Mission Statement
The General Education Program is a transformative learning experience that advances Radford University's vision of student-centered learning, positioning students as community leaders in the Appalachian region and beyond. Throughout the program, students will cultivate core competencies, encounter new points of view, and learn how different disciplines develop and apply knowledge to make meaningful change.

Values Statement
The General Education Program reflects the core values of Radford University, empowering our students to succeed as part of an inclusive community that pursues excellence by supporting intellectual freedom, innovation, and sustainability.

Goals of the General Education Program
Radford University aims to educate students through a General Education Program that:
- Recognizes the skills and knowledge that students bring with them while also setting a new foundation for success in college, in their major, in their career, and in their life by creating educational opportunities that:
    o Provide transformative experiences that expose students to new ideas, challenge their assumptions, and encourage self-reflection
    o Develop an understanding of the world and the diversity of human experience
    o Cultivate an understanding of and respect for different ways of knowing
    o Develop the tools and skills essential for lifelong learning

- Helps students better understand themselves and others so that they can actively participate in their communities as engaged, informed citizens by creating educational opportunities that:
    o Establish a connection to and understanding of place—Appalachia, the Commonwealth, and beyond
    o Develop ethical reasoning and self-awareness

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the General Education Program, students will:
- Develop fundamental skills that underlie and make possible the acquisition of knowledge in order to establish a foundation for future success in their college career and beyond.
- Acquire and apply knowledge from a broad range of representative disciplines.
- Explore the connections between courses in the general education program and their broader experiences with college, their major, their career, and their lives.

Throughout the program, students will develop complementary skills in critical thinking, digital literacy, and civic engagement.

Program Requirements

Competencies – Demonstrate skills. Apply and analyze. 9 credits
- Mathematics (3 credits)
- Written Communication (6 credits)
- Introductory Writing
- Intermediate Writing

Inquiries – Demonstrate knowledge. Understand and apply. All must fulfill Critical Thinking assessment. 18 to 20 credits
- Scientific Inquiry (6-8 credits, at least 1 lab)
- Humanistic and Artistic Inquiry (6 credits)
- Social and Behavioral Inquiry (6 credits)

Research/Apply Integrative – Evaluating and Creating. 6 credits
- Find Your Place: Radford 101 (3 credits) – fulfilling civic engagement requirements
- Navigate Your Journey: Radford 299 or equivalent course (3 credits) - capstone dealing with big questions/issues, including leadership/collaboration (after minimum of 24 credits)

Total: Minimum 30-32 credits
If a program capstone course includes Radford 299 learning outcomes, that course completes general education requirements. If a program opts for Radford 299, total credits will be 33-35.

Competencies Goals

Through competency courses, students will develop fundamental skills that underlie and make possible the acquisition of knowledge in order to establish a foundation for future success in their college career and beyond.

Quantitative Reasoning
- Translate information among various mathematical forms (e.g., equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, words).
- Solve problems using appropriate mathematical tools.

Written Communication
Introductory Course
- Employ reading strategies to facilitate written communication.
- Engage in the recursive writing process, including pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading to improve written communication.
- Use appropriate vocabulary, mechanics, grammar, and style.

Intermediate Course
- Demonstrate proficiency in the writing conventions of a discipline.
- Communicate through writing their understanding of disciplinary content and/or texts.

Inquiries Goals

Critical thinking is a habit of mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. Through inquiry courses, students will demonstrate their ability to acquire and apply knowledge from a broad range of representative disciplines. Students will be able to develop and apply methodological skills that encourage continuing exploration and lifelong learning.

Scientific Inquiry
- Explain scientific concepts related to natural phenomena*
- Discriminate between valid and invalid inferences made using scientific concepts and evidence.
- Describe data collected via the scientific method (required for lab courses only, optional for non-lab courses).

Natural phenomena: any state or process known through the senses (i.e. observable, measurable) rather than solely by intuition or reasoning

Humanistic and Artistic Inquiry
- Describe basic concepts in artistic or humanistic analysis.

- Explain the historical, cultural, or social context of an artistic practice, cultural form, artifact, or philosophical idea.

Social and Behavioral Inquiry
- Describe concepts or methods used in social and behavioral analysis.
- Analyze social and behavioral interactions using disciplinarily appropriate concepts and methods.

Integrative Goals

Through integrative courses, students will explore the connections between courses in the general education program and their broader experiences with college, their major, their career, and their lives.

Find Your Place: Radford 101 Learning Outcomes
The First-Year Seminar (RADF 101: Find Your Place) is intentionally designed to foster a strong sense of belonging while laying the foundation for student success at Radford University. The seminar aims to connect students with their peers, faculty, and the broader university community, cultivating an environment where they feel supported and valued. Through this experience, students will develop essential skills for academic and personal achievement, engage with digital literacy by identifying credible information sources and using digital tools ethically, and explore the influence of place—whether Appalachia, the Commonwealth, or beyond—on their education and sense of identity. By encouraging reflection and connection, the seminar also promotes civic engagement and prepares students to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

The First-Year Seminar will be centrally supported by New Student Connection Programs and organized at the college level. If there are compelling reasons, individual departments/units may offer this requirement through a discipline-program specific course, but these courses would need to meet the learning outcomes outlined below.
- Digital Literacy
  - Identify credible digital information sources.
  - Utilize digital tools according to professional ethical standards
- Civic Engagement
  - Explain the influence of place - Appalachia, the Commonwealth, or beyond - on their educational experience
- Student Success
  - Demonstrate foundational skills necessary for academic and personal achievement at Radford University

Navigate Your Journey: Radford 299 Learning Outcomes

The culminating seminar of General Education, Radford 299, provides students with opportunities to demonstrate and reflect on the relevance of General Education to their major/career and to guarantee access to high-impact practices for all students. The focus of this seminar is to participate in collaborative learning, produce scholarly or creative work, and present the outcomes to the university community and, possibly, beyond.

Programs with existing courses or research experiences (such as a capstone course) may fulfill the requirements of Radford 299 as long as they meet the following learning outcomes.

- Apply knowledge and skills gained through general education courses to scholarly or creative production
- Present the outcome of learning according to professional standards