

**Minimal Course Content Criteria to Meet  
Analytic Thinking Distribution Gen Ed Requirement  
(Approved May, 2017)**

Analytic thinking is primarily about reasoning—a systematic and logical approach to argumentation, explanation, decision making, problem solving, and critical appraisal. It includes skills such as comprehending and organizing data, articulating reasons, explaining concepts, formulating plans, inferring results, answering complex questions, and drawing reasonable and logical conclusions. Courses that satisfy the UNLV analytic thinking distribution requirement must satisfy the following **seven** criteria.

- 1) Must be introductory or survey courses accessible to students outside the major with few or no prerequisites.
- 2) Must include course material that identifies, explains, and applies analytic thinking skills and techniques.
- 3) Must participate in the UNLV's General Education critical thinking assessment (organized by the General Education Office at UNLV).

Analytic thinking distribution courses must also contribute to the following UNLV General Education University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULOs). Specifically, analytic thinking distribution courses will:

- 4) Contribute to the ***Inquiry and Critical Thinking*** UULO by instructing students how to:
  - a. Construct and defend reasonable arguments and explanations
  - b. Assess the relative strength of reasoning and evidence used by others
  - c. Draw specific and explicit conclusions from given premises or reasons and evidence.
  - d. Find and use evidence effectively to support strong arguments, organize research and evidence into a coherent case, and assess the relevance strength of evidence for tasks requiring reasoned responses.
  - e. Systematically and logically evaluate and solve problems
  - f. Identify, differentiate between, and appropriately test various types of reasoning
  - g. Determine when to use qualitative versus quantitative analytical methods
- 5) Contribute to the ***Communication*** UULO by instructing students how to:
  - a. Compose and effectively communicate (in verbal or written form) arguments from relevant research for specific purposes and to specific audiences.
  - b. Reconstruct, represent, display, or diagram reasoning to communicate its logical or argumentative structure.

6) Contribute to the ***Intellectual Breadth and Lifelong Learning*** UULO by instructing students how to:

a. Apply analytical reasoning skills to problems outside of a particular classroom context

7) Contribute to the ***Citizenship and Ethics*** UULO by instructing students how to:

a. become advocates who use strong reasoning and effective evidence

b. critically consume information.