Assessing Our Revised General Education Program

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The Assessment Cycle

Goal #1 = We do not want to waste your time.
What is Assessment Really About?

Assessment is the systematic basis for making inferences about the learning and development of students. It is the process of defining, selecting, designing, collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and using information to increase students’ learning and development. Erwin 1991

Assessment is the systematic collection, review, and use of information about educational programs undertaken for the purpose of improving student learning and development. Palomba and Banta 1999

Assessment involves the use of empirical data on student learning to refine programs and improve student learning. Allen 2004

The Key to Sustainable Assessment
Garbage In → Garbage Out

Course-level data must be uniform and open to validation

The Plan

- Gather course-level assessment data for all General Education classes
- Simplify, standardize, and automate documentation
- Use TracDat as a permanent and secure repository for all raw data
- De-identify, aggregate, analyze, and report findings publicly
- Evaluate, discuss, and use the data to improve the program
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Standardize Learning Outcomes

- **CUL1: Interpretation** – Students will be able to demonstrate an increased ability to interpret cultural works and practices, including but not limited to art, music, literature, language, history, philosophy and religion, as part of a broader culture and justify those interpretations with an understanding of the interpretive process.

- **CUL2: Self-Awareness** – Students will be able to articulate an understanding of themselves as part of culture(s) with rich historical perspectives and gain increased self-understanding through works of culture(s).

- **CUL3: Analysis** – Students will be able to develop justify and improve value distinctions (including aesthetic and ethical) in perception, craft and/or life choices.

- **CUL4 Process-Awareness, Participation** – Students will be able to explain the processes contexts and motivations behind the production of cultural works and practices, and when appropriate be able to participate in their creation.

Standardized Measures

- Fourteen different types of assignments
  - Exams
  - Products
  - Performances

- Pre-determined definitions
  - Scoring
  - Analysis
  - Criteria of "success"
Standard Pedagogies

- Twelve defined pedagogies are defined
- Includes many “high-impact” practices
- Not meant to imply the superiority of any method
- Will track use over programs and time

Standardized Data Collection

- 36 Excel workbooks are available
- 4 for each competency
- 4 for training purposes
  - SCORE – for exams
  - PREPOST – for pre-test/post-test
  - NORM – for standardized exams
  - RUBRIC – for products and performances
TracDat Assignments

- Assignments for data reporting are emailed
- Copy and paste the workbook summary
- Complete a few other fields
- Attach the workbook and submit

The entire process can be done in one cup of coffee

Standardized Analysis

- All analyses and reports will be reproducible
- All datasets will be “FERPAnated”
- All de-identified datasets, analyses, and reports will be under version control and publicly available

We will be using the Open Science Framework
https://osf.io/bax9i/
Standardized Reporting

General Education assessment reports will be formatted as journal articles

Ferris State University

General Education Report*
Meta-Analysis of Student Achievement on Natural Sciences FLO SCII in a 200-Level Biology Course
Dr. Clifton Franklund
General Education Coordinator
Fall 2016

Contents
Abstract 1

Multiple Integrated Opportunities for Faculty Evaluation and Input

Assessment IS when the faculty evaluate, critique, discuss, and act upon the reported data

- Reports will be made publicly for feedback
- Disqus is embedded in the HTML reports
- Comments are implemented in OSF
- Pull requests can be made using GitHub
The End Result

- TracDat will be populated with a large number of standardized reports
- Meta-analysis of this dataset will be used to answer a variety of questions
- All faculty will have access to the data, analysis code, and reports
- A feedback cycle is built into data reporting to allow contextualization of results.

Program Assessment

- This process could be adapted to other academic programs
- Workbooks would need to be modified
- One point person to send out assignments

- Advantage = easy and standardized
- Disadvantage = must agree to be standardized
Accessing TracDat Now

- You should all have access
- If not – contact me and I’ll help get that sorted
- General Education
- Your program

Questions or Comments?

Thank You!