

# **General Education Assessment Committee: Annual Report**

2022-2023 Academic Year

Submitted by: Kevin Laam and Amanda Nichols Hess, co-chairs; and Tammy Tollon, General Education Assessment Specialist, OIRADA

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Established by the University Senate in May 2020, the General Education Assessment Committee (GEAC) oversees the assessment of the General Education program and General Education courses. It is a group that works in concert with the General Education Committee (GEC), and it is charged with:

- functioning as the assessment committee for a university-wide program of general education,
- coordinating and advising on the planning and implementation of general education assessment by academic units;
- advising and cooperating with the General Education Committee in planning and carrying out assessment of the University's general education program and communicate through the regular exchange of minutes with the General Education Committee;
- advising the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction, the University Assessment Committee, and the General Education Committee on the findings of their program assessment and on their implications for specific program reviews and for maintaining and improving the quality of general education curricula and instruction;
- reporting to the University Senate and the Assemblies of the organized faculties on the findings of the general education assessment program and their implications for maintaining and improving the quality of undergraduate general education curricula and instruction at the University; and
- coordinating with the General Education Committee to establish priorities for each academic year; meeting jointly, as needed but at least once each semester, with the General Education Committee; and providing information on General Education assessment for preparation of the General Education Committee's annual report.

## **2022–2023 Committee Members**

- Kevin Laam – CO-CHAIR
- Amanda Hess (KL) – CO-CHAIR (Winter 2023)
- Lori Ostergaard (CAS) – CO-CHAIR (Fall 2022)
- Serena Kuang (SOM)
- Cynthia Carver (SEHS)
- Randy Gu (SECS)
- Emily VanWasshenova (SHS)
- Akiko-Kashiwagi-Wood (CAS)
- Jacob Cayanus (CAS)
- Jeremy Johnson (student)
- Tim Hodge (SBA)

- Lan Jiang (CAS)
- Angie Kaiser (CAS)
- Annie Sullivan (CAS)
- John Cebelak (Registrar, ex officio)
- Tammy Tollon (OIRADA, ex officio)
- Song Yan (OIRADA, ex officio)

## **Committee Meetings**

The GEAC met regularly throughout the 2022–2023 academic year:

- September 27, 2022
- November 1, 2022
- December 12, 2022
- February 6, 2023
- March 20, 2023
- April 21, 2023

The meetings during the fall and winter semester focused on assessment report reviews and on discussions about improving and refining our review processes, teams, and letters. All meetings were held virtually.

## **Major Projects and Initiatives**

The core task of the GEAC is to collect, review, and provide feedback on departments' General Education assessment reports. In addition to these efforts, the GEAC pursued several major projects and initiatives during the 2022–2023 academic year, including:

- Compiling information regarding the University Learning Outcome (ULO) assessment pilot program, including surveying departments that have participated in the pilot, evaluating results, and discussing plans to leave the ULO option available to departments.
- Creating a new assessment calendar so that departments know when to submit reviews.
- Developing a proposal for a GEAC assessment award, which was approved.
- Working closely with departments in addressing assessment-related issues or concerns.
- Developing short-, medium-, and long-term plans for faculty development/learning opportunities related to General Education assessment.
- Participating in an assessment workshop titled "Assessment and Improvement: Principles, Perspectives and Practices" and facilitated by Stephen Hundley, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Planning and Institutional improvement, Professor of Organizational Leadership at IUPUI Chair of Assessment Institute in Indianapolis.

## **Plans for 2023–2024**

Next year the committee would like to:

- Work with OIRADA to plan an assessment event for fall and offer other relevant learning opportunities for faculty and departments throughout the year.
- Formalize plans to continue the University Learning Outcome (ULO) assessment option.
- Form a subcommittee to develop procedures for selecting the recipient of the newly created GEAC assessment award.
- Form a subcommittee to review the current rubric, complete a checklist of items that should be included in the assessment reports.
- Form a subcommittee to establish a “library” of exemplary reports and documentation in different GELSO / ULO areas that can be available for other faculty to view.

