The term "general education" refers to a broad-based and comprehensive program that introduces students to the major areas of higher education: the humanities, fine arts, social sciences, and natural sciences. The general education program at Coastline Community College is designed to help students develop the knowledge and skills that will contribute to their intellectual, personal, and professional growth. Specifically, the general education program will help students:

* Improve the essential communication skills of speaking, writing, reading and listening.
* Understand and apply the principles of the scientific method.
* Develop competence in mathematics and analytical thinking.
* Develop skills that will enable them to access information and resources independently for continued research and learning.
* Understand and apply principles of critical thinking to a variety of situations, areas of study of fields of endeavor.
* Understand and appreciate the heritage of their own culture and that of others.
* Develop insight and knowledge in understanding self and others.
* Understand the rights, responsibilities and privileges necessary to be an informed participating citizen in a democratic society.
* Develop an understanding and appreciation of the visual and performing arts.
* Gain information and experiences that will assist them in making effective career decisions.
* Understand the effects of changing technology on society today and in the future.