

California State University, Long Beach

General Education Governing Committee (GEGC) Departmental Model of GE Skills Assessment Modified by the GEGC on September 27, 2010

The following model of “course recertification” is based on the assumption that a general education course after initial approval is awarded “lifetime approval” by remaining in “good standing” via the outlined process. Courses failing to maintain a “good standing” will be General Education (GE) decertified.

Departments will include the assessment of the Essential General Education Skills in their GE courses in their degree program reviews. Specific questions within the “Elements of the Self Study for Program Review of Degree Granting Programs” relative to General Education will be completed as part of the program review cycle. Additionally, departments will report on their ongoing progress in their annual assessment reports. The GEGC will review appropriate sections of the department’s self-study, program review and annual assessment report to evaluate “good standing” of all the departmental GE offerings (on the same seven-year program review cycle or as determined by their accreditation cycle).

Department reviews that demonstrate the following evidence will not be required to provide any additional information:

1. Completion and submission of the Department GE Curriculum Map identifying the Essential General Education Skills per course;
2. Email submission of the Standard Course Outline (SCO) for each GE approved course in the Department;
3. Assessments of the Essential General Education Skills and their attendant student learning outcomes ;
4. Evidence of the degree to which students are meeting the Essential General Education Student Learning Skills, and
5. Demonstrations of how these data are being used to improve student learning in GE courses.

Department reviews that do not demonstrate all the points of evidence above will be required to provide additional information and may be required to meet with the GEGC to ensure that their courses remain certified.

It is expected that departments will engage in assessment annually and will demonstrate their ongoing progress in their campus annual assessment reports. The GEGC suggests that departments assess their GE courses in batches organized by common GE Skill. The assessment of discipline-specific content is included in other areas of the department’s self study.

Assessing GE Skills

While GE content is the purview of particular disciplines, all departments must also include the assessment of GE Skills in their departmental review processes. As such, Departments should make sure that any assessment of the disciplinary content is coupled with an assessment of GE Skills and their attendant student learning outcomes (located on the Faculty GE website). In terms of GE Skills, CSULB has developed student learning outcomes based on the LEAP skills identified by the AAC&U:

- Written Communication
- Oral Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Information Literacy and Technology Literacy
- Teamwork
- Creativity, Inquiry, and Discovery
- Global Competencies
- Intercultural Competence (Human Diversity)
- Ethical Reasoning and Social Responsibility
- Self-Understanding
- Foundation and Skills for Lifelong Learning
- Including Synthesis and Interdisciplinary Methods of Inquiry

In organizing an assessment of GE Skills, departments should utilize the Department GE Curriculum Map that they completed and submitted to the GEGC. In each case, whether courses are reviewed individually or in batches, departments should provide an assessment of at least one GE Skill per course or batch. The expectation is that departments will identify the relevant GE Skills taught in their GE courses on the Department GE Curriculum Map and that at the end of the seven (7) year program review cycle or department's accreditation cycle will have assessed all GE Skills. The Annual Assessment report will be used to identify the GE Skills being assessed in any given year within the seven-year cycle or as determined by the department's accreditation cycle.

The Departmental Model of GE Skills Assessment will be effective Fall 2010. Programs writing self-studies during the 2010-11 academic year will be expected to address this. All others will be expected to complete the GE student-learning questions in their annual assessment report due in June 2011.