

Gen Ed - Summary of Executive Summaries

The General Education Committee selected “The student will be able to demonstrate effective communication skills for personal, academic and professional purposes” as the general education outcome to be assessed by departments in the 2017 – 2018 assessment cycle. This outcome was selected from the Communication category of general education outcomes based upon two criteria, 1) effective communication skills in a broad range of forms (including but not limited to written, oral, visual and technological media) is a key goal of our general education curriculum; 2) Difficulties specifically with written communication has become a concern of faculty across disciplines. This is the second year this outcome was assessed.

A review of the 2017 – 2018 Executive Summaries – General Education submitted by CUNE Department chairs support that the goal of the assessment process is first and foremost the improvement of student learning. Each report exemplifies the involvement of entire departments in careful consideration of assessment outcomes and analysis and interpretation of results.

Important points noted in the General Education Executive summaries include:

1. Students performed at or higher than the anticipated level in six out of eleven Departments

- a. CEL – All participants completed the assignment as directed and returned the completed forms to the Mid-Year Conference.
- b. ECTA- 91% of students scored 2.75 or higher on all components of the rubric. (Goal 75%)
- a. HHP – Success for assessment was defined as 80% of the students achieving a score of B or better on written exams(s) of the rules and regulations of specific recreational sports. Analysis showed that for each of the six specific recreational sports, 90%+ of the students scored a B or better on the written exams. Furthermore, group presentation scores ranged from 86.67-91.11% as assessed using the attached rubric.
- c. Human and Social Sciences – The assessment goal was that 80% of the students would be at proficient or higher in each category. For organization, 93.5% of students scored at or above the proficient level. For level of content, 96.7% of students scored at or above the proficient level. For content, 100% of students scored at or above the proficient level. For grammar and mechanics, 100% of students scored at or above the proficient level. For APA format, 100% of students scored at or above the proficient level.
- d. Music – Our goal was the 85 percent of the students achieve a score of “satisfactory” or “exceptional” in each of the four areas evaluated. A hundred percent of the students seen achieved this goal in the two categories we were able to evaluate, but we do not know about the other two categories.
- e. Natural and Computer Sciences - Overall, 80% scored a 3 or above, meaning we met our standard of success.

- 2. Action plans were developed by departments to address outcomes that were below anticipated levels.**
 - a. ART – Students will be allowed to correct conventions, with reduced points, in order to encourage students to proofread their papers prior to the submission due date and to achieve a higher score on their paper
 - b. Business and Math – Some students indicated submitting most of the assignments electronically caused difficulties. This will be monitored more closely next year.
 - c. History, Geography, Criminal Justice – The department learned that pre-presentation activities and/or materials alone will not necessarily remedy student deficiencies in oral communication. Although outside the scope of this assessment, tracing individual student performance throughout their careers might shed more light on how to improve overall communication ability. Professors will continue to improve student skills in orally presenting materials in our subject areas.
 - d. Intercultural Studies and Modern Languages – Our department has already made plans to increase the rigor (even if we cannot increase the length) of the ASL 101 and 102 course sequence next year so that students learn approximately 500 signs in east ASL 101 and 102, for a total of 1000 signs by the end of ASL 102. We are also adding a Thursday night language lab to the Monday night ASL classes in order to increase the amount of language instruction and practice that students receive each week.
 - e. Theology, Philosophy and Biblical Languages –Course: Revise assignment slightly so that other concepts such as love and forgiveness can be seen in the broader sense of the grace of God. Program: Continue to incorporate the phrase in the General Education Curriculum. Instructions will be revised to provide three or four characteristics of grace, based on the Old Testament and New Testament passages before the writing assignment begins so that the definition of grace may be understood and communicated in a consistent definition.
- 3. Results were used for the confirmation or improvement of teaching.**
 - a. Business and Mathematics- The instructor will provide additional feedback on proof writing assignments.
 - b. Natural And Computer Science – We are going to emphasize correct citation style for in-text citations, as this was the most widely-noticed problem with the artifacts. We plan to give students more examples of good writing style, references, and clear answers. We will continue to use SafeAssign where appropriate, which has been a useful tool. And when possible we plan to give students more complete and clear display of their improvement in their assignments, so they can know what they are doing right and what they need to work on.
 - c. Theology, Philosophy and Biblical Languages – Faculty will be intentional in explaining the phrase grace of God by highlighting scriptural examples.
- 4. Two departments revised their data collection tools, and or assessment process.**
 - a. Music – We need to view our recordings earlier so there is still time to fix them if there is a problem.
 - b. Natural and Computer Science – We will probably use a shorter assignment next year.
- 5. No departments utilized the addition of the BUDGET IMPLICATIONS section on the executive summary form.**