

Articulation of SEPs, CCCs, and DCIs

Science and Engineering Practices	Crosscutting Concepts	Disciplinary Core Ideas
<p>Asking questions or defining problems: Students engage in asking testable questions and defining problems to pursue understandings of phenomena.</p> <p>Developing and using models: Students develop physical, conceptual, and other models to represent relationships, explain mechanisms, and predict outcomes.</p> <p>Planning and carrying out investigations: Students plan and conduct scientific investigations in order to test, revise, or develop explanations.</p> <p>Analyzing and interpreting data: Students analyze various types of data in order to create valid interpretations or to assess claims/conclusions.</p> <p>Using mathematics and computational thinking: Students use fundamental tools in science to compute relationships and interpret results.</p> <p>Constructing explanations and designing solutions: Students construct explanations about the world and design solutions to problems using observations that are consistent with current evidence and scientific principles.</p> <p>Engaging in argument from evidence: Students support their best explanations with lines of reasoning using evidence to defend their claims.</p> <p>Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information: Students obtain, evaluate, and derive meaning from scientific information or presented evidence using appropriate scientific language. They communicate their findings clearly and persuasively in a variety of ways including written text, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, or orally.</p>	<p><u>Patterns:</u> Students observe patterns to organize and classify factors that influence relationships</p> <p><u>Cause and effect:</u> Students investigate and explain causal relationships in order to make tests and predictions.</p> <p><u>Scale, proportion, and quantity:</u> Students compare the scale, proportions, and quantities of measurements within and between various systems.</p> <p><u>Systems and system models:</u> Students use models to explain the parameters and relationships that describe complex systems.</p> <p><u>Energy and matter:</u> Students describe cycling of matter and flow of energy through systems, including transfer, transformation, and conservation of energy and matter.</p> <p><u>Structure and function:</u> Students relate the shape and structure of an object or living thing to its properties and functions.</p> <p><u>Stability and change:</u> Students evaluate how and why a natural or constructed system can change or remain stable over time.</p>	<p>Physical Sciences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (PS1) Matter and Its Interactions (PS2) Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions (PS3) Energy (PS4) Waves <p>Life Sciences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (LS1) Molecules to Organisms (LS2) Ecosystems (LS3) Heredity (LS4) Biological Evolution <p>Earth and Space Sciences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ESS1) Earth’s Place in the Universe (ESS2) Earth’s Systems (ESS3) Earth and Human Activity <p>Engineering Design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ETS1.A) Defining and Delimiting an Engineering Problem (ETS1.B) Developing Possible Solutions (ETS1.C) Optimizing the Design Solution

Utah Science with Engineering Education Standards

Utah's Science and Engineering Education (SEEd) standards were written by Utah educators and scientists, using a wide array of resources and expertise. A great deal is known about good science instruction. The writing team used sources including *A Framework for K–12 Science Education*¹, the *Next Generation Science Standards*², and related works to craft research-based standards for Utah. These standards were written with students in mind, including developmentally appropriate progressions that foster learning that is simultaneously age-appropriate and enduring. The aim was to address what an educated citizenry should know and understand to embrace the value of scientific thinking and make informed decisions. The SEEd standards are founded on what science is, how science is learned, and the multiple dimensions of scientific work.

Principles of Scientific Literacy

Science is a way of knowing, a process for understanding the natural world. Engineering applies the fields of science, technology, and mathematics to produce solutions to real-world problems. The process of developing scientific knowledge includes ongoing questioning, testing, and refinement of ideas when supported by empirical evidence. Since progress in modern society is tied so closely to this way of knowing, scientific literacy is essential for a society to be engaged in political and economic choices on personal, local, regional, and global scales. As such, the Utah SEEd standards are based on the following essential elements of scientific literacy.

Science is valuable, relevant, and applicable.

Science produces knowledge that is inherently important to our society and culture. Science and engineering support innovation and enhance the lives of individuals and society. Science is supported from and benefited by an equitable and democratic culture. Science is for all people, at all levels of education, and from all backgrounds.

Science is a shared way of knowing and doing.

Science learning experiences should celebrate curiosity, wonder, skepticism, precision, and accuracy. Scientific habits of mind include questioning, communicating, reasoning, analyzing, collaborating, and thinking critically. These values are shared within and across scientific disciplines, and should be embraced by students, teachers, and society at large.

Science is principled and enduring.

