

## General Education Student Learning Report (rev. 7/15)

Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

# Department of History & Political Science

Effectively assessing a degree program should address a number of factors:

- 1) Valid student learning outcomes should be clearly articulated;
- 2) Valid assessment measures should be used, consistent with the standards of professional practice;
- 3) There should be evidence that assessment data are being used by faculty to make necessary instructional or assessment changes; and there should be evidence that instructional or assessment changes are being implemented to improve student learning.

### Relationship of Degree Program Learning Outcomes to Departmental and University Missions

RSU Mission	General Education Mission
Our mission is to ensure students develop the skills and knowledge required to achieve professional and personal goals in dynamic local and global communities	General Education at Rogers State University provides a broad foundation of intellectual skills, knowledge, and perspectives to enable students across the University to achieve professional and personal goals in a dynamic local or global society.
RSU Commitments	General Education Outcomes
To provide quality associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree opportunities and educational experiences which foster student excellence in oral and written communications, scientific reasoning, and critical and creative thinking.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Think critically and creatively.</li><li>2) Acquire, analyze, and evaluate knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world.</li><li>3) Use written, oral, and visual communication effectively.</li></ol>

<b>RSU Mission</b>	<b>General Education Mission</b>
	4) Develop an individual perspective on the human experience, and demonstrate an understanding of diverse perspectives and values. 5) Demonstrate civic knowledge and engagement, ethical reasoning, and skills for lifelong learning.
To promote an atmosphere of academic and intellectual freedom and respect for diverse expression in an environment of physical safety that is supportive of teaching and learning.	
To provide a general liberal arts education that supports specialized academic programs and prepares students for lifelong learning and service in a diverse society.	1) Think critically and creatively. 2) Acquire, analyze, and evaluate knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world. 3) Use written, oral, and visual communication effectively. 4) Develop an individual perspective on the human experience, and demonstrate an understanding of diverse perspectives and values. 5) Demonstrate civic knowledge and engagement, ethical reasoning, and skills for lifelong learning.
To provide students with a diverse, innovative faculty dedicated to excellence in teaching, scholarly pursuits, and continuous improvement of programs.	
To provide university-wide student services, activities, and resources that complement academic programs.	
To support and strengthen student, faculty, and administrative structures that promote shared governance of the institution.	
To promote and encourage student, faculty, staff, and community interaction in a positive academic climate that creates opportunities for cultural, intellectual, and personal enrichment for the university and the communities it serves.	

## **PART 1**

### **Discussion of Instructional Changes Resulting from 2015-2016 General Education Student Learning Report**

List and discuss all instructional or assessment changes proposed in Part 4 of last year's General Education Student Learning Report, whether implemented or not. Any other changes or assessment activities from last year, but not mentioned in last year's report, should be discussed here as well. Emphasis should be placed on student learning and considerations such as course improvements, the assessment process, and the budget. If no changes were planned or implemented, simply state "No changes were planned or implemented."

Instructional or Assessment Changes	Changes Implemented (Y/N)	Impact of Changes on Degree Program Curriculum or Budget
Have greater rigor in administering standard pre and post tests for Political Science 1113: American Federal Government	N	The pre and post test for American Federal Government proved to be too great of a burden to implement in a consistent manner across all American Federal Government Courses in their onground, online, and blended formats.

## PART 2

### Discussion of the University Assessment Committee's 2015-2016 Peer Review Report

[Complete this part only if the general education course(s) was among those that were peer reviewed last year.] The University Assessment Committee in its Degree Program Peer Review Report provided feedback and recommendations for improvement in assessment. List or accurately summarize all feedback and recommendations from the committee, and state whether they were implemented or will be implemented at a future date. If they were not or will not be implemented, please explain why. If no changes were recommended last year, simply state "No changes were recommended."

Feedback and Recommended Changes from the University Assessment Committee	Suggestions Implemented (Y/N)	Changes that Were or Will Be Implemented, or Rationale for Changes that Were Not Implemented
There was no assessment of the 2015-16 report		

## PART 3

### Analysis of Evidence of Student Learning Outcomes

The five General Education Outcomes are listed below. For each outcome, indicate the General Education courses being assessed, and provide a brief narrative of the assessment measures and performance standards used, as well as the sampling methods and sample sizes. For each measure, document the results of the activity measured and draw any relevant conclusions related to strengths and weaknesses of their performance. Finally, indicate whether the performance measure was met or not.

