



Program-Level Assessment: Annual Report

Program Name (no acronyms): General Studies

Department: N/A

Degree or Certificate Level: Undergraduate Major

College/School: School for Professional Studies

Date (Month/Year): July 2021

Primary Assessment Contact: Kyle Crews

In what year was the data upon which this report is based collected? AY 2020-2021

In what year was the program's assessment plan most recently reviewed/updated? AY 2019-2020

1. Student Learning Outcomes

Which of the program's student learning outcomes were assessed in this annual assessment cycle? (Please list the actual learning outcome statements and not just numbers, e.g., Outcomes 1 and 2.)

We launched the revised General Studies program—with completely new learning outcomes—in Fall 2019. Newly enrolled students, however, took Core courses during the 2019-2020 academic year. We offered some of the new courses as a “pilot” during the 2019-2020 academic year. We repeated these courses—except for one—during the 2020-2021 academic year for students in a variety of programs. The selection of new courses that we offered were picked because they worked for students under the old and new academic plans. Most students in these new courses were still working under the old academic plan with the older student learning outcomes. A few of the students in these new courses were working under the new academic plan with its new student learning outcomes. Since the courses were populated with students under two different sets of learning outcomes, we were not able to collect useful assessment data. Also, we did not run all the new courses, which are obviously integral in assessing the learning outcomes. In this transition period, then, we were unable to collect useful or viable data.

We are in a position, though, to collect useful data during the 2021-2022 academic year. First, most students in the new courses will now be working under the same learning outcomes. Second, we will offer all the new courses under the new academic plan. This means offering four new courses for the first time. With these new courses in Canvas, along with the other five courses we have been offering, we can use the assessment tools in the learning management system to begin assessing student learning outcomes in a productive way.

2. Assessment Methods: Artifacts of Student Learning

Which artifacts of student learning were used to determine if students achieved the outcome(s)? Please identify the course(s) in which these artifacts were collected. Clarify if any such courses were offered a) online, b) at the Madrid campus, or c) at any other off-campus location.

3. Assessment Methods: Evaluation Process

What process was used to evaluate the artifacts of student learning, and by whom? Please identify the tools(s) (e.g., a rubric) used in the process and include them in/with this report.

4. Data/Results

What were the results of the assessment of the learning outcome(s)? Please be specific. Does achievement differ by teaching modality (e.g., online vs. face-to-face) or on-ground location (e.g., STL campus, Madrid campus, another off-campus site)?

5. Findings: Interpretations & Conclusions

What have you learned from these results? What does the data tell you?

6. Closing the Loop: Dissemination and Use of Current Assessment Findings

A. When and how did your program faculty share and discuss these results and findings from this cycle of assessment?

B. How specifically have you decided to use these findings to improve teaching and learning in your program? For example, perhaps you've initiated one or more of the following:

Changes to the Curriculum or Pedagogies

- Course content
- Teaching techniques
- Improvements in technology
- Prerequisites

- Course sequence
- New courses
- Deletion of courses
- Changes in frequency or scheduling of course offerings

Changes to the Assessment Plan

- Student learning outcomes
- Artifacts of student learning
- Evaluation process

- Evaluation tools (e.g., rubrics)
- Data collection methods
- Frequency of data collection

Please describe the actions you are taking as a result of these findings.

If no changes are being made, please explain why.

7. Closing the Loop: Review of Previous Assessment Findings and Changes

A. What is at least one change your program has implemented in recent years as a result of assessment data?

B. How has this change/have these changes been assessed?

C. What were the findings of the assessment?

D. How do you plan to (continue to) use this information moving forward?

IMPORTANT: Please submit any assessment tools (e.g., rubrics) with this report.