Core Curriculum Assessment FAQs

What is expected of faculty putting courses through the pilot?

A: Courses in the American History, Social & Behavioral Science, Language Philosophy & Culture, and Communication component areas will collect student work aligned with their designated Core Objectives during the Fall 2014 semester. Courses in the Mathematics, Life & Physical Sciences, Creative Arts, and Government/Political Science component areas will collect student work aligned with their designated Core Objectives during the Spring 2015 semester.

Representatives from each course in a given component area will be given the opportunity to meet with their colleagues who are also piloting courses, to discuss the rubrics necessary to define and evaluate each Core Objective. It is expected that courses piloting in the Fall will be scored using their new rubrics near the beginning of the Spring 2015 semester, and courses piloting the process during the Spring will be scored sometime in early summer.

How is the material that our department will submit for recertification different from the material originally submitted for approval to be in the Core?

A: For approval, only the form and syllabus were submitted. The recertification process will require the form, the syllabus, and student work from each student enrolled for each of the required objectives from one section of the course. These student work artifacts could reflect the required objectives in a combination of ways:

- One assignment demonstrating all objectives;
- Two assignments where one aligns with half of the objectives and the other aligns the other half;
- Four individual assignments each individually aligned to one of the objectives;

There must be student work specifically tied to each of the required objectives for your component area.

What type of student work/artifacts can be submitted?

A: Each artifact must be assessable, in that it should be able to be scored with a rubric (or similar metric) by a group of faculty outside of the classroom setting.
Examples of Assessable Artifacts:

- Papers (ex. research papers, reports, book reviews, reflections, etc.);
- Recorded presentation or speech;
- Excerpts from a written test or quiz

Items which are *not* assessable:

- Multiple choice tests or quizzes;
- Surveys;
- Self-reported learning or documented instruction of the outcome;
- Student Grades

Artifacts should require student demonstration of the outcome. These items do not necessarily have to be graded in the course itself.

**How will the student work that we submit be assessed?**

A: The assessment instruments have yet to be determined although a natural starting place for many outcomes is with the AAC&U rubrics. However, this is a faculty-driven process and OIA welcomes input on the development of these instruments.

Each component area should agree upon an instrument through which to assess each required outcome. Therefore, these instruments should be general enough so that they can be applied across the variety of courses in the core component area, yet but specific enough to be informative about the level of student performance in the courses.

**How will the assessment results influence the decision to recertify a course for the core?**

A: When a course comes up for recertification, OIA will collect the designated section of student work from the department or directly from the faculty member. For recertification purposes, the CCC will verify with OIA that the student work submitted is assessable and that each outcome is covered by the work submitted as a part of their consideration process. *Student performance will have no bearing on the CCC’s decision to recertify a course.*

Additionally, student performance will not be tied to individual faculty members. Results of core curriculum assessment will be reported in the aggregate by component area (i.e. students in Language, Culture, and Philosophy courses perform at X level in critical thinking).