**OUTCOME 1: Think critically and creatively**

A. Course	B. Assessment Measures	C. Performance Standards	D. Sampling Methods	E. Sample Size (N)	F. Results	G. Conclusions	H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)

**OUTCOME 2: Acquire, analyze, and evaluate knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world.**

A. Course	B. Assessment Measures	C. Performance Standards	D. Sampling Methods	E. Sample Size (N)	F. Results	G. Conclusions	H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)
HIST 2483: American History to 1877	Embedded Exams	≥70% of students will earn ≥70%	All students who finish the course	256	66% of on ground students, 82% of online students, and 85% of blended students met the standard. Though on ground students fell short of the ≥70%, overall 77% of students in all classes met the performance standard set by the department.	See discussion below pg. 8	Y

	A	B	C	D	F	Total
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On Ground	5	23	31	23	8	90
Online	27	31	12	2	13	85
Blended	34	26	9	3	9	81
Total	66	80	52	28	30	256

	A	B	C	D	F
On Ground	6%	26%	34%	26%	9%
Online	32%	36%	14%	2%	15%
Blended	42%	32%	11%	4%	11%
All Courses	26%	31%	20%	11%	12%

A. Course	B. Assessment Measures	C. Performance Standards	D. Sampling Methods	E. Sample Size (N)	F. Results	G. Conclusions	H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)
HIST 2493: American History to 1877	Embedded Exams	≥70% of students will earn ≥70%	All students who finish the course	221	86% of on ground students, 87% of online students, and 90% of blended students met the standard. Overall 87% of students in all classes met the performance standard set by the department	See discussion below pg. 8	Y

	A	B	C	D	F	Total
On Ground	27	28	28	5	8	96
Online	47	30	7	1	11	96
Blended	6	13	7	1	2	29
Total	80	71	42	7	21	221

	A	B	C	D	F
On Ground	28%	29%	29%	5%	8%

Online	49%	31%	7%	1%	11%
Blended	21%	45%	24%	3%	7%
All Courses	36%	32%	19%	3%	10%

A. Course	B. Assessment Measures	C. Performance Standards	D. Sampling Methods	E. Sample Size (N)	F. Results	G. Conclusions	H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)
POLS 1113: Federal Government	Embedded exams	≥70% of students will earn ≥70%	All students who finish the course	449	78% of on ground students, 75% of online students, and 91% of blended students met the standard. Overall 79% of students in all classes met the standard set by the department.	See discussion below pg. 8	Y

	A	B	C	D	F	Total
On Ground	79	95	88	51	22	335
Online	26	9	8	7	8	58
Blended	19	23	9	2	3	56
Total	124	127	105	60	33	449

	A	B	C	D	F
On Ground	24%	28%	26%	15%	7%
Online	45%	16%	14%	12%	14%
Blended	34%	41%	16%	4%	5%
All Courses	28%	28%	23%	13%	7%

A. Course	B. Assessment Measures	C. Performance Standards	D. Sampling Methods	E. Sample Size (N)	F. Results	G. Conclusions	H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)
GEOG 2243: Human Geography	Embedded Exams	≥70% of students will earn ≥70%	All students who finish the course	235	83% of on ground students, 86% of online students and 66% of blended students met the standard and overall 80% of all students.	See discussion below pg. 8	Y

	A	B	C	D	F	Total
On Ground	29	34	27	13	6	109
Online	22	37	13	5	7	84
Blended	11	9	8	5	9	42
Total	62	80	48	23	22	235

	A	B	C	D	F
On Ground	27%	31%	25%	12%	5%
Online	26%	44%	16%	6%	8%
Blended	26%	21%	19%	12%	21%
All courses	26%	34%	20%	10%	9%

A. Course	B. Assessment Measures	C. Performance Standards	D. Sampling Methods	E. Sample Size (N)	F. Results	G. Conclusions	H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)
HIST 2013: World Civilization I	Embedded Exams	≥70% of students will earn ≥70%	All students who finish the course	63	67% of on ground students and 89% of online students met the standard. Though on ground student fell short of the ≥70 standard the overall average for students exceeded the	See discussion below pg. 8	Y

A. Course	B. Assessment Measures	C. Performance Standards	D. Sampling Methods	E. Sample Size (N)	F. Results	G. Conclusions	H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)
					standard at 84%.		

