

Stern College for Women

Department/Program Name: General Education Requirement

Mission Statement:

The aim of the general education requirement at Stern College for Women is to provide students with the finest contemporary academic education consistent with the liberal arts tradition, and in accordance with both Stern's and Yeshiva University's missions. The general education requirement engages students in a rigorous curriculum encompassing both general and Jewish studies. By exposing Stern students to a range of disciplinary areas, the general education requirement seeks to foster the following inter-disciplinary student learning goals: critical thinking, communication skills, quantitative and scientific reasoning, personal development, and global awareness.

Learning Goals:

- I. Critical Thinking:** Students will critically evaluate texts, problems, arguments, and evidence. Students will demonstrate attainment of this goal by being able to:
 - a. interpret and assess primary and secondary sources within a discipline
 - b. evaluate competing arguments for logical cogency and evidentiary quality
 - c. critically analyze their own assumptions and views in light of the perspectives of others

- II. Communication:** Students will effectively communicate their learned knowledge and own perspectives on various subjects, both orally and in writing. Students will demonstrate attainment of this goal by being able to:
 - a. clearly analyze an issue or problem orally and/or in writing
 - b. present relevant information and ideas in an organized fashion orally and/or in writing
 - c. develop and express their own informed perspectives on various topics within a discipline in various modalities

III. Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning: Students will be able to apply quantitative and scientific reasoning to identify, analyze, and/or solve problems, create deductive arguments, and make informed decisions. In addition students will be able to communicate numerical data in an understandable way to a variety of audiences. Students will demonstrate attainment of this goal by being able to:

- a. follow the steps of the scientific method to identify and solve problems
- b. apply mathematical and scientific concepts to analyze problems
- c. collect, organize, analyze numerical data pertaining to a particular problem or question
- d. communicate numerical data in an understandable way to a variety of audiences

IV. Personal Development: Students will possess the desire and skills to be life-long learners. Students will demonstrate attainment of this goal by:

- a. demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and desire to independently gather and evaluate multiple sources of information relevant to their learning goals
- b. taking ownership their own learning experiences, including setting challenging but realistic learning goals, self-monitoring their learning and attainment of learning goals, evaluating their performance and using this information as feedback to inform their future learning pursuits.

V. Global Awareness: Students will be globally aware, socially responsible, and contribute to the community at large. Students will demonstrate attainment of this goal by being able to:

- a. understand and appreciate political, economic, and cultural diversity
- b. be socially responsible citizens who are sensitive to global and local challenges
- c. Students will be able to recognize the importance and value of contributing to their community at large