

## Goals for Breadth Requirements

UCI is committed to the values of a liberal education for all its undergraduates. One component of that commitment is the requirement that all undergraduates complete a set of breadth requirements. Breadth courses introduce students to a range of ideas and intellectual activities that engage UCI scholars, providing both scope and balance to a university degree beyond the study of a specific major.

The breadth requirements are intended to help undergraduates place the specialized study undertaken in the major within a broader context. They are designed to cultivate the skills, knowledge, and understanding that will make students effective citizens and leaders in matters local, national and global. The breadth requirements should enable UCI undergraduates to apply the abilities developed in their studies to identify significant issues, gather and evaluate available evidence, analyze alternatives, reach conclusions, communicate the results to both academic and general audiences, and take appropriate actions. Thus, the goal of a liberal education is that students become

**EMPOWERED** by engaging in practices and modes of thought that enable

- effective communication--orally, visually, and in writing
- understanding and use of scientific evidence and analysis
- gathering, interpreting, and evaluating information from a variety of sources
- evaluation and creation of cogent arguments using quantitative and qualitative methods
- understanding and working effectively with complex systems and diverse groups
- creativity, intellectual agility, and the ability to manage change

**INFORMED** by knowledge that stimulates intellectual growth and enlarges their perspectives on themselves and the world

**RESPONSIBLE** for participating as informed decision-makers in a democratic society, with

- a lifelong mission to learn
- intellectual integrity
- the ability to discern the practical and ethical consequences of decisions and actions
- a concern for society's well-being
- a capacity to reflect on their own values and commitments as well as the complex identities, histories, and cultures of others.

Approved by the Council on Educational Policy at its November 10, 2005, meeting