Advanced Information Literacy Outcomes
for GE Areas

B4 - A 4-unit upper division course in the sciences (life or physical science) that includes numeracy, quantitative analysis, information literacy, and critical thinking skills.

D4 - A 4-unit upper division course applying the research findings of the social sciences to significant contemporary problems and emphasizing advanced writing and information literacy skills.

Information Literacy is a prerequisite for lifelong learning. It enables learners to engage critically with content, extend their knowledge, assume greater control over their own learning and become self-directed learners.¹

Whether taught within a specific discipline or in a multi-disciplinary context, advanced information literacy curricula should encourage students to seek multiple perspectives and use diverse sources of information to inform conclusions. Further, students should develop an understanding that information and knowledge in any discipline is in part a social construction and is subject to change as a result of ongoing dialog and research. Teaching advanced information literacy helps students understand and participate in this scholarly conversation.

Faculty can enhance student information literacy by providing problem- or inquiry-based assignments where learning results from the use of multiple information sources thereby encouraging self-directed learning and critical thinking. The development and evaluation of these types of assignments may require significant commitment and investment of time on the part of students and faculty alike.

In addition to the lower division information literacy outcomes, students who are information literate at the advanced level are able to:

1. identify the main disciplines, fields, and organizations which generate and publish knowledge in their area of research,
2. develop in-depth knowledge of the literature from the above information producers in their area of research,
3. evaluate the significance and validity of information found, both in the context of the disciplines and fields consulted, and also within their own knowledge base and value systems,
4. analyze the implications of research and publishing patterns in their area of research,
5. formulate and reformulate research inquiries based on the objectives above and,

¹ This quote and other ideas contained here are drawn from the Council of Australian University Librarians’ Information Literacy Standards, (Canberra, 2001) and from Learning for Life: Information Literacy Framework & Syllabus published by the Queensland University of Technology Library (Brisbane, 2001)
6. **demonstrate** their ability to perform the above objectives when they communicate the results of their inquiry to others.