

General Education Committee: 2015-16 Annual Report

The General Education Committee met four times during the 2015-2016 academic year. In addition, each of the five Competency Assessment Teams (CATs), which serve, in effect, as sub committees of the General Education Committee, met at least three times each to draft reports based on new data for each of the general education competencies approved by the faculty in 2011. The activities of the Committee during 2015-16 can be summarized as follows:

1. **Action Plans:** During a complete assessment cycle, assessment instruments are administered, results are reviewed and reports written which include general suggestions for continuous improvement, and departments offering courses that support a given competency develop action plans (at the course level) to meet continuous improvement goals. For a variety of reasons, including ambiguity as to what constitutes a successful result, the complete assessment loop had not been completed in some time. In 2015-16, the assessment cycle was completed for several departments, divisions, and colleges, including HPPA, JCBE, MCS, Psychology, and SCW. Reports are pending from NSE, LLC, and FACS. The Committee has noted that the development of both performance benchmarks, as well as agreement on when a given benchmark is met, will be vital to the development of a more robust assessment process.
2. **Assessment scheduling:** Current policies dictate that each competency be assessed each academic year. However, the instruments used to assess each competency are not delivered each year for a variety of logistical reasons. The Committee, in consultation with Sam Cooper, the Director of Intuitional Effectiveness and Compliance, developed a schedule for instrument delivery that allows each competency to be assessed once every two years.
3. **Course Alignment:** Each course the supports a given general education competency is included in a course alignment matrix. The matrix has fallen out of date and is in need of updating and correction. The Committee developed a more current course alignment matrix, which is available on the P drive.
4. **Policies and procedures:** A variety of policies and procedures, including the assessment timeline, do not match current practice. The Committee reviewed several areas of convergence, and began the process of revising policies and procedures, with a view toward presenting these changes for approval in the Faculty Senate during the 2016-17 year.
5. It is worth noting that no new courses were added to the general education curriculum in 2015-16, though that process is pending and the Committee provided advice for a new Distance Education course and a course in the new Urban Studies Program. No courses were formally removed from the general education curriculum, though that process is pending, especially in NSE.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trevor Rubenzer

Chair