# Pierce College: The information competent student...

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Information Competency

**Values Inquiry**
Values inquiry and information needs in order to engage in lifelong learning
a) Recognizes inquiry as central to learning
b) Understands the value of information as it relates to decision-making
c) Views self as a questioner and persists in obtaining information that will meet needs

**Applies Strategies**
Applies a repertoire of creative and flexible information seeking strategies in order to navigate the unfamiliar, take action, or solve a problem
a) Articulates a question clearly and determines the type and scope of information needed
b) Chooses the most advantageous investigative method (scientific experiment, literature review, field work)
c) Constructs, implements and refines effective search strategies (consults most promising information source first, asks experts or librarians for assistance, seeks help screens, reads introductory material, combines features of various tools)
d) Employs a variety of search techniques to maximize success (uses Boolean operators, truncation, controlled vocabulary)

**Identifies Sources**
Identifies appropriate sources in order access relevant information
a) Selects appropriately among sources that vary in content, format, structure and scope (people, agencies, primary vs. secondary sources, specialized encyclopedias, websites)
b) Develops knowledge of sources central to needs or field (DSM for psychology students, ERIC database for education students, chemistry handbook for chemistry students)

**Uses Tools**
Uses technological and organizational tools in order to access and manipulate information
a) Recognizes and uses the organizational structure of an information tool in order to access information effectively (table of contents of a book, alphabetical arrangement of an index, order of items in a database, map of a place)
b) Applies technological literacy to accomplish tasks (Internet, hardware, software)
c) Manages and preserves information collected or generated for future use (disk, note cards, email folders)

**Evaluates**
Analyzes information in order to evaluate quality, relevance, or perspective
a) Summarizes information accurately to demonstrate understanding
b) Develops criteria in order to assess information (authority, currency, validity, comprehensiveness)
c) Recognizes the contexts within which beliefs and knowledge are presented when considering information use (point of view, bias, deception, and manipulation)

**Synthesizes**
Synthesizes new information with current understanding and experience in order to create something new, acquire insight, transform values, or expand knowledge base
a) Relates disconnected pieces of information to discover patterns or make generalizations
b) Integrates previously held beliefs, assumptions and knowledge with new information
c) Applies integrated information to come to a conclusion, make a decision, or design a product

**Uses Information Responsibly**
Examines the issues and policies related to information in order to use it responsibly
a) Articulates social, cultural, historical and economic issues related to information production, dissemination and access (free press, digital divide, freedom of speech, alternative press, censorship, access)
b) Uses information and media in compliance with copyright laws, respecting intellectual property
c) Demonstrates an understanding of plagiarism by appropriately and accurately acknowledging the use of information sources