Scientific knowledge is constructed from empirical evidence; therefore, it is both changeable and durable. Science is based on observations and inferences, an understanding of scientific laws and theories, use of scientific methods, creativity, and collaboration. The Utah SEEd standards are based on current scientific theories, which are powerful and broad explanations of a wide range of phenomena; they are not simply guesses nor are they unchangeable facts. Science is principled in that it is limited to observable evidence. Science is also enduring in that theories are only accepted when they are robustly supported by multiple lines of peer reviewed evidence. The history of science demonstrates

how scientific knowledge can change and progress, and it is rooted in the cultures from which it emerged. Scientists, engineers, and society, are responsible for developing scientific understandings with integrity, supporting claims with existing and new evidence, interpreting competing explanations of phenomena, changing models purposefully, and finding applications that are ethical.

Principles of Science Learning

Just as science is an active endeavor, students best learn science by engaging in it. This includes gathering information through observations, reasoning, and communicating with others. It is not enough for students to read about or watch science from a distance; learners must become active participants in forming their ideas and engaging in scientific practice. The Utah SEEd standards are based on several core philosophical and research-based underpinnings of science learning.

Science learning is personal and engaging.

Research in science education supports the assertion that students at all levels learn most when they are able to construct and reflect upon their ideas, both by themselves and in collaboration with others. Learning is not merely an act of retaining information but creating ideas informed by evidence and linked to previous ideas and experiences. Therefore, the most productive learning settings engage students in authentic experiences with natural phenomena or problems to be solved. Learners develop tools for understanding as they look for patterns, develop explanations, and communicate with others. Science education is most effective when learners invest in their own sense-making and their learning context provides an opportunity to engage with real-world problems.

Science learning is multi-purposed.

Science learning serves many purposes. We learn science because it brings us joy and appreciation but also because it solves problems, expands understanding, and informs society. It allows us to make predictions, improve our world, and mitigate challenges. An understanding of science and how it works is necessary in order to participate in a democratic society. So, not only is science a tool to be used by the future engineer or lab scientist but also by every citizen, every artist, and every other human who shares an appreciation for the world in which we live.

All students are capable of science learning.

Science learning is a right of all individuals and must be accessible to all students in equitable ways. Independent of grade level, geography, gender, economic status, cultural background, or any other demographic descriptor, all K–12 students are capable of science learning and science literacy. Science learning is most equitable when students have agency and can engage in practices of science and sense-making for themselves, under the guidance and mentoring of an effective teacher and within an environment that puts student experience at the center of instruction. Moreover, all students are capable learners of science, and all grades and classes should provide authentic, developmentally appropriate science instruction.

Three Dimensions of Science

Science is composed of multiple types of knowledge and tools. These include the processes of doing science, the structures that help us organize and connect our understandings, and the deep explanatory pieces of knowledge that provide predictive power. These facets of science are represented as “three dimensions” of science learning, and together these help us to make sense of all that science does and represents. These include science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas. Taken together, these represent how we use science to make sense of phenomena, and they are most meaningful when learned in concert with one another. These are described in *A Framework for K–12 Science Education*, referenced above, and briefly described here:

Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs): Practices refer to the things that scientists and engineers do and how they actively engage in their work. Scientists do much more than make hypotheses and test them with experiments. They engage in wonder, design, modeling, construction, communication, and collaboration. The practices describe the variety of activities that are necessary to do science, and they also imply how scientific thinking is related to thinking in other subjects, including math, writing, and the arts. For a further understanding of science and engineering practices see Chapter 3 in *A Framework for K–12 Science Education*.

Crosscutting Concepts (CCCs): Crosscutting concepts are the organizing structures that provide a framework for assembling pieces of scientific knowledge. They reach across disciplines and demonstrate how specific ideas are united into overarching principles. For example, a mechanical engineer might design some process that transfers energy from a fuel source into a moving part, while a biologist might study how predators and prey are interrelated. Both of these would need to model systems of energy to understand how all of the features interact, even though they are studying different subjects. Understanding crosscutting concepts enables us to make connections among different subjects and to utilize science in diverse settings. Additional information on crosscutting concepts can be found in Chapter 4 of *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*.

Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs): Core ideas within the SEEd Standards include those most fundamental and explanatory pieces of knowledge in a discipline. They are often what we traditionally associate with science knowledge and specific subject areas within science. These core ideas are organized within physical, life, and earth sciences, but within each area further specific organization is appropriate. All these core ideas are described in chapters 5 through 8 in the K–12 *Framework* text, and these are employed by the Utah SEEd standards to help clarify the focus of each strand in a grade level or content area.

Even though the science content covered by SEPs, CCCs, and DCIs is substantial, the Utah SEEd standards are not meant to address every scientific concept. Instead, these standards were written to address and engage in an appropriate depth of knowledge, including perspectives into how that knowledge is obtained and where it fits in broader contexts, for students to continue to use and expand their understandings over a lifetime.