



Assessment of Student Learning in General Education

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Academy Proposal

2001 HLC Visit: WIU General Education Assessment is in good shape.

2002: WIU General Education Assessment: Discontinued.

2005: WIU Assessment Academy Project: To create an assessment plan for general education and to implement the plan.

Goals of General Education

The generally well-educated student will demonstrate:

1. Broad knowledge and understanding of the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities;
2. An ability to analyze, think critically, and form reasoned conclusions;
3. Competence in communicating his or her views and ideas clearly and cogently;
4. An understanding of the methods by which people pursue knowledge;
5. An understanding of differences and relative power among peoples, both in the United States and across the globe;
6. Knowledge of the principles of wellness for living a healthy and fit life, both physically and mentally.

Process

1. General Education Assessment Task Force attends Academy Kick Off: develops plan and timeline.
2. General Education Review Team (GERC) spends two years reviewing all aspects of general education; approves proposed General Education Assessment Plan and revised Goals of General Education (reduced from 34 to 6) as part of the process.
3. Council on General Education (CGE) asks all relevant departments to indicate three of the six goals that could be assessed for each general education course.
4. CGE assigns two goals to each course (except in category 6), and asks for assessment techniques to be developed. Techniques are to be embedded in course delivery, and are to use direct measurement methods.
5. CGE directs approves individual course measurement plans, and directs departments to collect data in Fall 2008 semester.
6. CGE amends plan to direct every section of every course to collect data every semester (and summer) it is offered.
7. Data is collected and reviewed for Fall 2009 and Spring/Summer 2010.

Conclusions and Future Directions

Conclusions:

1. This method for assessing student achievement of general education goals is a good match for the WIU culture.

Future:

1. There are some areas within general education where more diligence is needed in order to get data reported.
2. Departments begin to use data more fully; information on any changes made as a result of assessment should be reported to CGE.
3. The full value of this model is yet to be realized.

WIU General Education Categories

- I. Communication Skills (9 hours)
- II. Natural Science and Mathematics (10 hours)
 - a. Competency
 - b. General Education
- III. Social Sciences (9 hours)
- IV. Humanities and Fine Arts (9 hours)
 - a. Humanities (at least 3 hours)
 - b. Fine Arts (at least 3 hours)
- V. Multicultural Studies (3 hours)
- VI. Human Well-Being (3 hours)

General Education Data: Spring and Summer 2010

