These college success skills support the learning and development of Valencia students, while facilitating success in college and achievement of the General Education and New Student Experience Outcomes. These skills will be infused throughout Valencia’s classrooms (online and face-to-face), advising sessions, and co-curriculum.

History of the College Success Skills List

In the late 1990s, Valencia began a transformational journey toward becoming a Learning-Centered College. Faculty and staff discussions centered on their role in this initiative. These conversations led to the adoption of the Core Competencies of a Valencia graduate: Think, Value, Communicate and Act. These competencies encompass student learning outcomes for their full program of study. At the same time, LifeMap was adopted as Valencia’s developmental advising model – providing a model process of student progression through the college that explains to students what they need to do (and when) in order to accomplish their educational and career goals.

In 2007, further discussions continued as we sought to articulate specific program learning outcomes for each Valencia program. By 2008, faculty approved General Education Outcomes that further delineate student learning within a subset of the full program of study. In 2009, as part of the Developmental Education Initiative, faculty and staff collaborated to define specific skills for student learning readiness at the college level. The discussions focused on the college readiness work by David T. Conley, and themes which emerged from a faculty and staff summit. The end product focuses on academic, cognitive and behavioral skills that enable a student to achieve optimal learning gains – demonstrated in the Program Outcomes (A.S. degree, Certificate, Pre-Majors, General Education, etc.) and the Core Competencies. These skills are encompassembled in the concept of LifeMap: College Success Skills.

Most recently, the College began the design of a coordinated New Student Experience (NSE) program for students who enter Valencia with fewer than 15 college-credits. The NSE includes a required credit-learning course, an extended orientation to college, co-curricular components designed to support the learning outcomes of the program, integrated student success skills, and career and academic advising, to include the development of an individualized education plan. The focus of the NSE is on helping students 1) identify their academic purpose, plan, and pathway; 2) connect with college as a place for learning; 3) make a personal connections at Valencia; and 4) apply college success skills. In order to support this work, the NSE includes the alignment of front door courses to help our students begin their learning journey. Faculty teaching these front door courses are asked to support the new students through the infusion of the LifeMap: College Success Skills in their courses.

6Ps NSE Outcomes

1. **Purpose:** Students will create a personal purpose statement that outlines and articulates their values, goals, interests, and strengths in relation to their educational and career aspirations.
2. **Pathway:** Students will choose an academic program aligned with their educational/career goals, interests, strengths, and values.
3. **Plan:** Students will design an education plan that includes goals for learning and a financial plan.
4. **Preparation:** Students will apply college success skills.
5. **Personal Connection:** Students will demonstrate effective communication skills with diverse groups.
6. **Place:** Students will demonstrate awareness of college support systems.
Academic Knowledge and Skills (Key Content)

1. Challenge personal views
2. Question views of others
3. Engage in active inquiry
4. Develop multiple strategies to solve problems
5. Learn to pre-write, edit, and rewrite
6. Apply appropriate college-level grammar
7. Evaluate appropriate sources
8. Utilize strategic reading techniques
9. Apply math to solve problems
10. Emphasize scientific thinking

Academic Behaviors

1. Evaluate cognitions
2. Persist when presented with a difficult task
3. Employ multiple learning strategies
4. Manage time effectively
5. Communicate with instructors and peers appropriately
6. Utilize college support systems
7. Develop a network of peers

Planning and Decision Making

1. Develop a career goal based on interests and talents
2. Develop an educational plan to reach career goal
3. Understand degree requirements
4. Understand transfer options
5. Understand the financial aid system
6. Understand how to track progress toward career and educational goals
7. Understand the challenges of college level courses
8. Revise career and educational plans based on learning experiences
9. Evaluate goals, interests, and strengths

Personal Connection: The deliberate investment of time and engagement with students and colleagues to ensure a sense of Valencia community.