	A	B	C	D	F	Total
On Ground	1	1	2	2	0	6
Online	8	9	7	1	2	27
Total	9	10	9	3	2	33

	A	B	C	D	F
On Ground	17%	17%	33%	33%	-
Online	30%	33%	26%	4%	7%
Total	27%	30%	27%	9%	6%

A. Course	B. Assessment Measures	C. Performance Standards	D. Sampling Methods	E. Sample Size (N)	F. Results	G. Conclusions	H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)
HIST 2023: World Civilization II	Embedded Exams	≥70% of students will earn ≥70%	All students who finish the course	49	67% of blended students and 76% of online students met the standard. Though on ground student fell short of the ≥70 standard the overall average for students exceeded the standard at 74%.	The results of the general education survey courses meet the standards of the department. The consensus view of the faculty is that the components of instruction (quizzes, papers, discussions, lectures,	Y



A. Course	B. Assessment Measures	C. Performance Standards	D. Sampling Methods	E. Sample Size (N)	F. Results	G. Conclusions	H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)
						readings, tests etc.) required by the department's full time and adjunct instructors in the on ground, blended, and online formats are sufficiently challenging and rigorous, even though they vary from instructor to instructor.	

	A	B	C	D	F	Total
Blended	-	1	5	3	-	9
Online	4	11	5	4	2	26
Total	4	12	10	7	2	35

	A	B	C	D	F
Blended	-	11%	56%	33%	-
Online	15%	42%	19%	15%	8%
All courses	11%	34%	29%	20%	6%

**OUTCOME 3: Use written, oral, and visual communication effectively.**

<b>A. Course</b>	<b>B. Assessment Measures</b>	<b>C. Performance Standards</b>	<b>D. Sampling Methods</b>	<b>E. Sample Size (N)</b>	<b>F. Results</b>	<b>G. Conclusions</b>	<b>H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)</b>

**OUTCOME 4: Develop an individual perspective on the human experience, and demonstrate an understanding of diverse perspectives and values.**

<b>A. Course</b>	<b>B. Assessment Measures</b>	<b>C. Performance Standards</b>	<b>D. Sampling Methods</b>	<b>E. Sample Size (N)</b>	<b>F. Results</b>	<b>G. Conclusions</b>	<b>H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)</b>

**OUTCOME 5: Demonstrate civic knowledge and engagement, ethical reasoning, and skills for lifelong learning.**

<b>A. Course</b>	<b>B. Assessment Measures</b>	<b>C. Performance Standards</b>	<b>D. Sampling Methods</b>	<b>E. Sample Size (N)</b>	<b>F. Results</b>	<b>G. Conclusions</b>	<b>H. Performance Standards Met (Y/N)</b>

#### **PART 4**

**Proposed Instructional Changes Based on Conclusions Drawn from Evidence Presented Above**

State any proposed instructional or assessment changes to be implemented for the next academic year. They should be based on conclusions reported in Part 3 (above) or on informal activities, such as faculty meetings and discussions, conferences, pilot projects, textbook adoption, new course proposals, curriculum modifications, etc. Explain the rationale for these changes and how they will impact student learning and other considerations, such as curriculum, degree plan, assessment process, or budget. If no changes are planned, simply state "No changes are planned."

General Education Outcomes	Instructional or Assessment Changes	Rationale for Changes	Impact of Planned Changes on Student Learning and Other Considerations.
(1) Relevant to all	The use of a unified test with a test bank developed by the Political Science faculty for POLS 1113: American Federal Government as an additional assessment measure is going to be abandoned. After two years the distribution of the pre and post-tests has been haphazard leading to a fragmentary assessment measure. Persisting in efforts to implement the pre and post test is likely to be too labor intensive to justify the limited utility of the measure.	Distribution of the pre and post tests thus far has been haphazard leading to a fragmentary assessment measure.	None.

