

## **Oversight of General Education at Indiana University Purdue University Columbus**

**Context:** The program of study for a baccalaureate degree at Indiana University Purdue University Columbus consists of two sets of focused coursework. The most obvious coursework is work required for the major. The second less obvious configuration of courses, those courses that often serve as prerequisites to the major, are referred to as the “General Education” coursework. Although undergraduate students often have many choices in the courses they take for the General Education portion of their undergraduate coursework, the courses chosen must address a specific set of required Student Learning Outcomes. These Student Learning Outcomes reflect the academic mission of IUPUC for expected student intellectual, academic, social, and ethical/moral growth during the general education portion of college attendance; they both establish a foundation for and provide an enhancement to the coursework in the major.

**Learning Outcomes Framework:** General Education at IUPUC is framed by the IUPUC General Education Student Learning Outcomes; the General Education coursework in which the outcomes are embedded comprises a common General Education curriculum that all undergraduates, regardless of program of study, are expected to experience as an integral portion of the baccalaureate degree. The preliminary work on the General Education Initiative was carried out by the Assurance of Learning Committee, an ad hoc committee appointed by the Vice Chancellor and Dean. Once created, the IUPUC General Education Board will be responsible for oversight of General Education coursework and expected learning outcomes. The faculty and staff in each baccalaureate program are responsible for integrating the common general education curriculum and the associated student learning outcomes into the baccalaureate program of study.

**Governance:** The IUPUC Assurance of Learning Committee created a working draft of the General Education Student Learning Outcomes. These were tested and piloted before full implementation. The Assurance of Learning Committee also developed principles and procedures to guide the academic divisions and the faculty through the pilot year as well as oversight of the General Education common curriculum at IUPUC.

The Assurance of Learning Committee has created and refined a list of general education courses that will constitute the available coursework in the general education curriculum. This list is expected to change as new courses are developed and existing courses are modified or identified as inappropriate for inclusion in the General Education common curriculum.

### **PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE MONITORING OF GENERAL EDUCATION**

1. Academic divisions and the faculty of those divisions teaching General Education courses are responsible
  - a. For identifying the IUPUC General Education Student Learning Outcomes addressed in their general education courses;

- b. For assessing the effectiveness of those courses in achieving the learning outcomes; and
  - c. For assuring the continued alignment of course content and assessment with the relevant General Education Student Learning outcomes, as documented and maintained by the General Education Board.
2. Academic divisions and faculty of those divisions teaching General Education courses in the General Education curriculum will convey via course syllabi the learning outcomes in each course and the information pertaining to the assessment of those learning outcomes to students, to other faculty in the General Education program, and to the General Education Board **A first time, one time, documentation form is to be completed for each course when that course is certified by the General Education Board as addressing a specific General Education Student Learning Outcome.** All information pertaining to the maintenance of General Education courses and learning outcomes is posted and maintained on an OnCourse project site to which all full and part time faculty have access.
3. The General Education Board, in accordance with the board charge outlined in the by-laws of the IUPUC Faculty Senate, will monitor
  - a. Student learning outcomes as assessed by the academic divisions and the faculty of those divisions teaching General Education courses;
  - b. The alignment of those courses with General Education curriculum and learning outcomes, and
  - c. The effectiveness of the General Education curriculum.
4. The purpose of such assessment is exclusively to measure and improve student learning and to ensure the effectiveness of the General Education curriculum.
5. Such assessment should be both efficient and feasible.
6. The General Education Board, with data analysis and data storage support from the Office of Institutional Research, will review and report assessment data to Faculty Senate.
7. This assessment of the General Education curriculum is a cyclical and ongoing process that involves planning, implementation, analysis, review and response. The process will be reviewed annually as a function of the General Education Board's report to Faculty Senate.

## **GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR OVERSIGHT OF GENERAL EDUCATION**

### **Test/Pilot Year**

1. The Assurance of Learning Committee was charged with establishing and maintaining records of the General Education Student Learning Outcomes addressed in each approved General Education course. A template of the General Education Student Learning Outcomes was made available to the faculty to facilitate their participation in the initial course and student learning outcome alignment process. Six support sessions were held in Fall and Spring of 2011-12 through the Center for Teaching and Learning and a PRAC grant was secured to support part time faculty participation in Summer 2012.

