General Education Forum Survey Results

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University Assessment Committee
General Education
Students Learning Outcomes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Acquire and Evaluate Information</th>
<th>Analyze and Integrate Knowledge</th>
<th>Develop Perspective and An Understanding Of Human Experience</th>
<th>Communicate Effectively</th>
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<tr>
<td>Composition I</td>
<td>Humanities I</td>
<td>General Biology</td>
<td>Earth Science</td>
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<td>Earth Science</td>
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<td>西班牙 I</td>
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<td>Spanish I</td>
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<td>Composition II</td>
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<td>Introductory Psychology</td>
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Should we provide students the opportunity to learn the 4 Learning outcomes in each general education course? How many outcomes should we assess?
How Are General Education Courses Related To Each Other?

Faculty Results: General Education Course Objectives

Human Experience
Basic Skills
Application
Understanding
Abilities
Essential

Knowledge
Foundational
General
Reasoning
Meaningful Learning
Critical Information
Faculty Results Reveal Two Major Issues

**Problem One:** Students lack oral and written communication skills.

**Problem Two:** There is a lack of General Education interdepartmental communication.
Problem Identification

• Students Lack Oral & Written Communication Skills
73% Of The General Education Courses Being Reviewed Use Objective Exams To Assess Outcomes 1, 2, & 3.

Faculty Explanation Of Why:
• Ease of evaluation.
• Exams are not biased.
• Necessary for large classes.
• Easy to tie to objectives.
18% Of Courses Include Oral Communication Activities & 54% Of Courses Include Written Communication Activities

Faculty Explanation Of Why:
- Only or discipline specific skills.
- Hard to assess.
- Large classes prohibit.
- Lack of ability to assess oral skills.
- Gen Ed students are not assessed at this level.
- Oral communication is not a priority.
36% Of Courses Being Reviewed Assess Outcome 4 Communicate Effectively

Faculty Explanation Of Why:

- It is a necessary skill for the course or discipline that teaches communication.

- Too hard to incorporate into class time and evaluation.
Student Learning

✓ 73% of the general education courses being reviewed use objective exams.

✓ 18% of courses being reviewed include oral communication Activities.

✓ 54% of courses being reviewed include written communication activities.

✓ 36% of courses being reviewed assess outcome 4 communicate effectively.

Based on the results, what changes would you recommend?
100% of departments report they include some oral & written communication activities in their general education courses, but they are not being assessed.

Assignments:
- Writing Assignments
- Research Papers
- Essays
- Short Answers
- Word Problems
- Case Studies
- Article Evaluation
- Class Discussions
- Oral Presentations

If these activities were emphasized more often, how would this improve student learning?
Problem: Students Lack Oral and Written Communication Skills

- Should we increase oral and written communication assignments in our general education program?
- Should we increase the formal assessment of these assignments?

Assessment Learning Cycle:

1. Define intended learning objectives
2. Redesign program to improve learning
3. Compare outcomes with intended objectives
4. Measure selected learning outcomes
Problem Identification

• Problem: Lack Of Interdepartmental Communication
How Are Gen Ed Courses Related To Each Other?

Faculty Results:
Disconnected Discipline Specific Culture

- Simply parallel.
- Almost no connection.
- Not directly related.
- Not familiar with courses outside my department.
- Courses are related to our discipline.
- Courses teach core concepts from each discipline.
- No Formal Process by which departments are responsible for teaching courses or collaborate with each other.
How Has the Assessment Process Led To Improvements in Student Learning?

Faculty Results: Department Collective Culture

✓ We discuss all points of assessment.
✓ We take stock of our progress.
✓ We discuss how to get adjunct faculty more involved.
✓ We have made significant improvements with online learning, text book changes, and course work.
✓ We have made changes to enrich and improve student hands-on learning.

Only 36% of departments report they have made curricular improvements based on assessment results.

What should we do to achieve more significant curricular improvements in the general education program?
Should We Create A Student Learning Culture?

- If so, how would we create this culture?
- How can we improve collaboration between departments and campus general education culture?
How Could We Improve Our General Education Community?

Faculty Results: Solutions

- Increase Communication and Interaction
- Increase Understanding
- Increase Leadership
Solution One

• Increase Communication and Interaction
  - Workshops
  - Forums
  - Casual Conversational Assessment Process
Solution Two

• Increase Understanding
  ➢ Learn About Other Departments.
  ➢ Define Student Learning Outcomes.
  ➢ Learn From Other Universities.
  ➢ Improve Student Learning Reports.
Solution Three

• Increase Leadership
  - Establish General Education Committee
  - Increase Direction From The Administration

How should we improve leadership?
Where Do We Go From Here?

- Promote & Enhance All Student Learning
- Promote Campus Communication
- Improve The Assessment Process
- Establish A Cohesive General Education Program