**Outcomes of the SMSU Liberal Education Program**

**Upon completion of the LEP at SMSU students will:**

***Communicate effectively.***

* Determine the nature and extent of information needed to formulate and develop a coherent and unified thesis.
* Understand and select the best communication methods for achieving a given purpose.
* Comprehend and synthesize messages conveyed in both oral and written contexts.
* Recognize and employ various methods of verbal, nonverbal, cultural, and emotional communication.
* Consider and account for the nature of audiences when presenting written and oral arguments.
* Present ideas with comfort and confidence in written and oral formats.
* Develop an appreciation for the significance and aesthetics of language.

***Be creative thinkers able to identify, formulate, and solve problems using interdisciplinary perspectives.***

* Break a complex issue or task into incremental steps.
* Comprehend the differences and similarities among fields of study, and how these augment our understanding of important issues.
* Employ multiple modes of inquiry and analysis to arrive at a range of possible solutions to a problem or task.
* Apply a range of methods for producing creative results.
* Exhibit increasing development of characteristics essential to being a creative thinker, including:
  + Curiosity
  + Aesthetic appreciation
  + Desire to make things better
  + Enjoyment of challenge
  + Ability to suspend judgment
  + Acceptance of and willingness to learn from mistakes and failures.

***Be critical thinkers who evaluate information wisely and examine how assumptions and positions are shaped.***

* Demonstrate information literacy by accessing, utilizing, formatting, citing, and documenting relevant material accurately and correctly.
* Interpret arguments by correctly identifying relevant premises, conclusions, and key assumptions.
* Evaluate the extent to which evidence is reasonable, relevant, accurate, and sufficient to support intended claims.
* Formulate clear, well-supported arguments.
* Engage in civil discourse, self-reflection, and consideration of other points of view.

***Understand both physical and social aspects of the world and their place in it.***

* Demonstrate knowledge of concepts, methods, and theories designed to enhance understanding of the natural world and human society.
* Demonstrate the ability to access, comprehend, compare, and evaluate contemporary scientific and social literature.
* Demonstrate an awareness of multiple worldviews, and how each is shaped by the interaction of physical and social factors.
* Critically consider the ethical and physical ramifications of scientific decisions on society and the environment.

***Embrace the similarities among peoples and appreciate the diversity that enriches the human experience.***

* Demonstrate awareness of personal identity as the result of a broad set of influences.
* Engage in a variety of cross-cultural interactions.
* View other cultures and social norms from multiple perspectives.
* Explore one’s biases while developing independent attitudes regarding the “difficult differences” in society.
* Integrate and apply diverse perspectives to increasingly challenging questions and real-world problems.
* Develop an informed concern for the greater good.

***Analyze moral judgments and engage in moral discourse.***

* Demonstrate understanding of the meaning, application, and justification of a number of core ethical values, including, but not restricted to:
  + Individual dignity
  + Human rights
  + Honesty
  + Integrity
  + Justice
  + Compassion
  + Personal and social responsibility
* Demonstrate understanding of and respect for a variety of ethical viewpoints.
* Recognize and critically reflect on one’s own moral values and their determinants.
* Recognize and address broad moral issues in a variety of contexts, including coursework, personal life, and global society.

***Practice responsible citizenship in their local and global communities.***

* Develop the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions necessary to make a difference in local and global communities.
* Recognize themselves as part of a larger social fabric, with public lives and personal ownership of social problems.
* Explore the nature and use of power and authority in various contexts.
* Engage in democracy as a life-enhancing, everyday practice of skills such as:
  + Attentiveness to public affairs and current events
  + Regular volunteering
  + Creative use of conflict
  + Active group membership
  + Collective problem solving
* Express their voices through informed citizenship and participation in civic and political processes.
* Confidently engage in civic discourse, self-reflection, and consideration of other points of view.