

OFFICE OF OUTCOMES ASSESSMENTS
Report on Assessment of General Education Competencies
June 25, 2008

SPRING 2008 RESULTS:

The Instructional Assessment sub-committee completed a pilot study of assessing general education student learning outcomes in the Fall of 2007. The committee made a few changes from the pilot study including the adoption of a new approach for assignment solicitation. Previous assessment work was requested via a mass email that went to all faculty urging them to submit assignments for the purpose of General Education Outcomes Assessment. Beginning in Spring 2008, the committee adopted a targeted list approach under the advisement of Dr. Jeff Seybert. Together, members of the Office of Institutional Research developed a targeted list of faculty to solicit student artifacts from. The list was developed using a statistical, stratified and random sample of courses offered during the semester. Approximately 88 courses were selected for participation in Outcomes Assessment of General Education.

Participation:

The following is the number of faculty members by division who submitted actual usable student work:

Allied Health - 5
Behavioral Studies - 4
Business - 3
ITT - 3
Sciences and Engineering - 10
Work Force Development – 1

A total of 30 faculty submitted student artifacts for assessment purposes; 26 faculty submitted work that fit the current assessment model.

The total number of student work turned in for students who completed at least 30 credit hours by competency is as follows:

Communication - 73
Critical Thinking & Problem Solving - 84
Mathematics - 88
Technology – 88

Student work was reused for different competencies in order to ensure a minimum of 50 artifacts per competency.

31 courses participated in assessment, including four courses that did not fit the model.

Analysis by Committees:

The following results are for student work completed in the Fall 2007 semester. The work was given to each committee in the Spring 2008 semester.

Communication Committee - A total of 49 artifacts were assessed. The scores were as follows:

8% excellent
24% good
41% average
27% marginal

The benchmark for the Communication competency was that 70% of students will score average or better. This committee reached that benchmark with 73% of students scoring average or better. (Chart 1)

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Committee - A total of 42 artifacts were assessed. The scores were as follows:

12% scored exemplary
67% scored excellent
14% scored competent
7% scored needs work

The benchmark for the Critical Thinking Competency is that 60% of students must attain a rubric level of competent or better. This benchmark was achieved as 93% of students received scores of competent or better. (Chart 2)

Mathematics Committee - A total of 48 artifacts were assessed. The scores were as follows:

83% demonstrated 3 major outcomes
13% demonstrated 2 major outcomes
4% demonstrated 1 major outcome

The benchmark for the Mathematics Competency is that at least 75 percent of students should be able to demonstrate 3 major outcomes and that 60 percent should be able to demonstrate 4 major outcomes. The first benchmark was met with 83% of the students assessed demonstrating 3 major outcomes. The second benchmark was not met as 0% of students demonstrated 4 major outcomes. (Chart 3)

Technology Committee - A total of 45 artifacts were assessed. The scores were as follows:

2% were proficient
98% were adequate

The benchmark for the Technology Literacy Competency is that 75% of students will receive scores of adequate or above. The benchmark was met at the level of 100%. (Chart 4)

Reliability and Validity:

Validity- All committees have refined their rubrics and ensured that they are measuring the intended outcome. Operational definitions were established by each committee.

Reliability- Each committee spent an entire semester establishing inter-rater reliability by examining and comparing the scores of each artifact by each committee member and ensuring that all committee members gave similar scores to each artifact.

Improvements/Revisions/Challenges:

Spring 2008 brought about several challenges for the Gen Ed committees.

Technology Committee

The Technology committee had difficulty meeting as a group and met through email instead. This committee had an overall lack of participation by the members and only 2 members of the committee did any actual assessment of student work.

Mathematics Committee

The Mathematics committee had to redevelop the rubric partially into the semester.

Critical Thinking Committee

The Critical Thinking committee redeveloped the rubric prior to the semester and was pleased with the results of that more fine-tuned rubric.

Communications Committee

The Communication committee had difficulty meeting as a group this semester and assessed student work individually.

Another potential problem was the new targeted list for solicitation of General Education Outcomes Assessment artifacts. The list was random and had several errors including incorrect faculty teaching the selected course and courses that were not a good fit with the sub-committees' rubrics. Overall, the targeted list worked better than the previous method of solicitation. The targeted list improved overall submission rate and reduced paperwork and waste. The Office of Institutional Research is currently working on re-working the targeted list to reduce errors and eliminate inappropriate courses.

Cross-References:

Total number of students assessed: 218

Average GPA of students assessed: 2.96 (Students with a GPA of 0 were excluded from the analysis, N=5)

Average Number of Hours completed: 55.13

Students' majors were varied, but several were majors in the following fields: Business (N=25), Education (N=31), Radiography (N=21).

