

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PILOT

General Education Oversight Committee, May 2018

## Is this the final proposed General Education assessment program?

No, the General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC) is in the development stage for an assessment program that we plan to pilot starting in 2018-2019. The feedback and training we receive during the sessions with the NILOA coach and you, the faculty and staff, are meant to help us improve the program. We are eager for constructive feedback and suggestions to make General Education assessment as streamlined, unobtrusive, and useful for you as possible.

## What exactly does the GEOC plan to assess?

We are assessing how well our General Education program fulfills the learning outcomes outlined in the mission and goals of the General Education program. We will be reviewing data collected from a range of courses that fulfill our General Education Foundational Competency and Inquiry requirements to evaluate how well we are meeting the goals of the General Education program.

## How does GEOC propose to do this assessment?

We plan to use the Association of American Colleges & Universities' (AAC&U) VALUE rubrics as a starting point to design assessment rubrics that best fit the learning outcomes and kinds of assignments used in our General Education program. Our time with the NILOA coach will be used to tailor these rubrics to best help us assess our courses. Therefore, your participation and feedback during these coaching sessions is important; you can ensure that the assessment tools created best reflect what is happening in your classroom.

## Because we are using national AAC&U assessment rubrics, does this mean that I must redesign or standardize my class to conform to these rubrics?

No. The point of the training session is to design rubrics that best fit what our General Education classes do in relation to the General Education goals, using the expertise of disciplinary faculty to guide the process. However, you are expected to design your courses to fulfill the learning outcomes of the Foundational Competency or Inquiry requirements. If you are doing that, the rubrics should be able to collect the necessary data without requiring design changes in your classes.

## Do I have to do the assessment or does someone else assess the sample student assignments?

Since we are only in the development phase of the assessment process, we do not yet know the details of the assessment data collection process. Processes related to gathering General Education assessment data will be developed in careful consultation with faculty and the departments responsible for teaching the courses. Our goal is a system which helps us understand student learning while being efficient and not creating an administrative burden. We would appreciate your assistance and cooperation as we develop General Education assessment at Wayne.

### If I must provide the scores/data, do I have to provide a lot of data to some assessment system?

Since we are only in the development phase of the assessment process, we do not yet know the details of the assessment data collection process. We will be working in our coming meetings to develop good data-management processes in consultation with faculty. We would appreciate your assistance and cooperation as we develop General Education assessment at Wayne.

### How will all of this affect my workload?

We will be working in coming meetings to develop an efficient system which faculty find valuable in understanding learning in General Education without adding undue burden.

### How will General Education assessment affect my individual courses or assessment of my teaching in the classroom?

The assessment does not evaluate individual teaching performance and thus will not be used as evidence in promotion and tenure or hiring/renewal decisions. The artifacts and data that we receive will be anonymous and used to evaluate how well the General Education-designated courses fulfill the General Education program's competencies and group requirements. If the assessment data demonstrates a failure to fulfill certain General Education outcomes, the GEOC will work with faculty to develop an action plan.

### This seems like a lot of work on me. What's the benefit?

One of the goals of the new General Education program was to create a range of courses that provide the best broad-based education for our students. The aim of the assessment is to note how well we are teaching our students at a programmatic level and to improve the program over time through changes in learning outcomes and program design. Additionally, our university accreditation requires that we assess all university programs. General Education is one of our largest and most important programs. Simply put, we have no option but to assess the program.

### Who should I contact with questions?

Any member of the [GEOC Assessment Subcommittee](#) can answer your questions.