Natural Science Rubric DRAFT

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| SLO:  Students will: | Does not meet General Education Proficiency | Beginning | Intermediate | Advanced | Beyond Advanced |
| 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.  (Emphasis on gathering data through scientific method) |  | Use data acquired with scientific method(s) to develop conclusions that are based upon scientific evidence.  Construct a *basic* answer to a question about the natural world. | Use data acquired with scientific method(s) to develop *descriptive* conclusions that are based upon scientific evidence.  Construct a *moderately thorough* answer to a question about the natural world. | Use data acquired with scientific method(s) to develop *supported* conclusions that are based upon scientific evidence *and make connections to other scientific phenomena*.  Construct a *detailed* answer to a question about the natural world. |  |
| Formulate an argument or address a question about the natural world, supported with scientific evidence  (Using existing data to support an argument) |  | Demonstrate ability to *interpret* scientific evidence in order to support an argument. | Demonstrate ability to *analyze* *and interpret* scientific evidence in order to support an argument.  Use information from peer reviewed sources to support an argument. | Demonstrate ability to *critically analyze* *and interpret* scientific evidence in order to support an argument. Use information from *a robust number* of peer reviewedsources to support an argument *and synthesize ideas*.  Communicate findings accurately and at a levelappropriate for the target audience. |  |

Rubric Information:

* “Beginning” meets the benchmark for General Education. It may or may not meet the expectations of a particular course.
* Student work must meet all the criteria in a category in order to satisfy that category. If the student work is between “Beginning” and “Intermediate” (meeting all the “Beginning” criteria and achieving some, but not all, of the “Intermediate” criteria), the student work belongs in the “Beginning” category.
* This rubric does not give specific criteria for “Does not meet General Education Proficiency” and “Beyond Advanced.” If student work does not meet “Beginning,” the work “Does not meet General Education Proficiency.” If the student work meets all “Advanced” criteria and exceeds some or all of it, the student work is “Beyond Advanced.”