## Natural Science

### Course Description:

Humans are a component of the natural world, which includes quantum particles, molecules, plants, rocks, ecosystems, etc., and the forces that act upon them. Science is the concerted human effort to pursue better explanations about the natural world based on systematic evaluation of physical evidence. This process of discovery allows us to link isolated facts into a coherent and comprehensive web of knowledge. Scientists are inherently curious and crave to understand the world around us. They make predictions based on past experience, investigate, and exchange their understanding with others. In natural science courses, students will examine scientific questions with a variety of methods and tools, including hands-on work in a laboratory setting and the communication of findings.

1. **Criteria:** Natural Science courses will
   1. Include a laboratory component in which students have the opportunity to collect and analyze data, identify trends, answer questions, and/or draw conclusions.
   2. Include opportunities for students to explore and practice communication of knowledge or work in the discipline to scientific and general audiences.
   3. Be grounded in a discipline, field, or interdisciplinary area of science and address intersections of other ways of knowing outside of natural sciences.
   4. Include examples of historical, philosophical, or societal development of the discipline and the application of science to enduring and contemporary questions.
2. **SLOs:** Natural Science students will
3. Use the methods, concepts, language, and evidence they gather in at least one field of empirical science to answer a question about the natural world.
4. Formulate an argument or address a question about the natural world, supported with scientific evidence.