“In order for humans to be humans; that is, worthy of realizing their life goals, nature bestowed on them awareness of herself, the ability to know their own origins, strengths and frailties, their own transcendence and interdependence, their rights and obligations, their own freedom and responsibilities, the capacity for self-improvement and for self-ennobling for their ideal existence.”

Eugenio María de Hostos (1839-1903)

General Education at Hostos Community College is reflected by the faculty members, students and administrators working together on the implementation of interdisciplinary ideas and conversations across the curriculum. Our goal is to educate the human being and develop the global citizen behind each professional. We endeavor to see the principles of general education in our college reflected in the lives of our liberal arts and career program students as they achieve success inside and outside the classroom and beyond Hostos itself.
General Education

General Education is the foundation of the Hostos experience. No longer just a sequence of required courses, GenEd is a set of learning competencies that transcends traditional boundaries and stretches across the curriculum. With the goal of nurturing, developing and educating the global citizen behind each professional, GenEd is a reflection of the college’s values.

As Eugenio María de Hostos wrote: “We have the ability to know our own origins, our own strengths and frailties, our own transcendence and interdependence, our rights and obligations, our own freedom and responsibilities.” GenEd is about applying Hostos’ wisdom and securing a lifelong passion for learning.

What We’ve Done

Your college has spent the last few years working on defining the goals we have for your education, figuring out ways to help you to become better global citizens, improve your scientific and quantitative reasoning, develop your communication skills, and increase your academic literacy and inquiry skills.

We have identified 19 skills that make excellence inclusive to help guide you through your studies and life. We want to foster innovation and ask the big questions so that you can apply your learning to complex problems, connect your knowledge to real world choices, and embrace civic, intercultural and ethical learning.

GenEd Skills

This is the year of General Education at Hostos Community College. General Education is the “signature pedagogy” of the college, and includes the core knowledge and skills that all Hostos students will take with them when they graduate. The skills that students should acquire at Hostos are grouped into four areas.

Global Citizenship

1. Be an effective member of local, national and global communities.
2. Respect all human differences—race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, culture and ability.
3. Confront historical, social, political, economic and environmental issues.
4. Develop personal values and ethics.
5. Appreciate the arts.
6. Demonstrate leadership and teamwork.

Science and Math

1. Make and interpret scientific observations.
2. Analyze natural and ecological systems and apply findings to real life problems.
3. Explain the importance and interrelationships between the physical, natural and social sciences.
4. Gain the math skills necessary to solve problems in all disciplines.

Communication

1. Read, write, speak and listen effectively.
2. Use precise vocabulary to describe abstract and concrete ideas.
3. Use appropriate technology to research and present ideas.
4. Understand texts and lectures, take notes, synthesize material, and respond orally and in writing.

Academic Literacy

1. Exercise critical thinking and problem solving.
2. Keep up with current events and issues.
3. Distinguish between factual and anecdotal evidence.
4. Find, evaluate and use information from different sources effectively.
5. Become a life-long learner.