

General Education Program - Structured Assessment Plan /January 25, 2013

A strong general education program is essential to the mission of any university. Consistently with this truism, there have long been liberal or general education requirements at Northern Illinois University, which have been subject to periodic reviews and updates. The present structure of the program was established in 1983, under which every undergraduate, in order to qualify for a baccalaureate credential, must earn 41 hours of credit of gen ed course work, 12 in core competency requirements and the rest in four distributive areas (humanities and arts, social sciences, science and mathematics, and interdisciplinary). The General Education Committee, a standing committee of the university, oversees the program; its oversight functions have been assisted and enhanced since 2010 by the creation of the position of General Education Coordinator.

1. **LEARNING OBJECTIVES.** The current goals statement in the undergraduate catalog reads as follows:

- A. Students develop habits of writing, speaking, and reasoning necessary for continued learning.
- B. Students develop an ability to use modes of inquiry across a variety of disciplines in the humanities and the arts, the physical sciences and mathematics, and the social sciences.
- C. Students develop an understanding of the interrelatedness of various disciplines by integrating knowledge from several disciplines and applying that knowledge to an understanding of important problems and issues.
- D. Students develop social responsibility and preparation for citizenship through global awareness, environmental sensitivity, and an appreciation of cultural diversity.

2. **METHODS** (*rubrics [or other information] attached; **rubrics available)

Method	Target	Timeline	Responsible party	Objectives met
Syllabus review*1-4	100% compliance for approval	ongoing	GEC	A, B, C, D
University Writing Project (UWP)**	90% meet or exceed expectations for overall score	annual	GEC, from OAS	A
Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA)*5	seniors perform in expected range	annual	GEC, from OAS	A, B, C
Alumni survey*6	70% satisfaction with gen ed program	1, 5, and 9 years past graduation	GEC, from OAS	A, B, D
Student Learning	//tbs	pilot, spring	GEC, from	A, B, C, D

Outcomes for the revised baccalaureate goals (SLO)**		2013	Office the Provost	
National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)	50th percentile	every three years (last: spring 2012)	GEC, from OSEEL	A, B, C, D
Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day (URAD)*7	300 students presenting 200 projects	annual (spring)	GEC, from OSEEL	B, C, D
Undergraduate Special Opportunities in Artistry and Research (USOAR)	40 students pursuing 30 projects	annual	GEC, from OSEEL	B, C, D
Themed Learning Communities (TLC)*8	12 communities enrolled	fall and spring	GEC, from OSEEL	B, C, D
Honors activities (capstone, etc.)*9-11	//tbs participants	annual	GEC, from Honors Program	B, C

*Appendices:

1. GEC course review cycle
2. GEC submission form
3. GEC resubmission form
4. GEC evaluative rubric
5. CLA result information 2011-12
6. Alumni survey questions (relevant)
7. URAD evaluation form
8. TLC fact sheet
9. Honors in-course contract rubric
10. Honors capstone rubric
11. Honors seminar rubric

OUTCOMES BY METHOD MATRIX

Objective Method	A (core)	B (distrib)	C (integrated)	D (social)
Syllabus review	x	x	x	x
UWP	x			
CLA	x	x	x	
Alumni survey	x	x	x	x
SLO	x	x	x	x
NSSE	x	x	x	x
URAD		x	x	x
USOAR		x	x	x
TLC		x	x	x
Honors Capstone		x	x	

4. USE OF RESULTS

The General Education will review data for Spring 2013 and use these results in the revision of the General Education program currently underway.