Sound Thinkers: Sound Thinkers frame and solve problems using creative and critical thinking

	General Education		Bachelor's Degree	
COMPETENCY	1—EMERGING	2—BENCHMARK	3—MILESTONE	4—DEVELOPED
Problem Solving	Understands and can define the problem.	Constructs a problem statement and can identify an approach for solving the problem.	Constructs a clear and insightful problem statement, identifies multiple approaches for solving the problem, and uses logic and reason to propose a solution.	Constructs a clear and insightful problem statement with evidence of all relevant factors, proposes multiple problem-solving strategies, evaluates solutions, weighs the feasibility and impact of each, implements a solution, and explores alternatives and need for further work.
Critical Thinking	States and describes an issue.	States the issue and gathers information to evaluate the issue.	Clearly articulates the issue, investigates solutions, gathers and interprets research from multiple viewpoints; applies objective analysis/judgment; and draws conclusions.	Clearly articulates the issue, gathers, interprets, and evaluates reliable evidence from multiple viewpoints, applies objective analysis and judgment, draw conclusions, evaluates insightful/relevant alternatives, and considers the consequences, implications, and need for further work.
Inquiry and Analysis	Identifies a topic or process to examine.	Identifies a relevant topic, examines information, and organizes information.	Identifies a relevant and significant topic, asks meaningful and probing questions. Synthesizes information from various viewpoints, chooses methodology or theoretical framework to perform inquiry and analysis, and forms conclusions.	Identifies relevant and important topics. Asks meaningful and probing questions. Synthesizes in-depth information from multiple sources representing various viewpoints, skillfully applies all elements of methodology or theoretical framework, synthesized information to reveal insightful patterns, draws meaningful conclusions, and understands limitations and implication of their work.
Innovation / Creativity	Understands the need for change or improvement.	Identifies need, understands the target audience, and proposes a model for improvement.	Has a deep understanding of the situation, seeks solutions in a unique and original way, examines multiple viewpoints and scenarios, and implements a plan that is distinctive.	Understands need, effectively engages audience, examines multiple viewpoints/scenarios, seeks unique and original solutions, implements improvement plan that is distinctive and impacts the need in a new way. Generates enthusiasm from audience/stakeholders.

A score of zero indicates none of these items has been demonstrated.