

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes

The graduates of Imperial Valley College will demonstrate communication skills, critical thinking skills, personal responsibility, information literacy, and global awareness as a result of their educational experience at this institution.

1. Communication Skills

Definition: Communication is the activity of conveying information through the exchange of ideas and information through speech, visuals, signals/symbols, writing, or behavior. It's the meaningful exchange of information from one person to another. Communication may be intentional or unintentional and may take linguistic or nonlinguistic forms.

Goal: Students will develop effective communication skills for diverse situations.

Students will be able to:

- Recognize that communication and expression may be written or oral, verbal or nonverbal, informational or artistic.
- Develop analytical reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills including evaluation, synthesis, and research.
- Create substantially error-free writing using appropriate vocabulary.
- Convey ideas clearly, accurately and logically.
- Recognize cultural differences in communication and nonverbal cues. Speak effectively to deliver focused and coherent presentations.
- Apply interpersonal communication skills to work in a team structure.

2. Critical Thinking

Definition: Critical thinking is the disciplined process of actively analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information gathered from observation, reasoning, and communication, used to draw conclusions and take action.

Goal: Students will be able to gather and synthesize relevant information, evaluate alternatives, and implement creative and effective solutions.

Students will be able to:

- Define and analyze problems clearly.
- Think independently, creatively, logically, and effectively.
- Apply appropriate problem-solving methods.
- Analyze and synthesize information from multiple perspectives.
- Identify purpose and bias in communication.
- Identify further problems for study.

3. Personal Responsibility

Definition: Personal responsibility is the development of one's personal character and skills designing a life that honors values and purpose. It includes recognizing that the choices and obligations we make in life impact us and others mentally, physically, and emotionally. Personal responsibility includes learning how to respond wisely to opportunities and challenges. It can also involve learning how to recognize and correct mistakes; monitor and judge our own actions and motivations; and develop respect for ourselves and others.

Goal: Students will become independent learners who understand and demonstrate the lifelong skills necessary for physical, social, economic, mental, and emotional health.

Students will be able to:

- Set clear personal, educational, and career goals. Identify and implement lifestyle choices that promote self-reliance, financial literacy, and physical, mental/emotional, and social health.

- Develop a strong work ethic consciously doing one's very best. This includes the practice of honesty and ethical behavior in the academic environment and effective time management that honors the self and others.
- Recognize and act on the obligation to form one's own judgment and engage diverse perspectives as a resource for learning, citizenship, and work.
- Develop and demonstrate reasoning in ways that incorporates ethics, goals, and priorities.
- Demonstrate intellectual exploration skills to include the use of all available resources.
- Develop and use a clear set of values and an ethical framework in their personal, educational, and professional endeavors.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of human perspectives, along with the causes and effects of individual decisions and actions.

4. Information Literacy

Definition: Information literacy is the ability to identify an information need, and locate, analyze, evaluate, and effectively use that information. Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning. It is common to all disciplines, to all learning environments, and to all levels of education.

Goal: Students will know when information is needed and have the ability to locate, analyze, evaluate, and effectively use it.

Students will be able to:

- Determine the nature and extent of information needed.
- Access print and electronic information technologies.
- Use appropriate search strategies to access information.
- Critically evaluate the accuracy, credibility and relevance of sources and information.
- Coherently, ethically and legally incorporate information into projects and assignments.
- Effectively utilize libraries as a multiplatform information resource.

5. Global Awareness

Definition: Global awareness is the acknowledgement that we live and work with people with diverse backgrounds. It includes an understanding of how the individual fits within evolving social, cultural, and economic contexts at global, national, and local levels.

Goal: Students will define and understand their role and responsibilities as global citizens.

Students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast groups of different backgrounds, beliefs, appearances, and lifestyles.
- Analyze and synthesize cultural products (e.g., art, literature, newspaper articles, and cinema).
- Communicate, interact, and work with individuals from other cultural and ethnic groups.