2. In Fall of 2011 a small test group of faculty evaluated the Draft General Education Student Learning Outcomes. During the test semester, The Assurance of Learning Committee worked with academic divisions to complete and refine the General Education Course List with identified student learning outcomes for each. Faculty in the test group created draft assessment rubrics for each of the revised student learning outcomes. The Assurance of Learning Committee worked to identify a data collection system for capturing and analyzing student learning outcome assessment data.
3. In Spring of 2012 a pilot group of courses will further test the common rubrics created for the student learning outcomes and will evaluate the data collection system.

### **Beginning Fall 2012**

1. The General Education Board will have oversight of data and documents related to the General Education Student Learning Outcomes addressed and assessed in each approved General Education course. Documents providing information related to General Education Student Learning Outcomes and assessment of them will be made available to the faculty to facilitate their participation in the student learning outcome assessment process. The IUPUC data repository will serve as the secure site for storage of data.
2. By the third week of each semester, instructors teaching General Education approved courses will forward a copy of their current syllabus to their designated department administrator for submission to the Office of Institutional Research. Documents will be stored either in the IUPUC data repository or a designated SharePoint site.
3. Instructors teaching General Education courses will identify an activity or assignment (or, if they so choose, more than one) from their individual course and document how this/these measure identified competencies and attainment in relation to the relevant, specified outcome(s).
4. Instructors will share data from the specified assignment(s) using the appropriate common student learning outcome rubric. Data from individual course assignments will then be aggregated campus-wide in order to monitor the learning outcomes in each area of the General Education curriculum. The Office of Institutional Research will run analyses as directed by the General Education Board.
5. The aggregated data will be presented to the General Education Board for the purposes of monitoring student learning and the effectiveness of the curriculum in meeting the identified student learning outcomes.
6. The General Education Board, with support from the Office of Institutional Research, may develop and propose questions relating to General Education for inclusion in course evaluations and, wherever possible, for inclusion in school exit surveys completed by graduating seniors.
7. In addition to assessment of the general education student learning outcomes using common SLO rubrics ), the General Education Board may draw upon existing data with support from institutional research, such as:

- a. SAT/ACT scores
  - b. Placement test performance
  - c. High School GPA
  - d. Cumulative IUPUC GPA and Major GPA
  - e. National Survey for Student Engagement (NSSE)
  - f. Relevant questions from course evaluations (as specified in 6 above)
  - g. Specialized standard test scores used for graduate school admission (e.g., GMAT, LSAT, GRE, MCAT)
  - h. Graduate employment information
  - i. and such other qualitative or quantitative surveys or instruments as may be considered appropriate.
8. A report on the oversight of general education learning outcomes will be provided by the General Education Board on an annual basis to the IUPUC Faculty Senate and to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
9. A review by the General Education Board of the General Education curriculum as a whole will occur every five years (beginning Fall of 2017), with a report to the IUPUC Vice Chancellor and Dean.

**Timeline**

In accordance with Procedure 9 above, the General Education Board must make a full report to the IUPUC Vice Chancellor and Dean in Fall of 2017, and every five years thereafter. In order to accomplish this, a five-year phase-in plan is proposed to ensure that all aspects of General Education are evaluated and reviewed within the first five years. Although data will be collected in all areas on an annual basis, this initial five-year plan enables faculty, academic divisions, support units and the administration to work together to prepare for these General Education monitoring activities and to prioritize resources. General Education Student Learning Outcomes cannot be fully monitored until students entering in 2012 reach the end of their degree program, since some of the outcomes may be addressed in culminating experiences (e.g. intensive writing, capstone courses, undergraduate research, internships etc.).

<b>Years of Cycle</b>	<b>Areas to be monitored</b>
1	English Composition and Communication
1	Mathematical Modeling
2	Natural, Quantitative, and Information Sciences
3	Arts and Humanities
4	Social and Historical Studies
5	World Languages and Cross-Cultural Inquiry
5	Researched Writing
5	Ethical Inquiry
Ongoing	Impact of the General Education curriculum at IUPUC