

General Education Assessment for Texas A&M University

Report of Core Curriculum Committee

Office of Institutional Assessment

Evaluation of Texas A&M University's General Education program (Core Curriculum) will be an important part of re-accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Although the site visit for the SACS review will be in 2012, preparation for the assessment effort has been initiated by the Provost's office.

The Core Curriculum (General Education of SACS terminology) at Texas A&M University was the first major action of the Faculty Senate 25 years ago. We have never fully assessed our efforts to provide a broad, general education for our students. On more than one occasion the Faculty Senate has expressed an unwillingness to conduct detailed learning outcomes assessments for each course in our Core Curriculum. Not only would the effort to evaluate each course in our Core be prodigious in scope, but such a project would require an army of trained workers to manage.

The Office of Institutional Assessment and the Provost's Office have recommended that we evaluate the General Education effort on our campus as a program. This approach frees us from assessing individual courses. Instead the approach makes the assumption that an undergraduate student receives the General Education that we seek through a series of courses and experiences during his or her time at Texas A&M University. Because the assessment effort will treat General Education as a program, it will look at our students as the products of the education they have received at Texas A&M University.

Below is the beginning of a dynamic document that encompasses the values and goals of the Core Curriculum at Texas A&M University. Certainly, this listing is not finished, but additional items may be added by the Faculty at a later time. The list below has been a joint effort of the Core Curriculum Council of the Faculty Senate and the Office of Institutional Assessment.

The list is important because it gives us a description of values we have for the education of all students on our campus. Note that the first item on the list is that of a depth of knowledge in a discipline. Items 2-4 represent broad educational goals for all students.

The assessment that will occur will be focused on General Education as a program, but will enable the various departments to associate their efforts in contributing to the General Education program at Texas A&M University. The assessment will be managed by the Office of Institutional Assessment with the assistance and cooperation of the Faculty Senate's Core Curriculum Council. The chart on the second page gives a road map for the assessment process for General Education at Texas A&M University.

What do we want every undergraduate to be able to know and do when he or she graduates from Texas A&M University?

A TAMU graduate will:

- 1. Master the depth of knowledge required of a discipline.**
- 2. Demonstrate critical analytical skills.**
- 3. Communicate effectively in writing and speaking.**
- 4. Provide ethical leadership in a global and diverse society.**

Evaluation of General Education at TAMU

Repeated Measures	Evaluations		Outcomes Measured
Twice	Capstone Analysis Project – Writing (Rubric)		3
Twice	Capstone Analysis Project – Critical Thinking (Rubric)		2
Twice	Climate Study		4
Every other year	NSSE		2,3,4
Annual	Graduation Survey		1,2,3,4
One time/ varies	Inquiry/ Research-based Education Assessment		2
Annual	Apply Rubric to Student Research Week Presentations		2,3
Annual	Study Abroad - #s AND Survey		4
Ongoing	Leadership Outcomes Project (SA)		4
<u>Lens 1</u> General Education as Program	<u>Lens 2</u> General Ed. Competencies with the Major (WEAVE Online)	<u>Lens 3</u> Mapping ICD, CCC	1,2,3,4