General Education Program Assessment 2010 - 2012
Executive Summary

Why are we doing Program Assessment?
• To determine which aspects of the General Education learning outcomes our students are successfully addressing.
• To determine effective practices and efficient processes in General Education
• To identify gaps in the reinforcement of General Education learning outcomes within the courses and themes
• To ensure the cohesiveness and integrity of the General Education Program

Assessment Process Overview and Timeline
Fall 2010
Action Steps resulting from faculty and reviewer feedback in 2009-2010:
• Nine faculty assessment consultants, one from each of the General Education components, were nominated. The consultants were provided a stipend, training, and materials to prepare them for providing workshops to faculty. The objectives of the workshops were to assist faculty in creating and submitting assessable artifacts in AsULearn. Sixteen workshops were scheduled for Sept/Oct 2010.
• Multiple methods of participating in artifact collection were launched. Faculty can tag assignments in AsULearn, bring in hardcopy assignments to the General Education office, submit a “Faculty Learner Analysis Report” or contact the General Education Assessment Coordinator for other alternative means of participation.
• The General Education Assessment Workgroup selected the AAC&U Value rubrics for testing and feedback with seven related General Education learning outcomes for 2010-2012.
• VP Dr. Tony Carey advised Deans and Department Chairs of the General Education program assessment process.
• Faculty Coordinating Committee chairs recommended reviewers for the 2010-2011 artifact review process.
• Learning Technology Services upgraded the LASSO reviewer system to incorporate previous reviewer feedback and additional options for including artifacts submitted by hard copy.
• In mid December 2010, twenty-seven faculty artifact reviewers rated artifacts (using the VALUE Rubrics) in the LASSO system and completed their reviews by January 15th 2011.

  o NOTE: Artifact samples from third semester students will be randomly drawn and rated by the faculty reviewer for the seven outcomes within the perspectives. 60% > of the sampled artifacts for third semester students would need to show an average overall rating of 2.5> on a Value Rubric to indicate success.
  o Success for First Year Seminar and First Year Writing will be based on 60% > of the sample artifacts ratings showing an average score of 1.5> on the Value Rubric Scale.
• In 2010/2011, Student surveys were sent electronically to all students currently enrolled in general education courses. The purpose of the survey was to gather data on the student experience relative to the seven selected General Education Learning outcomes.
• The TracDat reporting system was updated with the 2009/2010 assessment data and action plans.

Spring 2011
Artifact Collection will continue for the seven selected General Education Learning outcomes

• In January 2011, IRAP interpreted the reviewer ratings in LASSO and the student surveys by providing data analysis.
• In February 2011, the General Education Leadership team recommended & communicated action plans based on the data analysis.
• In March 2011, the General Education Council considered recommendations and made endorsements for action plans in Summer/Fall 2011.
• In April, the General Education Assessment Coordinator entered the Assessment results and action plans in TracDat.

Summer 2011
• Action plans based on the results of the artifact ratings informed faculty development opportunities which were extended to 14 faculty teaching in the General Education Program with summer grants
• Faculty reviewer feedback on the Value Rubrics was considered and improvement were made on the rubrics specific to Science and Writing courses in General Education.

Fall 2011
• Artifact Collection and Student Surveys continued with the same seven General Education Learning outcomes.
• Artifact Reviewers will be selected and reviews completed in Dec 2011 (budget permitting).
• Faculty Analysis of Student Learning will be gathered for selected courses (budget permitting).
• Faculty development continued with a series of workshops on “Designing Assignments for Assessment”.

Spring 2012
• Artifact Collection and Student Surveys continued with the same seven General Education Learning outcomes.
• Artifact Reviewers will be selected and reviews completed in May 2012 (budget permitting).
• Faculty Analysis of Student Learning will be gathered for selected courses (budget permitting).
• Faculty development continues with a series of workshops on “Designing Assignments for Assessment”.

Assessment Results –

See data within reports posted on the Gen Ed Council AsULearn Site
Closing the Loop – Dissemination and Feedback on Assessment Results from Student Survey Results and Artifact Collection Results

The General Education Council will review the executive summary for General Education assessment and the action steps recommended by the General Education leadership team. A vote will be held for the approval of action steps for General Education program assessment.

The Director of General Education will disseminate and discuss the results of the Student Survey and Artifact Reviews with the General Education Council and theme coordinators and solicit input on the results and action steps.

2011-2012 Action Steps (recommended by General Education Leadership Team)

- Implement the new rubrics for science lab artifacts and in fall 2011
- Revisit General Education Learning Outcomes for possible revision by fall 2013
- Design a process for renewing General Education courses and themes to begin in fall 2013
- Continue a series of faculty development workshop on Creating Assignments for Assessment
- Increase the options and methods for faculty to submit student artifacts and/or reports for program assessment (budget permitting)
- Continue collecting and reviewing student artifacts (budget permitting)
- Map Gen Ed goals to Department Program goals/outcomes in Tracdat (IRAP supported)
- Map appropriate NESSE, CLA, and GSS results to Gen Ed Outcomes in Tracdat (IRAP supported)
- Announce the 2012-2013 Learning Outcomes selected for assessment and the related rubric criteria.
- Initiate a Curriculum Mapping process with the departments offering General Education courses.

Tentatively Selected Learning Outcomes for 2012-2013 are:

1D Construct persuasive arguments in increasingly complex contexts

2A Articulate and comprehend effectively, using verbal or non-verbal communication suitable to topic, purpose, and audience

2B Use writing effectively to discover and develop ideas and to articulate positions in contexts of increasing complexity

2D Determine the scope of information needed in specific research contexts and successfully identify, locate, evaluate, use, and communicate information from various media

3B Evaluate community, natural, and global change through the lens of sustainability

3E Employ appropriate and increasingly sophisticated means for communicating with people of other cultures

4A Identify potential consequences that personal choices as well as political, economic, and other social forces may have on individual, societal, and environmental health