

DRAFT: Essential Skills
New Mexico Statewide General Education Task Force
March 29, 2016

Topic	Subtopics	Outcomes/Metrics
Communication Skills – The ability to communicate effectively in written text/visuals both formally (i.e. essays and papers) and informally (e-mails, discussion boards, etc.) and in oral communication formally (i.e. oral presentations) and informally (discussions, arguments, and small group interactions).	Writing	
	Speaking	
	Presenting	
	Listening	
	Critical reading	
	Information literacy	
	Second language competency	

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Critical Thinking Skills (creative and critical thinking) – the practice of verifying, analyzing, and integrating, in a fair-minded and intellectually honest manner, data and information from multiple sources, observations, and experiences on any subject to reach reasoned conclusions and develop actions (adapted from http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/defining-critical-thinking/766).	Problem solving	
	Analysis/synthesis	
	Scientific method	
	Discipline-specific modes of thinking	
	Interdisciplinary thinking	
	Logical reasoning	
	Evidence insight through reflection	
	Qualitative skills	

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Personal and Social Responsibility Skills (LEAP) – the idea that human beings choose, instigate, or otherwise cause their own actions. A corollary idea is that because we cause our actions, we can be held morally accountable or legally liable (adapted from https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Personal_responsibility).	Civic knowledge and engagement – local and global	
	Intercultural reasoning and competence	
	Ethical reasoning and action	
	Foundations and skills for lifelong learning	
	<i>Professionalism</i>	

Topic	Subtopics	Outcomes/Metrics
Quantitative Skills —The ability to organize, interpret, evaluate and present quantitative information.	Number sense and estimating	
	Data analysis and statistics	
	Using math to solve real world problems	
	Financial applications	
	Basic math	
	Numerical literacy (numeracy)	

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Information Literacy Skills – The ability to know when there is a need for information, to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively use that information for the issue or problem at hand (National Forum on Information Literacy, http://infolit.org/about-the-nfil/what-is-the-nfil/).	Research, evaluating sources, critical reading	
	Internet, digital communication	
	Analysis of technology	
	Software	
	Visual literacy (bias)	

Some things that might be missing (adapted from “21st Century Skills,” The Glossary of Education Reform, accessed from <http://edglossary.org/21st-century-skills/> on 29 March 2016):

- Creativity, artistry, curiosity, imagination, innovation, personal expression
- Perseverance, self-direction, planning, self-discipline, adaptability, initiative
- Leadership, teamwork, collaboration, cooperation, facility in using virtual workspaces
- Civic, ethical, and social-justice literacy
- Environmental and conservation literacy, ecosystem understanding
- Health and wellness literacy, (including nutrition, diet, exercise and public health and safety)