In the Major Requirements – Definitions

Information Literacy

Information literacy is the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning. (Association of College and Research Libraries, Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, Feb. 2015)

An information literate individual is able to:
- Determine the extent of information needed;
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently;
- Evaluate information and its sources critically;
- Incorporate selected information into one’s knowledge base;
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose; and
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally


Oral Communication

Oral communication is a prepared, purposeful presentation designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the listeners’ attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors. (AAC&U, Oral Communication VALUE Rubric)

Technology Literacy

A technology literate student is able to use effectively appropriate tools to acquire, manage, evaluate, create, and or communicate information, knowledge, or works of art.

Visual Literacy

Visual literacy is a set of abilities that enables an individual to effectively find, interpret, evaluate, use, and create images and visual media. Visual literacy skills equip a learner to understand and analyze the contextual, cultural, ethical, aesthetic, intellectual, and technical components involved in the production and use of visual materials. A visually literate individual
is both a critical consumer of visual media and a competent contributor to a body of shared knowledge and culture.

A visually literate individual is able to:
• Determine the nature and extent of the visual materials needed;
• Find and access needed images, objects, and visual media effectively and efficiently;
• Interpret and analyze the meanings of images and visual media;
• Evaluate images, objects, and their sources;
• Use images, objects, and or visual media effectively;
• Design and create meaningful images, objects, and or visual media; and
• Understand many of the ethical, legal, social, and economic issues surrounding the creation and use of images, objects, and visual media; and access and use visual materials ethically