During the Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 semesters, GEAC members received department assurances for the writing-intensive courses listed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Writing-Intensive Courses (Department Assurances)**

Department	Program	Course
Communications & Journalism	Journalism	JRN 2000, 3290
Health Sciences	Health Science	HS 4450, 4500
Integrative Studies	Interdisciplinary Research	LIN 4970
Music, Theater & Dance	Dance	DAN 3380, 3500
Psychology	Psychology	PSY 3040, 3180, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3300, 3330, 3390, 3440, 3450, 4989
Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work, & Criminal Justice	Anthropology	AN 4391
Writing and Rhetoric	Writing	WRT 4061

Table 2 presents the 24 assessment reports in the General Education Student Learning Outcomes (GESLO) areas that were received or reviewed by GEAC during 2022-2023 and their associated ratings on a three-point scale (“Minimal”, “Developing/Progressing”, “Mature, without significant issues”).

**Table 2. Assessment reports in the General Education Student Learning Outcomes (GESLO) areas received or reviewed by GEAC during 2022–2023 (24 Courses)**

Department	Course	Decision
<b>ARTS (1)</b>		
English	FLM 1150	Mature
<b>FORMAL REASONING (10)</b>		
Math	MTE 2111, MTH 1221	Minimal
	MTH 1118, 1222	Developing/progressing
	MTH 1554	Mature
	STA 2220, 2222, 2226	Developing/progressing
Philosophy	PHL 1000	Minimal
Political Science	PS 3080	Mature
<b>GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE (1)</b>		
English	FLM 2320	Mature

NATURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (7)		
Biology	BIO 1002, 1004, 1200, 1300, 3000	Developing/progressing
Interdisciplinary Health Sciences	HS 2000	Mature
Psychology	PSY 1000	Developing, progressing
SOCIAL SCIENCE (4)		
Communication, Journalism, and Public Relations	COM 2600, 3400	Mature
Industrial and Systems Engineering	ISE 1170	Mature
Wellness, Health Promotion	PH 3000	Mature
WRITING FOUNDATIONS (1)		
Writing	WRT 1060	Mature

Table 3 presents the 10 assessment reports in the University Learning Outcomes (GESLO) areas that were received or reviewed by GEAC during 2022-2023 and their associated ratings on a three-point scale (“Minimal”, “Developing/Progressing”, “Mature, without significant issues”).

**Table 3. Assessment reports in the University Learning Outcomes (ULO) areas received or reviewed by GEAC during 2022–2023 (10 Courses)**

Department	Course	Decision
CRITICAL THINKING (9)		
Music	MUS 1002, MUS 1005, MUS 1007, MUS 1011, MUS 1014, MUS 1331	Mature
	MUS 1000, MUS 1001, MUS 1010	Developing/progressing
INFORMATION LITERACY (1)		
Library	LIB 2500	Minimal

A meaningful number of courses (60) elected to use the integrated Program and General Education Capstone assessment option in 2022-2023; these reports are reviewed by the University Assessment Committee (UAC). The Capstone courses that were reviewed as a part of this program are reflected in Table 4.

**Table 4. Integrated Program and General Education Capstone Assessment Reports reviewed by UAC during 2022-2023 (60 Courses)**

Department	Program	Course
Chemistry	Biology Chemistry	BCM 4257, CHM 4257
	Chemistry	CHM 4996
	Environmental Science	ENV 4950
Communications and Journalism	Communication	COM 4930, 4950, 4901
	Journalism	JRN 4120, 4950
English	English	ENG 4900, 4970, 4975, 4980, 4985
	Creative Writing	CW 4200, 4300, 4400, 4450, 4500

Modern Language & Literature	French Language	FRH 4160, 4170, 4190, 4200, 4970
	German Language	GRM 4130, 4180, 4190, 4200, 4970
	Japanese Language	JPN 4200
	Spanish Language	SPN 4160, 4170, 4180, 4190, 4200, 4880, 4890
Physics	Physics	PHY 4970, 4995
Political Science	Political Science	PS 4975, 4930, 4950, 4955, 4970, 4980
Psychology	Psychology	PSY 4500, 4921, 4930, 4971, 4972, 4973, 4977, 4980, 4989, 4998
Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice	Anthropology	AN 4391
	Criminal Justice	CRJ 4970
	Sociology	SOC 4000, 4970
Writing	Writing	WRT 4998

