



CRITICAL THINKING

CRITICAL THINKING AND MAVEd?

In the context of UNO's revised general education curriculum, **critical thinking** is defined as the ability to locate, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize credible information from a variety of sources in order to make reasoned judgments and solve complex problems.

Critical thinking at UNO is closely paired with **information literacy**, reflecting the understanding that making sound decisions requires not only logic and reasoning, but also the ability to work with trustworthy information.

Key Elements:

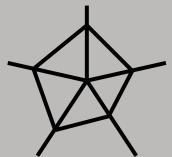
- Asking Meaningful Questions
- Identifying assumptions and biases
- Distinguishing fact from opinion
- Evaluating the quality and relevance of evidence
- Formulating well-supported conclusions

WHY IS CRITICAL THINKING IMPORTANT IN MAVED



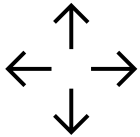
Prepares Students for Complex Problem-Solving

In professional and personal contexts, students will regularly face ambiguous, high-stakes decisions. Critical thinking equips them to evaluate alternatives, weigh evidence, and make informed choices — skills that are essential across all careers and disciplines.



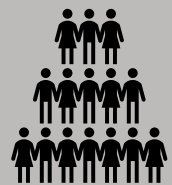
Empowers Independent Learners

Rather than relying on memorization or external authority, critical thinkers are curious, skeptical, and self-directed. They are better equipped to ask the right questions and seek deeper understanding in unfamiliar or evolving situations.



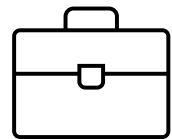
Builds Resilience in a Rapidly Changing World

When students make connections across subjects, they are more likely to retain knowledge, see broader patterns, and approach problems from multiple perspectives.



Fosters Civic Responsibility

Critical thinkers are more likely to engage as informed citizens. They can analyze social issues, understand competing viewpoints, and evaluate policy options, which support active and responsible participation in democratic life.



Aligns with Employer Priorities

Surveys by the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) show that employers consistently rank critical thinking as one of the top skills they seek in college graduates — more than specific technical knowledge.

In UNO's general education framework, critical thinking serves as a foundational skill that empowers students to navigate complexity with clarity, confidence, and integrity. By cultivating habits of inquiry, analysis, and evidence-based reasoning, students are better prepared to lead meaningful lives, contribute to their communities, and adapt to an ever-evolving world.

Additional Resources at [MavEd.unomaha.edu](https://maved.unomaha.edu)