

## *COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS*

All students, including associate's degree candidates, are required to demonstrate certain competencies prior to graduation. These competency areas are oral communication, written communication, critical thinking, basic use of computers, fundamental mathematical skills, and fundamental reading skills.

### Oral Communication

The expected student outcomes for competency in oral communication include:

- 1) Student will demonstrate the ability to develop and deliver a logical and effective presentation.
- 2) Student will demonstrate the ability to hear, understand, and offer relevant responses in a variety of contexts (conversations, group discussions, and oral presentations).
- 3) Student will demonstrate the ability to analyze and respond to the body of tradition concerned with the art of speaking.

The University demonstrates that its students exhibit competency in oral communication by requiring each student to earn a grade of C or higher in one of the following courses designated as OC: AR 310, COM 101, PY 101, PY 310, NU 205, NU 418.

### Written Communication

The expected student outcomes for competency in written communication include:

- 1) Student will demonstrate understanding of the stages of prewriting, drafting, and editing.
- 2) Student will demonstrate ability to write a thesis sentence and organize material in a coherent and effective manner.
- 3) Student will demonstrate the ability to write sentences free of major grammatical errors.
- 4) Student will demonstrate ability to write substantive analytical essays reflecting critical thinking skills.

The University demonstrates that its students exhibit competency in written communication by requiring each student to earn a grade of C or higher in EN 101, EN 102, and the writing intensive (WI) courses in the major. The institution utilizes results of the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress to demonstrate competency in written communication.

All baccalaureate students are required to satisfactorily complete a minimum of twelve semester hours of work in 300 and 400 level courses identified in the major requirements in this catalog and in the course syllabi as Writing Intensive (WI). An exception to the requirement is made in the case of students majoring in mathematics (see appropriate section of this catalog for specific information).

All associate's degree students are required to satisfactorily complete a minimum of twelve semester hours of coursework in 100- and 200-level courses identified in the major requirements in this catalog and on the course syllabi as Writing Intensive (WI). For the Associate's Degree in General Studies EN 101, 102, and EN 201, 202 (or equivalent) fulfill this requirement.

### Critical Thinking

The expected student outcomes for competency in critical thinking include:

- 1) Student will demonstrate the ability to recognize and comprehend discrete pieces of information.
- 2) Student will be able to understand relationships between pieces of information.
- 3) Student will be able to understand words and phrases in context.

The University utilizes results of the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress to demonstrate competency in critical thinking skills.

### Basic Use of Computers

The expected student outcomes for competency in basic use of computers include:

- 1) Student will demonstrate familiarity with the general terminology associated with hardware, software, data, and communications (including the use of e-mail).
- 2) Student will demonstrate ability to use an operating environment.
- 3) Student will demonstrate ability to use a word processor, a spreadsheet, a presentation package, or other application software.

- 4) Student will demonstrate ability to access the Internet.

The University demonstrates that its students are competent in the basic use of computers by requiring each student to earn three hours of credit with a grade of C or higher from among the following courses designated as CL: AR 310, CIS 100, CIS 101, CIS 301, EN 331, MU 101.1, MU 102.1, MU 201.1, MU 202.1, NU 205, NU 210, NU 302, NU 418, PY 401, PY 411, SA 340, TE 405, or TH 330. (Please note that the MU courses are one hour classes; therefore, three of the courses must be completed to satisfy the requirement.)

#### Fundamental Mathematical Skills

The expected student outcomes for competency in fundamental mathematical skills include:

- 1) Student will demonstrate a basic understanding of the number system.
- 2) Student will demonstrate the ability to perform basic arithmetic operations.
- 3) Student will demonstrate an understanding of the basic language of mathematics.
- 4) Student will demonstrate the ability to use mathematics to solve problems.

Every student is required to complete at least one mathematics course above the level of MA 101 with a grade of C or higher. Students seeking an associate's degree in nursing must complete NU 106 in lieu of a mathematics course. The University utilizes results of the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress to demonstrate competency in mathematical skills.

#### Fundamental Reading Skills

The expected student outcomes for competency in fundamental reading skills include:

- 1) Student will be able to distinguish between cursory reading and reflective reading.
- 2) Student will be able to appraise the implied and non-literal meanings of words and phrases.
- 3) Student will demonstrate understanding of various literary genres.

The University utilizes results of the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress to demonstrate competency in reading skills.

*AUDITS.* Auditing of courses is allowed upon recommendation of the instructor and of the dean of the college or school in which the course is offered. Classroom seating is open to auditing students on a space available basis only. Priority is given to degree seeking students. An auditor is not required to submit assignments or to take examinations and does not receive credit for the course. An auditor will not be permitted to take an examination or to pay the difference in tuition in order to earn credit for the course. After the last day to enter class without special permission, no course may be changed from credit to audit status. Refer to the University current year financial sheet for information on audit charges.

*DIRECTED STUDIES.* A directed study is a catalog course offering taken in a non-classroom setting with the approval of the adviser, instructor, and dean of the college or school. Requirements and details are explained on the contract, available in the office of the registrar.

*INDEPENDENT STUDIES.* A student with advanced standing may pursue an independent study or research project in his or her major area, with the approval of the adviser, instructor, and the dean of the college or school in which the student's major falls. Prerequisites include completion of at least eighteen semester hours in the major with a minimum 3.00 GPA. Students may take no more than two courses or eight semester hours in independent studies or research projects.

*INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) DIPLOMA PROGRAMME.* Scores of four or higher in higher level courses on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (a rigorous pre-university course of studies, leading to examinations) will be considered for credits for equivalent courses at the University of Mobile. Scores of three in higher level courses will be considered for placement purposes. No credit is awarded for subsidiary level courses.