

General Education Course Assessment Plan - SUNY approved GENED Courses

Assessment of General Education Courses

Herkimer's General Education curriculum consist of over one hundred courses through which students may satisfy the SUNY General Education Requirement in the following knowledge and skills areas: Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, American History, Western Civilization, Other World Civilizations, Humanities, The Arts, Foreign Language, and Basic Communication. Activities which address the learning outcomes for Information Management and Critical Thinking are infused throughout the curriculum.

The fall of 2010 will bring more flexibility to the assessment of General Education Learning Outcomes and Competencies. Each campus will have the ability to create a more streamlined approach to assessing SUNY General Education courses. For the academic 2010-11 academic year, Herkimer will continue the past practices of General Education assessment activities as outlined by SUNY. The Herkimer general education committee is charged with developing a more streamlined and efficient way of conducting General Education assessments that will be implemented in the 2011-12 academic year.

Assessment Measures

HCCC's SUNY-approved General Education Assessment Plan measures the extent to which the students have mastered the learning outcomes that define the general education knowledge and skill areas. This plan employs various types of direct measures that have been approved by the SUNY level GEAR group.

Faculty who teach General Education courses have designed the assessment tool that is used to directly measure the student learning outcome (SLO) of the respective skill in those courses. For each measure that is used to assess each SLO, the HCCC General Education Assessment Plan defines the ranges of scores deemed by the faculty to meet, exceed, approach, or not meet the standard.

The HCCC General Education Assessment Plan specifies a sampling method for each assessment measure. In meeting with SUNY GEAR Group expectations, Herkimer assesses student achievement in SLO's based on a representative sample of 50 percent of students taking courses identified by Herkimer as General Education courses in the competency area.

Person Responsible

General Education evaluations (tests, research papers, portfolios, etc.) are administered by faculty who teach General Education courses. This work is scored by faculty suing a rubric and then individually sent to the Herkimer GEAR Group. The Herkimer GEAR Group is responsible for compiling the data and posting the aggregate results in the ANGEL Assessment Handbook.

Time Line

General Education Assessments are conducted on a rotating yearly basis.

Assessment Results

The General Education assessment results are scored with a rubric and include a breakdown by percentage of students who exceeded, met, approached, or did not meet the standard for each general education SLO. The results are communicated to the faculty through the ANGEL Assessment Handbook and the college community through the Report Card where the GENED assessments are used as a direct measure of a key performance indicator.

Analysis, Actions and Closing the Loop

One Professional Development Day each year is set aside for faculty who teach general education courses to meet and review and analyze the General Education assessment results. The analysis includes the following questions for discussion:

- What percentage of our students met or exceeded the standard in each of the knowledge area SLO's?
- Are any of the results surprising or disturbing?
- If so, what could have been the cause?
- Do the assessment tool questions or activities adequately reflect general education knowledge of the subject?
- Do the assessment tool questions or activities adequately reflect the material that is covered in our courses?
- Are there subject areas where our students are not demonstrating knowledge or understanding?
- If so, are there any course (syllabi, presentation methods, etc.) changes that would address this problem?

For those faculty members taught a course that was part of a General Education SLO Assessment, a web survey has been developed to document a more detailed account of individual closing the loop activities.

A Summary Report (GENED-2) is completed by September 1 of each year.

The GENED-2 is kept by the CAO for review and may be requested by the Office of the Provost at System Administration for periodic audits based on samples of campuses.

Every three years, a report is submitted to SUNY consisting of two sections: 1) one providing a detailed description of changes the campus has made or intends to make to its existing General Education Assessment Plan, and 2) one focusing on how the campus has used the assessment

process and results to Close the Loop (CTL) and improve its General Education program as well as revise the assessment process itself.

CTL tend to fall into the following categories:

- Making improvements to teaching, courses, or curricular programs.
- Disseminating assessment results to appropriate members of the campus community.
- Evaluating and revising the assessment process.
- Guiding the planning and implementation of professional development activities.

Plan and Results Location

The HCCC General Education Assessment Plan, the GENED-2 Assessment Summary Results, faculty General Education Survey results, and the Triennial Updates and CTL Reports are available in the Office of Academic Affairs.