Student demographics included:

Gender= 64 Males, 154 females

Age= Average age of 28, ranging from 19-52

Ethnicity= 149 White, 53 Hispanic, 7 Black, 6 Asian, 1 American Indian

Chart 1

COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT COMMUNICATION

		Score					# Students Assessed
Sem. Work Completed		Excellent 5	Good 4	Average 3	Marginal 2	Poor 1	
	Sp 2007	3 7%	14 30%	15 33%	13 28%	1 2%	46
	Fa 2007	4 8%	12 24%	20 41%	13 27%	0 0%	49
	Sp 2008						
	Fa 2008						

Chart 2

COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT CRITICAL THINKING

Sem. Work Completed	Score						
		Excellent 5	Excellent 4	Good 3	Average 2	Poor 1	# Students Assessed
	Sp 2007						
	Fa 2007	5 12%	28 67%	6 14%	3 7%	0 0%	42
	Sp 2008						
	Fa 2008						

Chart 3

COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT MATHEMATICS

		Score					# Students Assessed
Sem. Work Completed		All 5 major outcomes are demonstrated /met 5	All 4 major outcomes are demonstrated /met 4	3 major outcomes are demonstrated /met 3	2 major outcomes are demonstrated /met 2	Only 1 major outcome is demonstrated /met 1	
	Sp 2007	0 0%	0 0%	43 84%	6 12%	2 4%	51
	Fa 2007	0 0%	0 0%	40 83%	6 13%	2 4%	48
	Sp 2008						
	Fa 2008						

Chart 4

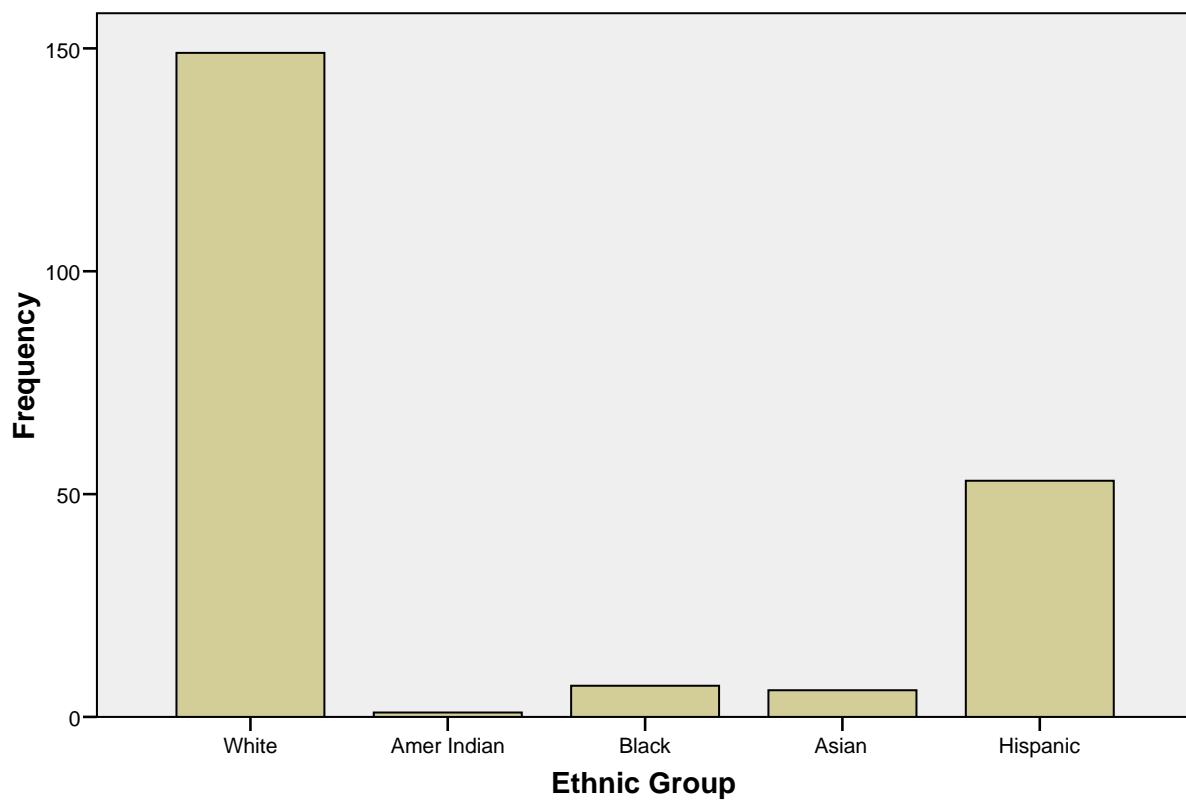
COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT TECHNOLOGY

		Score				# Students Assessed
		Excellent 4	Good 3	Average 2	Poor 1	
Sem. Work Completed	Sp 2007	1 2%	47 89%	5 9%	0 0%	53
	Fa 2007	1 2%	42 98%	0 0%	0 0%	43
	Sp 2008					
	Fa 2008					

Ethnic Group

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	White	149	68.3	69.0	69.0
	Amer Indian	1	.5	.5	69.4
	Black	7	3.2	3.2	72.7
	Asian	6	2.8	2.8	75.5
	Hispanic	53	24.3	24.5	100.0
	Total	216	99.1	100.0	
Missing	Missing	2	.9		
Total		218	100.0		

Ethnic Group



Gender Group					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	64	29.4	29.4	29.4
	Female	154	70.6	70.6	100.0
	Total	218	100.0	100.0	

