Southwest Tennessee Community College academic programs seek to develop the whole person. All general education courses are designed to improve student learning by focusing on four common student outcomes (critical thinking, communication, responsibility, and diversity and globalism), developing specific competencies, and improving both instruction and student outcomes performance through continuous assessment. In addition to providing students the opportunity to acquire and use knowledge, general education courses offer an educational experience that enables students to understand and improve their lives. Students learn to communicate and interact effectively with others, think critically and solve problems, develop personal responsibility, and become more globally aware. General Education courses prepare students for working, practicing positive citizenship, as well as respecting, enjoying and appreciating the values of our culture and those of other cultures. The General Education areas, competencies and outcomes provide a structure for coherence, reinforcement and integration of what students need to learn, know, experience and be able to do so.