

Problem Solving and Critical Thinking

(a portion modified from AAC&U)

Dimension	1 - Emerging	2 - Developing	3 - Meeting	4 - Exceeding
Demonstrates initiative in identifying and preventing problems	Does not use problem solving skills and demonstrates a limited ability to understand problems as they arise and very limited knowledge of resources, procedures, and policies related to the issue.	Rarely uses problem solving skills. Student begins to demonstrate ability to understand and analyze problems and starts to show knowledge of resources, processes, procedures, and policies related to the issue.	Typically uses problem solving skills. Student almost always demonstrate ability to understand and analyze problems and utilizes knowledge of resources, procedures, and policies to prevent problems from arising.	Always uses problem solving skills. Student consistently demonstrates the ability to understand and analyze problems and utilizes knowledge of resources, procedures, and policies to prevent problems from arising.
Demonstrates initiative in developing and proposing solutions.	Cannot demonstrate the needed skills to research necessary information (including asking questions) and to determine correct solution. Creates solutions that are not applicable. Proposes a solution that is difficult to evaluate because it is vague or only indirectly addresses the problem statement.	Demonstrates limited ability to research necessary information (including asking questions) and to determine correct solution. Proposes one solution that is “off the shelf” rather than individually designed to address the specific related factors of the problem.	Demonstrates reasonable understanding of researching necessary information (including asking questions) and determining the correct solution. Proposes one or more solutions that indicates comprehension of the problem. Solutions are sensitive to related factors as well as one of the following: ethical, logical, or cultural dimensions of the problem	Demonstrates a thorough, accurate understanding of the research necessary information (including asking questions) to determine correct solution. Proposes one or more solutions that indicates a deep comprehension of the problem. Solution are sensitive to related factors as well as all of the following: ethical, logical, and cultural dimensions of the problem.
Implements Solutions	Implements the solution in a manner that does not directly address the problem.	Implements the solution in a manner that addresses the problem but ignores related factors.	Implements the solution in a manner that addresses multiple related factors of the problem in a surface manner.	Implements the solution in a manner that thoroughly addresses the problem and multiple related factors.
Evaluates the solution	Reviews results superficially in terms of the problem defined with no consideration of need for further work	Reviews results in terms of the problem defined with little, if any, consideration of need for further work.	Reviews results relative to the problem defined with some consideration of need for further work.	Reviews results relative to the problem defined with thorough, specific considerations of need for further work.