



**Areas of Inquiry –**

**NS: Natural Sciences (6 credits) - Students must take *two* courses that meet *one or both* of these goals (e, f).**

<b>GOAL e - Student is able to... Understand and apply basic principles and concepts in the physical or biological sciences.</b>			
OUTSTANDING	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
<p><b>Fully and clearly explains and applies</b> basic scientific principles <b>with specificity and sophistication.</b></p> <p><b>Provides in-depth description</b> of the scientific method and its distinctive value; <b>critically differentiates</b> it from other approaches.</p>	<p><b>Explains and applies</b> basic scientific principles and concepts <b>fully and clearly.</b></p> <p><b>Fully describes</b> the scientific method and its distinctive value; <b>differentiates</b> it from other approaches.</p>	<p><b>Explains and applies</b> basic scientific principles and concepts <b>fully and clearly.</b></p> <p><b>Fully describes</b> the scientific method and its distinctive value; <b>differentiates</b> it from other approaches.</p>	<p><b>Fails to</b> explain or identify and apply basic scientific principles and concepts.</p> <p><b>Fails to</b> demonstrate an ability to describe the scientific method and its difference from other approaches. Relies on opinion rather than analysis.</p>

<b>GOAL f - Student is able to... Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in scientific analysis.</b>			
OUTSTANDING	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
<p><b>Clearly identifies and explains</b> relationships among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in scientific analysis, <b>demonstrating a depth of understanding.</b></p> <p><b>Draws inferences that are consistent with the data; is specific and detailed in support of conclusions.</b> Analysis of outcomes demonstrates superior understanding.</p>	<p><b>Identifies and explains</b> relationships among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in scientific analysis.</p> <p><b>Draws inferences that are consistent with the data.</b> Offers an analysis of outcomes that is <b>thorough and without errors that detract from analysis or conclusions.</b></p>	<p><b>Satisfactorily outlines</b> relationships among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in scientific analysis.</p> <p><b>Summarizes the purpose and findings of the research.</b> Description of outcomes and/or support is <b>satisfactory.</b></p>	<p><b>Fails to</b> accurately identify and explain relationships among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in scientific analysis.</p> <p><b>Does not</b> summarize or interpret the results or purposes of the research. <b>Does not</b> draw conclusions consistent with the data. <b>Inadequate</b> summary of results that involves significant errors.</p>

<b>If using specific objective questions identified for each goal, the instructor may set the benchmarks for each rating as appropriate to the course and the discipline. For example, a typical benchmarking is laid out here:</b>			
90% or more correct	80%-89% correct	70%-79% correct	69% or less correct