## The Core Competencies

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