

Colorado Department of Education and Department of Higher Education Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Definition

Description of PWR

“Postsecondary and workforce readiness” describes the knowledge, skills, and behaviors essential for high school graduates to be prepared to enter college and the workforce and to compete in the global economy. The description assumes students have developed consistent intellectual growth throughout their high school career as a result of academic work that is increasingly challenging, engaging, and coherent.

Postsecondary education and workforce readiness assumes that students are ready and able to demonstrate the following without the need for remediation.

I. Content Knowledge

Literacy

- Read fiction and non-fiction, understanding conclusions reached and points of view expressed
- Write clearly and coherently for a variety of purposes and audiences
- Use logic and rhetoric to analyze and critique ideas
- Access and use primary and secondary sources to explain questions being researched
- Use standard language properly: correct grammar, usage and spelling

Mathematical Sciences

- Think critically, analyze evidence, read graphs, understand logical arguments, detect logical fallacies, test conjectures, evaluate risks, and appreciate the role mathematics plays in the modern world, i.e., be quantitatively literate
- Understand and apply algebraic and geometric concepts and techniques
- Use concepts and techniques of probability and statistics
- Apply knowledge of mathematics to problem-solve, analyze issues, and make critical decisions that arise in everyday life

Science

- Think scientifically and apply the scientific method to complex systems and phenomena
- Use empirical evidence to draw conclusions
- Recognize conclusions are subject to interpretation and can be challenged
- Understand the core scientific concepts, principles, laws, and vocabulary, and how scientific knowledge is extended, refined, and revised over time

Social Sciences

- Identify and describe historical, social, cultural, political, geographical, and economic concepts
- Interpret sources, and evaluate evidence and competing ideas
- Build conceptual frameworks based on understanding themes and the overall flow of events
- Understand civic responsibility, including how governments work in the United States and in other countries
- Interpret new information from a global and multicultural perspective

The Arts and Humanities

- Understand and appreciate how the arts and humanities (expressions of culture and identity through language, movement, sound, and visual representation) contribute to and shape culture and our understanding of culture
- Understand how the arts are used as an instrument of social and political thought
- Identify leading innovators in the arts and humanities and the contributions they have made to their respective genres
- Communicate and interact effectively with communicators of different languages
- Understand how communicating in another language can improve learning in other disciplines and expand professional, personal, and social opportunities

II. Learning and Life Skills

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving

- Apply logical reasoning and analytical skills
- Evaluate the credibility and merit of information, ideas, and arguments
- Discern bias, pose questions, marshal evidence, and present solutions

Find and Use Information/Information Technology

- Assess the credibility and relevance of information
- Conduct research using acceptable research methods
- Apply different research paradigms, including the collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data and research
- Select, integrate, and apply appropriate technology to expand information and knowledge

Creativity and Innovation

- Demonstrate intellectual curiosity
- Generate new ideas and novel approaches
- Develop new connections where none previously existed

Global and Cultural Awareness

- Appreciate the arts, culture, and humanities
- Interact effectively with and respect the diversity of different individuals, groups, and cultures
- Recognize the interdependent nature of our world

Civic Responsibility

- Practice civic responsibility and citizenship
- Balance personal freedom with the interests of a community

Work Ethic

- Set priorities and manage time
- Take initiative, and follow through
- Learn from instruction and criticism
- Take responsibility for actions and work
- Act with maturity, civility, and politeness

Personal Responsibility

- Act assertively
- Be a self-advocate
- Possess financial literacy and awareness of consumer economics
- Behave honestly and ethically

Communication

- Read, write, listen and speak effectively
- Construct clear, coherent, and persuasive arguments

Collaboration

- Be a team player
- Acknowledge authority and take direction
- Cooperate for a common purpose