

UCA CORE – Critical Inquiry Rubric A (Inquiry and Analysis)

This rubric is used to assess students' progress towards *Goal A* of the *Critical Inquiry* area of the UCA Core.

Critical Inquiry: the ability to analyze new problems and situations to formulate informed opinions and conclusions.

Goal A: Demonstrate a knowledge base to ask more informed questions and learn more complex concepts.

This rubric assesses the following three specific skill or knowledge areas related to Goal A:

- **Knowledge:** An understanding of the concepts and/or principles in the discipline and how they relate to important questions.
- **Information:** Selecting appropriate and credible information based on knowledge of topic and discipline.
- **Analysis:** Evaluating a position and/or drawing conclusions on significant questions in the discipline.

How to use this rubric:

- Apply the rubric to at least one assignment. If different skill or knowledge areas are assessed by different assignments, then apply the respective rows of the rubric to those assignments that assess each specific skill or knowledge area. All skill or knowledge areas listed in this rubric must be assessed by the end of the course.
- For each specific skill or knowledge area, assign a score from 0 to 4 based on the student learning outcome that best matches the performance of the student on the assignment.
- Although the rubric may inform the grading scheme used for the assignment, it should not replace it. Scores of 4, 3, 2, and 1 do not necessarily correspond to A, B, C, and D. The rubric is used to track students' progress throughout the UCA Core, not just their performance in a single course. Thus, a score of 4 represents the expected mastery of that skill or knowledge area by the time a student graduates. That mastery may come earlier or later in a student's progression through the UCA Core, but **generally speaking, scores of 1 and 2 are expected in lower-division courses, whereas scores of 3 and 4 are expected in upper-division and capstone courses.**

UCA CORE – Critical Inquiry Rubric A (Inquiry and Analysis)

Specific Skill or Knowledge Area Related to the Goal	Student Learning Outcomes				0
	4	3	2	1	
Knowledge	Shows both a broad and deep understanding of the concepts/principles and their relevance to important questions in the discipline.	Shows a general grasp of the concepts/principles and how they relate to important questions in the discipline.	Shows some knowledge of the concepts/principles and can begin to relate them to important questions in the discipline.	Shows some knowledge of the concepts/principles and limited ability to relate them to important questions in the discipline.	Assign a zero for performance that does not meet a score of one (1).
Information	Selects information from the most relevant and credible sources, without critical omissions of key sources.	Selects relevant information from a variety of sources, but may lack some appropriate and credible sources.	Selects information from limited and similar sources.	Selects information randomly that lacks relevance and quality; or was given the information by instructor.	
Analysis	Justifies a position and/or draws a logical conclusion using appropriate disciplinary analysis on a significant question or problem.	Presents a position and/or conclusion on a significant question/problem using appropriate disciplinary analysis, but lacks depth and/or draws a weak/illogical conclusion	Summarizes different perspectives used in the discipline but does not evaluate a position and/or draw a conclusion.	Recognizes there are multiple approaches to academic questions/problems.	

Overall, has this student demonstrated appropriate knowledge and skills for this level in this discipline? Yes No

This student did not turn in an acceptable response to the assignment (e.g., failed to turn in a paper, plagiarized, etc.)