Critical and Creative Thinking Competencies: Expectation & Definitions

Expectation: The General Education Competencies develop through multiple and sustained experiences across the General Education Program (GEP). The GEP provides a foundation for Critical and Creative Thinking and other General Education Competencies. It is expected that each degree program provide additional support to build upon that foundation throughout the major.

Definition of Critical Thinking: Critical thinking is the active, persistent and careful consideration of a belief or form of knowledge. It includes analysis and judgments about the ideas and conditions that support beliefs and the conclusions that follow. Critical thinking involves analyzing and evaluating one’s own thinking and that of others. It is subject to intellectual standards including clarity, accuracy, precision, relevance, significance, depth, breadth, logic and fairness.

Definition of Creative Thinking: Creative thinking is the generation of new ideas within or across disciplines. It draws upon or breaks rules and procedures in those disciplines and actively engages students in bringing together existing ideas into new configuration; developing new properties or possibilities for something that already exists; and discovering or imagining something entirely new. Standards for judging creative thinking include originality, appropriateness, flexibility, and contribution to the domain.

Critical Thinking Outcomes:

1. A generally educated NC State student will raise questions, formulate problems and identify appropriate information when solving a problem.

2. A generally educated NC State student will evaluate and interpret information presented when solving a problem.

3. A generally educated NC State student will generate, judge and synthesize appropriate solutions for a problem.

4. A generally educated NC State student will organize and communicate their thinking effectively in written form.

Creative Thinking Outcomes:

1. A generally educated NC State student will apply creative thinking skills to explore alternatives, convey unique or novel ideas, create new knowledge, and adapt to new context and information.

2. A generally educated NC State student will apply creative thinking skills to evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of ideas, recommend appropriate solutions and take risks in proposing approaches or directions.