## PART 5

### Shared Pedagogical Insight that Improves Student Learning or Classroom Engagement

(OPTIONAL) If your department or a faculty member has developed a method or technique of teaching that seems especially effective in improving student learning or student engagement in the classroom, please provide a brief description below. More detail can be communicated during the face to face peer review session.

Description

## PART 6 (A & B)

### Documentation of Faculty Participation and Review

A. Provide the names and signatures of all faculty members who contributed to this report and indicate their respective roles.

Faculty Members	Roles in the Assessment Process (e.g., collect data, analyze data, prepare report, review report, etc.)	Signatures
Michael Beauchamp	Collected data and prepared report	<i>M. Beauchamp</i>

B. Reviewed by:

Titles	Names	Signatures	Date
Department Head	Ken Hicks	<i>K. Hicks</i>	10-9-17
Dean	Keith Martin	<i>Keith W. Martin</i>	10/10/17

## RUBRIC FOR GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT LEARNING REPORT

- 1) How well did the department incorporate instructional or assessment changes based on results and conclusions from last year's General Education Student Learning Report or from other assessment activities?

Exemplary	Established	Developing	Undeveloped
All planned changes were listed, whether they were implemented or not, and their impact on curriculum or program budget was discussed thoroughly.	Most planned changes were listed, and their status or impact on curriculum or program budget was discussed.	Some planned changes were listed, and their status or impact on curriculum or program budget was not clearly discussed.	No planned changes were listed, and their status or impact on curriculum or program budget was not discussed.

- 2) Did the department include peer review feedback and provide rationale for implementing or not implementing suggestions?

Exemplary	Established	Developing	Undeveloped
All reviewer feedback was listed, and for each suggestion a clear rationale was given for its being implemented or not.	Most reviewer feedback was listed, and for most suggestions a rationale was given for their being implemented or not.	Some reviewer feedback was listed, and for some suggestions a rationale was given for their being implemented or not.	Feedback from reviewers was not included.

- 3) A. Are the course titles and numbers listed?

Exemplary	Established	Developing	Undeveloped
All of the courses (titles and numbers) offered by the department are listed.	Most of the courses (titles and numbers) offered by the department are listed.	Some of the courses (titles and numbers) offered by the department are listed..	None of the courses (titles and numbers) offered by the department are listed.

- B. Are the assessment measures appropriate for the General Education outcomes?

Exemplary	Established	Developing	Undeveloped
All assessment measures are appropriate to the General Education outcomes.	Most assessment measures are appropriate to the General Education outcomes.	Some assessment measures are appropriate to the General Education outcomes.	None of the assessment measures are appropriate to the General Education outcomes.

**C. Do the performance standards provide a clearly defined threshold at an acceptable level of student performance?**

<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Undeveloped</b>
All performance standards provide a clearly defined threshold at an acceptable level of student performance.	Most performance standards provide a clearly defined threshold at an acceptable level of student performance.	Some of the performance standards provide a clearly defined threshold at an acceptable level of student performance.	No performance standards provide a clearly defined threshold at an acceptable level of student performance.

**D. Is the sampling method appropriate for all assessment measures?**

<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Undeveloped</b>
The sampling methodology is appropriate for all assessment measures.	The sampling methodology is appropriate for most assessment measures.	The sampling methodology is appropriate for some assessment measures.	The sampling methodology is appropriate for none of the assessment measures.

**E. Is the sample size listed for each assessment measure?**

<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Undeveloped</b>
Sample size was listed for all assessment measures.	Sample size was listed for most assessment measures.	Sample size was listed for some assessment measures.	Sample size was not listed for any assessment measures.

**F. How well do the data provide a clear and meaningful overview of the results?**

<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Undeveloped</b>
For all General Education outcomes the results were clear, more than a single year's results were included, and meaningful information was given that reveals an overview of student performance.	For most General Education outcomes the results were clear, more than a single year's results were included, and meaningful information was given that reveals an overview of student performance.	For some General Education outcomes the results were clear, more than a single year's results were included, and meaningful information was given that reveals an overview of student performance.	For none of the General Education outcomes were the results clear, was more than a single year's results included, or was meaningful information given that reveals an overview of student performance.

