Oral Communication Competency Definition

For the purposes of the general education competency assessment, the oral communication competency involves the ability to ethically and responsibly use verbal and nonverbal communication for clear expression of ideas and collaborative processes; engage in active listening; build, express, and justify a claim; and adapt messages to varying situations and contexts.

This competency can be further defined with the following criteria:

- Use verbal and nonverbal communication for clear expression of ideas
  - Provides clear central idea(s)
  - Uses organizational pattern that enhances central idea(s)
  - Demonstrates confident, composed delivery (eye contact, gestures, vocal variety) that enhances the central message (rather than distracting from it)
- Use verbal and nonverbal communication within collaborative processes
  - Recognizes shared aim (using inclusive/communal language)
  - Uses confirmatory responses
  - Demonstrates engagement
- Build, express and justify an informed position
  - Communicates clear position
  - Explains rationale for position
  - Articulates evidence that supports position
  - Recognizes counter-arguments
- Adapt messages to varying situations and contexts
  - Uses language that is appropriate to audience
  - Manages disruptions and distractions appropriately
  - Demonstrates a range of linguistic and delivery styles relevant to situation