Program Learning Goals

1. Reading and Analysis: Students read with attention to textual details. They identify models and strategies in other writers' works and discipline-specific theories to use in their own expository, argumentative, and creative work. They demonstrate the ability to summarize accurately, explicate primary formal and thematic elements, and analyze key motifs and meanings in order to interpret and assess literary, rhetorical, and cinematic works persuasively and insightfully.
2. Critical Inquiry and Context: Students recognize texts as responses to historically, politically, and culturally specific contexts. They examine these contexts by looking for patterns in existing discourses, and they construct their own positions by locating them in relation to those in an ongoing conversation. Students can discuss the socio-historic contingencies that influence experiences, understandings, and evaluations of discourses in various genres. They develop the ability to reflect upon the contingency of their own perspectives and to recognize others' in order to discern the cultural, political, and material conditions that influence experience.
3. Written Communication: Students write persuasively across a variety of genres and modes. In their written composition, students can identify and distinguish among disciplinary conventions, evaluate sources, and synthesize arguments using discipline-specific theories and methods. Students can modify the delivery of their ideas in ways appropriate for a given audience, and they can revise their work in response to audience reaction.
4. Content: Students demonstrate knowledge of major genres, major authors/auteurs, historical periods and movements, analytical or theoretical approaches to texts, and the elements of craft and form so as to understand written and visual forms of expression within the complex traditions from which they emerged and to which they respond. Students can discuss and write about these topics using discipline-specific theories and methods.