**G. Are the conclusions reasonably drawn and significantly related to General Education outcomes?**

<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Undeveloped</b>
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All conclusions are reasonably drawn and significantly based on the results and related to the strengths and weaknesses in student performance.	Most conclusions are reasonably drawn and significantly based on the results and related to the strengths and weaknesses in student performance.	Some conclusions are reasonably drawn and significantly based on the results and related to the strengths and weaknesses in student performance.	No conclusions are reasonably drawn and significantly based on the results or related to the strengths and weaknesses in student performance.
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**H. Does the report indicate whether the performance standards were met?**

<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Undeveloped</b>
Stated for all performance standards.	Stated for most performance standards.	Stated for some performance standards.	Not stated for any performance standard.

- 4) How well supported is the rationale for making assessment or instructional changes? The justification can be based on conclusions reported in Section 3 or on informal activities, such as faculty meetings and discussions, conferences, pilot projects, textbook adoption, new course proposals, curriculum modifications, etc. Explain the rationale for these changes and whether they will impact student learning and other considerations, such as the department's curriculum, General Education Student Learning Report, or budget.**

<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Undeveloped</b>
All planned changes are specifically focused on student learning and based on the conclusions. The rationale for planned changes is well grounded and convincingly explained.	Most planned changes are specifically focused on student learning and based on the conclusions. The rationale for planned changes is mostly well grounded and convincingly explained.	Some planned changes are specifically focused on student learning and based on the conclusions. The rationale for planned changes is lacking or is not convincingly explained.	No planned changes are specifically focused on student learning and based on the conclusions. There is no rationale.

- 5) Is one or more teaching technique listed?**

The Peer Review Report will make note whether any techniques were included in the General Education Student Learning Report.

- 6) Does the list of faculty participants indicate how many full time faculty who teach in the program participated, their signatures, and their contributions to the report?**

<b>Exemplary</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Developing</b>	<b>Undeveloped</b>
The faculty role is clearly identified	The faculty role is identified and it	The faculty roles are not identified.	The faculty roles are not identified.

and it is apparent that the majority of the faculty participated in the process. The roles are varied.

is apparent that the majority of the faculty participated in the process. The roles are not varied.

Few faculty participated.

Faculty participation is not sufficiently described to make a determination about who participated.

## EXPLANATION & EXAMPLES OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT EVIDENCE

**DIRECT EVIDENCE of student learning is tangible, visible, self-explanatory evidence of exactly what students have and haven't learned. Examples include:**

- 1) Ratings of student skills by their field experience supervisors.
- 2) Scores and pass rates on licensure/certification exams or other published tests (e.g. Major Field Tests) that assess key learning outcomes.
- 3) Capstone experiences such as research projects, presentations, oral defenses, exhibitions, or performances that are scored using a rubric.
- 4) Written work or performances scored using a rubric.
- 5) Portfolios of student work.
- 6) Scores on locally-designed tests such as final examinations in key courses, qualifying examinations, and comprehensive examinations that are accompanied by test blueprints describing what the tests assess.
- 7) Score gains between entry and exit on published or local tests or writing samples.
- 8) Employer ratings of the skills of recent graduates.
- 9) Summaries and analyses of electronic class discussion threads.
- 10) Student reflections on their values, attitudes, and beliefs, if developing those are intended outcomes of the program.

**INDIRECT EVIDENCE provides signs that students are probably learning, but the evidence of exactly what they are learning is less clear and less convincing. Examples include:**

- 1) Course grades.
- 2) Assignment grades, if not accompanied by a rubric or scoring guide.
- 3) For four year programs, admission rates into graduate programs and graduation rates from those programs.
- 4) For two year programs, admission rates into four-year institutions and graduation rates from those programs.
- 5) Placement rates of graduates into appropriate career positions and starting salaries.
- 6) Alumni perceptions of their career responsibilities and satisfaction.
- 7) Student ratings of their knowledge and skills and reflections on what they have learning over the course of the program.
- 8) Those questions on end-of-course student evaluations forms that ask about the course rather than the instructor.



- 9) Student/alumni satisfaction with their learning, collected through surveys, exit interviews, or focus groups
- 10) Honors, awards, and scholarships earned by students and alumni.

Suskie, L. (2004). *Assessing Student Learning: A Common Sense Guide*. Anker Publishing Company: Bolton, MA