



What Have We Learned from Assessing General Education?

Council on Undergraduate Education
Division of Undergraduate Affairs
Office of Assessment

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

DRAFT

Where We've Been

- Reviewed history of GER assessment at NC State
- Looked at past and current GER assessment concerns (e.g., Senior Surveys did not provide information that could inform improvement of specific GER courses)
- Investigated general education assessment at other colleges and universities
- Approved proposal and implementation plan for assessing GERs

Proposal for Assessing General Education at NC State

■ Responsibilities of CUE

- Create GER category objectives
- Evaluate course action forms for GER courses
- Evaluate GER assessment by course

■ Responsibilities of GER faculty

- Create student learning outcomes for objectives
- Design means of evaluating learning outcomes
- Assess courses and report on assessment

Where We are Now- Fall 2003

- CUE has approved objectives for all GER categories
- We are visiting college curriculum committees to discuss changes in GER assessment
- Course action form is revised and approved
- New syllabus requirements are revised and approved
- Pilot GER assessment is underway
- Phase I Implementation is underway

Pilot Assessment Update

- Thirteen faculty are teaching GER courses representing all GER categories. These faculty have
 - Created student learning outcomes for objectives
 - Designed means of assessing outcomes
 - Completed new course action forms
 - Revised syllabi for GER course
- These faculty are now
 - Teaching GER course with new outcomes and means of evaluation
 - Writing GER assessment report

http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad_affairs/assessment/files/ger/assess_plan.htm

Phase I of Implementation Update

- Nine faculty in various departments from the college of PAMS are participating this fall in
 - Creating student learning outcomes for objectives
 - Designing means of assessing outcomes
 - Completing new course action forms
 - Revising syllabi for GER course
- In the spring they will be
 - Teaching GER course with new outcomes and means of evaluation
 - Writing GER assessment report

Faculty Testimonials from GER Assessment Pilot and Phased I Implementation

- “I have learned what is expected for GER assessment and why it is important.”
- “I have learned how to write learning outcomes and have them meet the GER objectives.”
- “I have learned that this is doable, once I understood what was expected.”

Faculty Testimonials from GER Assessment Pilot and Phase I Implementation, Con't

- “I still don’t understand what long term paperwork will be required from GER courses?”
- “How can I use this information for my department’s program assessment?”
- “How specific do means of evaluating outcomes need to be in the GER documentation?”

Decisions We have Made about the Process at this Time

- More resources are needed for training of faculty in course based assessment.
 - Meeting has been held between several units on campus (UGA, FTCL, UPA, SA) to discuss resources for training on course-based assessment
 - External funding is being explored
 - Compact Planning Codicil is being drafted
- Training is needed for faculty that specifically addresses the relationship between program assessment and course based assessment.
 - UGA assessment is drafting a training module

Decisions We have Made about the Process at this Time, Cont.

- Although faculty are initially resistant to this process, once trained, they understand the purpose, value and importance of assessing the GER and are responsive.
 - Provide on-going support and training for faculty as this process unfolds on campus
 - Need to identify resources to provide on-going support
- Greater communication on the new GER assessment process is needed at the departmental level
 - Offering to visit departmental curriculum committees
 - Associate Deans are identifying a GER contact person in each department, as well as the appropriate communication flow

The Plan for this Fall

- Phased implementation GER assessment (PAMS)
- Publicize GER assessment
- New GER courses now must use new course action forms – Beginning October 15th
- CUE members to evaluate new CAF documentation
- CUE to approve evaluation rubric
http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad_affairs/assessment/files/ger/caf_criteria.pdf
- CUE to approve timetable for review of existing GER courses and assessment reports
http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad_affairs/assessment/files/ger/course_timetable.htm

Current Resources to Support GER Assessment

- UGA Office of Assessment Support
- UGA sponsored workshops led by faculty member, Mike Carter –
http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad_affairs/assessment/files/ger/asseswrkshp_fall03.pdf
- CWSP Workshops
- FCTL Workshops
- GER Assessment Website -
http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad_affairs/assessment/files/ger/ger.htm

Questions?

- http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad_affairs/assessment/files/ger/ger.htm