

General Education Assessment Committee: Annual Report

2023-2024 Academic Year

Submitted by: Kevin Laam and Lan Jiang, co-chairs; and Tammy Tollon, General Education Assessment Specialist, OIRADA

May 30, 2024

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.

2023–2024 Committee Members

- Kevin Laam – CO-CHAIR
- Lan Jiang – CO-CHAIR (Winter 2024)
- Akiko Kashiwagi-Wood (CAS)
- Angela Kaiser (CAS)
- Jacob Cayanus (CAS)
- Annie Sullivan (CAS)
- Patricia Cameron (SON)
- David Fausone (SHS)
- Karl Majeske (SBA)
- Nancy Bulgarelli (UL)
- Richard Olawoyin (SECS)

- Cynthia Carver (SEHS) (Fall 2023)
- Greg Bartley (SEHS) (Winter 2024)
- John Cebelak (Registrar, ex officio)
- Tammy Tollon (OIRADA, ex officio)
- Song Yan (EVP of OIRADA, ex officio)

Committee Meetings

The GEAC met regularly throughout the 2023–2024 academic year:

- September 21, 2023
- November 2, 2023
- December 7, 2023
- February 9, 2024
- April 11, 2024

The GEAC meetings during the fall and winter semesters focused primarily on assessment report reviews and on discussions about revisions to the Assessment Report rubric. 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 2023–2024 academic year, including:

- The GEC and GEAC committees proposed changes to the committees' charges in an effort to simplify the exchange of information between the committees. The changes included: eliminating the need for both committees to meet once a semester (instead the co-chairs of both committees will meet once each semester); and creating a shared drive for the sharing of GEC and GEAC minutes. The changes were presented to the Senate Committee at the April 18th meeting and approved. The changes will take place in 2024.
- The committee formalized plans to continue the University Learning Outcome (ULO) assessment option.
- The committee established procedures and criteria for an annual Excellence in General Education Assessment Award, modeled after the UAC award. The first award was granted this year.
- The committee formed a subcommittee to review the current assessment report review rubric. The revised assessment rubric was approved by the committee and will be adopted in the 2024-25 academic year.
- The committee held a virtual informational assessment workshop to provide information about the principles and strategies of assessment and provide information to help faculty navigate the

assessment process.

- The committee participated in the Assessment Day Workshop hosted jointly by OIRADA and CETL in Fall 2023 to share assessment best practices featuring presentations from high-performing units and OIRADA staff.
- The committee participated in the assessment orientation sessions that OIRADA developed for new committee members joining the UAC or GEAC before the start of the fall semester.
- The committee reviewed 6 general education course assessment reports, 2 external mappings, and 6 new gen ed course assessment plans.

Plans for 2024–2025

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.

Table 1 presents the 11 assessment reports in the General Education Student Learning Outcomes (GESLO) areas that were received or reviewed by GEAC during 2023-2024 and their associated ratings on a three-point scale (“Minimal”, “Developing/Progressing”, “Mature, without significant issues”).

Table 1. Assessment reports in the General Education Student Learning Outcomes (GESLO) areas received or reviewed by GEAC during 2023–2024 (11 Courses)

Department	Course	Decision
CAPSTONE (3)		
Nursing	NRS 4026, 4585 (external mapping)	Courses meet accreditation standards and aligns well with the GESLOs
Health Sciences	WHP 4950	Received, review pending
FORMAL REASONING (1)		
Philosophy	PHL 1070	Received, review pending
SOCIAL SCIENCE (2)		
Economics	ECN 1500, 2010	ECN 1500 Developing/progressing ECN 2010 Mature
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE (2)		
Religious Studies	REL 1200, 1850	PHL 1200 Developing/progressing REL 1850 Developing/progressing
WESTERN CIVILIZATION (3)		
Philosophy	PHL 1100, 1310, 1320	PHL 1100 Developing/progressing PHL 1310 Received, review pending PHL 1320 Mature

Table 2. Integrated Program and General Education Capstone Assessment Reports reviewed by UAC during 2023-2024 (5 Courses)

Department	Program	Course
Communications, Journalism, and Public Relations	Communication	COM 4930, 4950, 4970
Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work & Criminal Justice	Sociology	SOC 4970
Women and Gender Studies	Women's & Gender Studies	WGS 4070

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; GEAC co-chairs reviewed the assessment plans listed in Table 3:

TABLE 3: Assessment Plans Reviewed 2023-2024 (6 courses)

Department	Course	GESLO	Review Decision
Art and Art History	DES 1130, 4430	Arts	DES 1130 and 4430 -Mature, no significant issues
Dance	DAN 1378	Arts	Developing/Progressing, minor issues
Decision and Information Sciences	QMM 2400	Formal Reasoning	Mature
Health Science	HS 2050	NST	Developing/Progressing, minor issues
Political Science	PS 3030	Western Civilization	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 4. Status of assessment reports due to GEAC during 2023-2024 (Arts and Western Civilization)

Department	Courses	Status
ARTS		
Art & Art History	AH 1001, 1002, 1003; ART 1000	Working on assessment reports, will submit over summer.
Communications and Journalism	COM 3607, 3603	Not received.
English	FLM 1150	Requested extension to submit in Fall 2024 semester.

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 2023-2024, 76% 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 requested to submit their reports in February 2024, but have not yet submitted their reports. Art History and Philosophy requested an extension to submit in Winter 2024, but have not yet submitted their report. leaving only a few departments that are unresponsive to requests for reports. (see Table 5 for details).

Table 5. Status of assessment reports due to GEC in prior years and not yet received (5 Courses)

Department	Course	Notes
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE (due 2021-2022)		
Economics	ECN 3260	Submitted assessment plan. Granted extension to report in Winter 2024. Not yet received.
CAPSTONE (due 2019-2020)		
Economics	ECN 4090, 4180, 4210, 4560	Submitted assessment plan. Granted extension to report in Winter 2024. Not yet received.

*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 6. General Education Assessment Schedule

Collect data	Review Year	Knowledge Area
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