



Humanities Competencies

Cultural Navigation

Observe and interpret the nuances of another culture through its language as well as its history, traditions, and practices.

What it Looks Like

The Humanities prepare you to use language to effectively navigate a variety of cultures. Like the other professional competencies, language proficiency and cultural literacy facilitate meaning-making across linguistic, cultural, social, and even organizational divides. Your coursework enhances your ability to understand and leverage the components of acquired language—meaning, context, tone, audience, purpose, type of discourse, etc. This makes you uniquely qualified to handle socially, culturally, and linguistically diverse or unfamiliar situations, as well as promote shared understanding and collaboration. Individuals who are culturally literate possess (1) a deeper understanding of the human experience, informed by language, history, art, cultural traditions, and practices and (2) a clearer sense of their own cultural values and the challenges resulting from interactions across differing backgrounds and perspectives.

Key Questions

Think about your exposure to other languages and cultures in your humanities courses:

- How has my study of another language expanded my understanding of other cultures?
- How has my study of another language enhanced my understanding of my native language?
- How do I use language in daily life, in my community and in the larger world to create understanding?
- How do I use language to accomplish my priorities, analyze complex problems, and complete projects?
- How have I learned to use concrete and abstract language effectively to support an opinion, hypothesize and discuss topics of interest in my classes?
- What experiences have encouraged me to more precisely identify *my own* cultural values?
- How has the process of exploring other's cultures helped me discover *their* core values?
- When researching and writing, how have I identified and synthesized salient cultural elements to create a compelling argument or narrative?
- How has my exposure to and study of literature, art, news and social media, architecture, etc., increased my capacity to see contrasting values as equally valid?
- How have my interactions with people of diverse cultures and backgrounds enhanced my ability to develop and maintain successful relationships with others?