## Information Competency at GCC

### The Core Competencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An information-competent student at GCC will be able to:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1. Recognize the need for information and define a research topic by: | A. Articulating a research question, problem, or issue.  
B. Obtaining background information to identify and define key concepts and terminology related to the topic.  
C. Defining a manageable focus and timeline for the project.  
D. Identifying the types of materials that are appropriate for the project.  
E. Recognizing that information on a given topic may be limited or unavailable. |
| 2. Develop and implement an effective search strategy appropriate for an information need by: | A. Differentiating various types of information sources (specialized encyclopedias, article databases, library catalogs, search engines, etc.) and the purposes of each.  
B. Choosing and accessing appropriate information sources for the research question.  
C. Identifying search terms appropriate to the research tool and the topic.  
D. Transferring previously learned research skills to new projects. |
| 3. Locate and retrieve information by: | A. Using the library's print and online resources effectively.  
B. Interpreting citations accurately.  
C. Recognizing key elements of call numbers and URLs, and using them to locate library materials and Web sites.  
D. Accessing, downloading, printing, or emailing relevant information. |
| 4. Evaluate information by: | A. Summarizing the main ideas from information sources.  
B. Analyzing the structure and logic of supporting arguments.  
C. Distinguishing reliable from unreliable sources of information, scholarly and popular sources, substantiated facts and points of view.  
D. Assessing the authority, accuracy, relevance, reliability, completeness, and timeliness of information. |
| 5. Assess the research strategy by: | A. Determining whether the information retrieved is relevant and sufficient for the project.  
B. Analyzing successes and failures, revising research topics, and trying different techniques and research tools as needed. |
| 6. Employ principles of ethical and legal use of information by: | A. Demonstrating awareness of the issues regarding intellectual property and plagiarism within the academic setting.  
B. Citing and acknowledging sources appropriately in text.  
C. Creating accurate references consistently, using an appropriate citation style. |
| 7. Organize, synthesize, and communicate information by: | A. Managing citations for research materials efficiently.  
B. Integrating information from a variety of sources appropriate to the research question.  
C. Presenting the information in an effective and coherent manner.  
D. Using information technology applications in creating the research product. |

Adapted from ACRL *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* and UCLA Libraries’ *The Core Competencies.*

CoreCompetenciesGCC rev4/07