

#1. 2017 – 18 Undergraduate Program Assessment Plan: Gen Ed

Department: Natural & Computer Sciences

Date:10/9/17

General Education Committee has selected the following area for the 2017-2018 assessment cycle:

COMMUNICATION: to demonstrate effective communication skills for personal, academic and professional purposes.

General Education Committee: Background: What factors caused the committee to choose this particular assessment outcome? If this outcome was selected because of a perceived problem, please explain.

The committee selected this outcome 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.

Department: *What student outcome will the department assess that addresses: “The student will be able to demonstrate effective communication skills for personal, academic and professional purposes? Students can communicate scientific topics in a manner appropriate to an informed layperson.*

Department: *What specific question(s) are you attempting to answer through assessing this student outcome? What are you trying to find out? There may be more than one question, but no more than three.*
Can students use effective communication techniques to accurately explain scientific ideas?

Methodology:

1. **OBJECT*** - *What data (i.e. artifact, exam score, detailed description of assignment) will be collected?*
Exams from Sci 331, homework assignment from Sci 202, homework assignments from Bio 110, and papers from Sci 365.
 - a. *How does this data address the assessment question?* Each requires students to explain scientific ideas, not in a technical form but at a level of an informed layperson.
 - i. *Include/attach a description/example of assessment tool to be used.*
2. *How will data be collected?* Exams and homework assignments will be collected as usual in the class, scanned without identifying marks, and distributed to the department faculty.

Analysis of Artifacts: PERFORMANCE CRITERIA* -

Discuss :

- 1) How the artifacts will be analyzed (attach rubrics/scoring tools if used): Artifacts will be assessed using a 5-point Likert scale attached, which assigns a value to whether the students accurately presented the information, and to how well the information was communicated.
- 2) How you will know if it is good (i.e. score required by % of students): f at least 80% of students score at least a 3 then we will be entirely successful. If fewer than 50% of students score above a 3 (or if more than 50% score below a 2) we will be failing horribly. If at least 65% of students score above a 3 and fewer than 40% score a 2 or below then we will be doing fairly well.

Submitted by: Rob Hermann Date: 10/9/17 Reviewed by the Assessment Committee (Date): 10/9/17

Department Chair notified approved or additional action needed: na