### Course Assessment Plan Reviews

In addition to course-level assessment reports, the GEAC is responsible for reviewing assessment plans connected with new courses up for review by the GEC. Because the assessment plans are crucial components of the General Education Committee's course approval process, it is essential that these reviews are performed quickly, so one of the co-chairs (Lori Ostergaard and Amanda Nichols Hess) reviewed 4 of these course assessment plans. The assessment plans reviewed are included in Table 5.:

**TABLE 5: Assessment Plan Reviews**

Department	Course	GESLO	Review Decision
Dance	DAN 3380	Arts and Writing Intensive GE	Developing/Progressing, minor issues
Linguistics	LIN 4375	Foreign Language and Culture	Minimal, significant issues
Psychology	PSY 4982	Capstone	Mature, no significant tissues
Modern Languages & Literature	SPN 1200	Literature	Developing/Progressing, minor issues

Table 6 lists the status of assessment reports that were due for review this year. Many departments continued to have challenges with adhering to established timelines and planned assessment approaches.

**Table 6. Status of assessment reports due to GEAC during 2022-2023 (Capstone)**

Department	Courses	Status
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CAPSTONE		
English	FLM 4901, 4900, 4999	Unresponsive
Computer Science	CSI 4999	Unresponsive
Economics	ECN 4090, 4180, 4210, 4560	Granted extension to submit February 2024.
Human Resource Development	HRD 4950	Unresponsive
Integrative Studies	BIS 4930	Unresponsive
Linguistics	LIN 4470	Unresponsive
Liberal Studies	LBS 4999	Unresponsive
Nursing	NRS 4585	Unresponsive
Secondary Education	SED 4952	Unresponsive
Theater	THA 4007, 4020, 4025, 4081, 4095, 4950	Unresponsive
Women and Gender Studies	WGS 4020	In process

The assessment of student learning is an expectation of the university's accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). During our last assurance argument (self-study), OU reported that 85% of required courses submitted an assessment report. As of the end of AY 2022-2023, 78% of courses were assessed within the past four years. While some courses are still out of compliance, they are currently collecting data. . Most departments with overdue course reviews communicated intent to complete their assessment responsibilities. Economics will submit their reports in February 2024. Art History and Philosophy requested an extension to submit in Winter 2023, but have not yet submitted their report. leaving only a few departments that are unresponsive to requests for reports. (see Table 7 for details).

**Table 7. Status of assessment reports due to GEC in prior years and not yet received (11 Courses)**

Department	Course	Notes
<b>GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE (due 2021-2022)</b>		
Economics	ECN 2020, 3260	Submitted assessment plan. Granted extension to report in February 2024.
<b>ARTS (due 2019-2020)</b>		
Art/Art History	AH 1001, AH 1002, AH 1003	Requested extension until in-person courses resume, originally due 2019-20 given extension to be due 2022-2023.
<b>CAPSTONE (due 2019-2020)</b>		
Economics	ECN 4090, 4180, 4210,	Submitted assessment plan. Granted

	4560	extension to report in February 2024.
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE (due 2019-2020)</b>		
Economics	ECN 2020	Submitted assessment plan. Granted extension to report in February 2024.
<b>WESTERN CIVILIZATION (due 2019-2020)</b>		
Philosophy	PHL 3500	Requested extension to Winter 2022, considering a change in credential from WC to KA.

\*Department chairs received bi-annual reminders about the data collection and reporting schedule.

The assessment schedule with data collection and reporting timelines for courses in each knowledge area is included in Table 8.

**Table 8. General Education Assessment Schedule**

<b>Collect data</b>	<b>Review Year</b>	<b>Knowledge Area</b>
2021–22	2022–23	Capstone
2022–23	2023–24	Arts, Western Civilization
2023–24	2024–25	Foreign Language & Culture, Global Perspective, Literature
2024–25	2025–26	Formal Reasoning, Natural Science & Technology, Social Science, Writing Foundations