Vision

To kindle a passion for learning.

Academic Mission Statement

The Division of Academic Affairs develops faculty and students through effective and relevant instructional designs focusing on access and success for all learners.

Academic Statement of Values

We uphold the following core values in all that we do.

Quality: Expectation of excellence in teaching and learning

Ethical Behavior: Internalized responsibility to act and model in a trustworthy and honorable manner

Competence: Performing to professional and instructional standards

Collegiality: Maintaining an open and supportive culture

Commitment: Meeting the needs of students, peers, and community in a consistent and dedicated manner

Academic Commitment to Assessment

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Rhodes State College is committed to graduating students who are skilled professionals and meaningful contributors to their communities. To fulfill this commitment, the College systematically assesses student learning outcomes in order to improve learning and instruction. Program assessment of learning assures students, employers, and the community that Rhodes State College graduates possess the skills needed to perform competently in the workplace. Additionally, assessment of General Education affirms that graduates possess the needed skills and abilities to act as life-long learners and quality contributors to their communities.

General Education Philosophy

Through established core skills and abilities, General Education provides the foundation for personal, professional and social growth and life long learning. General Education encompasses the following areas of higher learning: communications and humanities, mathematics, life

and physical sciences, and social and behavioral sciences. Collectively, General Education course work enhances learners' abilities to:

- Understand human behavior and work effectively with others;
- Communicate effectively in a variety of media;
- Listen attentively, think critically, and use problem solving techniques appropriately;
- Access and synthesize information;
- Understand the ethical dimensions of life;
- Apply quantitative reasoning in various contexts;
- Acknowledge diversity;
- Recognize the necessity for life-long learning;
- Recognize the connection between higher learning and their personal and professional lives;
- Appreciate the complexity of the world around us.

Every course in the general education curriculum contributes to the acquisition of one or more of these competencies. Thus, General Education is integral to changing lives, building futures, and improving communities.

All degree programs at the College require SDE 1010 First Year Experience. As part of the curriculum, this course is required for new entering students and is to be taken within the first semester of enrollment. SDE 1010 First Year Experience provides an introduction to educational success strategies, including knowledge of: assessment; learning strategies that focus on collaboration, memory, note-taking, textbook reading and test-taking; educational and career planning and professional development; critical thinking and diversity awareness.