

Assessment of Student Learning 2004-2005 Summary

Summary of Assessment Activity

- Assessments were completed in five goal areas of the General Education program, including Oral Communication, Written Communication, Natural Sciences, History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Humanities and Fine Arts.
- Assessments were completed in five goal areas of the Physical Therapy Assistant Program.
- Assessments were completed in one goal area of the Business Program.
- Assessments were conducted in 36 courses and 93 course sections, which included 2417 students.

General Education Program Results

Oral Communication: 2 courses, 17 sections, and 501 students participated in assessment of four competencies from the Oral Communication goal of the General Education Program.

Competency 1a: Students will be able to understand/demonstrate the speaking process through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing and presentation. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Delivery | 88.9% |
| Organization | 91.1% |
| Support | 94.3% |

Competency 1c: Students will be able to locate, evaluate, and synthesize in a responsible manner material from diverse sources and points of view. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Citations | 82.2% |
| Resources | 90.5% |

Competency 1d: Students will be able to select appropriate communication choices for specific audiences. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Audience relevance | 96.6% |
|--------------------|-------|

Competency 1e: Students will be able to construct logical and coherent arguments. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Coherence of argument | 96.8% |
|-----------------------|-------|

Written Communication: 1 course, 10 sections, and 259 students participated in assessment of four competencies from the Written Communication goal of the General Education Program. Students were assessed on two writing assignments, including a research paper and a thesis paper.

Competency 1a: Students will be able to understand/demonstrate the writing process through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing and presentation. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Mechanics and usage | 75.4% |
| Organization | 79.5% |
| Support | 76.1% |
| Thesis/focus | 75.9% |

Competency 1c: Students will be able to locate, evaluate, and synthesize in a responsible manner material from diverse sources and points of view. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Citations | 75.8% |
| Resources | 86.4% |
| Support | 77.0% |

Competency 1d: Students will be able to select appropriate communication choices for specific audiences. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Audience awareness | 78.1% |
|--------------------|-------|

Competency 1e: Students will be able to construct logical and coherent arguments. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Organization | 80.9% |
|--------------|-------|

Natural Sciences: 5 courses, 35 sections, and 781 students participated in assessment of two competencies from the Natural Sciences goal of the General Education Program. Students were assessed on two activities in the courses—one early in the semester and one later.

Competency 3b: Students will be able to formulate and test hypotheses by performing experiments. Students have experience in the collection of data, its statistical and graphical analysis, and an appreciation of its sources of error and uncertainty. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | Early | Later |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Formulate hypotheses | 79.2% | 87.5% |
| Data collection and analysis | 82.7% | 89.1% |
| Data interpretation | 72.1% | 80.0% |

Competency 3c: Students will be able to communicate their experimental findings, analyses, and interpretations both orally and in writing. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | Early | Later |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Oral communication of findings | N/A | 86.7% |
| Written communication of findings | 81.6% | 87.1% |

History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences: 4 courses, 10 sections, and 425 students participated in assessment of one competency from the History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences goal of the General Education Program.

Competency 5d: Students will be able to employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition. Students achieving a rating of meets expectations or above:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Understanding of methodology | 84.8% |
|------------------------------|-------|

Humanities and Fine Arts: 10 courses, 15 sections, and 482 students participated in assessment of one competency from the Humanities and Fine Arts goal of the General Education Program. Students were assessed in a pre-post fashion.

Competency 6a: Students will be able to demonstrate awareness of the size and variety of works in the arts and humanities. Students demonstrating awareness of three or more artists/authors/philosophers:

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Pretest | 27.4% |
| Posttest | 92.6% |

Physical Therapy Assistant Program Results

Communication Skills: 2 courses, 2 sections, and 34 students participated in assessment of communication skills as rated on a Generic Abilities assessment (GA1 is a rating of oral and written communication) and a Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI6 is a rating of oral communication and CPI7 is a rating of written communication).

First-year students

| | Beginning level | Developing level | Entry level |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| GA1 | 61.5% | 38.5% | 0.0% |
| CPI6 | 0.0% | 75.0% | 25.0% |
| CPI7 | 0.0% | 25.0% | 75.0% |

Second-year students

| | Beginning level | Developing level | Entry level |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| GA1 | 0.0% | 72.2% | 27.8% |
| CPI6 | 0.0% | 20.0% | 80.0% |
| CPI7 | 0.0% | 40.0% | 60.0% |

Clinical Skills: 2 courses, 2 sections, and 34 students participated in assessment of clinical skills as rated on a Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI1 is a rating of safety and CPI12 is a rating of patient intervention competency).

First-year students

| | Beginning level | Developing level | Entry level |
|-------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| CPI1 | 0.0% | 25.0% | 75.0% |
| CPI12 | 11.1% | 11.1% | 77.8% |

Second-year students

| | Beginning level | Developing level | Entry level |
|-------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| CPI1 | 0.0% | 30.0% | 70.0% |
| CPI12 | 0.0% | 20.0% | 80.0% |

Knowledge Base: 2 courses, 2 sections, and 34 students participated in assessment of knowledge base as rated on a Generic Abilities assessment (GA3 is a rating of critical thinking and problem solving) and a Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI9 is a rating of participation in patient status judgments).

First-year students

| | Beginning level | Developing level | Entry level |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| GA3 | 12.5% | 37.5% | 50.0% |
| CPI9 | 0.0% | 61.5% | 38.5% |

Second-year students

| | Beginning level | Developing level | Entry level |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| GA3 | 0.0% | 50.0% | 50.0% |
| CPI9 | 5.6% | 72.2% | 22.2% |

Ethical and Responsible Practice: 2 courses, 2 sections, and 34 students participated in assessment of ethical and responsible practice as rated on a Generic Abilities assessment (GA6 is a rating of interpersonal skills and GA8 is a rating of ethical practice) and a Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI3 is a rating of interpersonal skills, CPI 4 is a rating of ethical practice, and CPI5 is a rating of legal practice).

First-year students

| | Beginning level | Developing level | Entry level |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| GA6 | 53.8% | 38.5% | 7.7% |
| GA8 | 23.1% | 76.9% | 0.0% |
| CPI3 | 0.0% | 11.1% | 88.9% |
| CPI4 | 0.0% | 22.2% | 77.8% |
| CPI5 | 0.0% | 25.0% | 75.0% |

Second-year students

| | Beginning level | Developing level | Entry level |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| GA6 | 0.0% | 38.9% | 61.1% |
| GA8 | 0.0% | 38.9% | 61.1% |
| CPI3 | 0.0% | 20.0% | 80.0% |
| CPI4 | 0.0% | 22.2% | 77.8% |
| CPI5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |

Diversity: 2 courses, 2 sections, and 34 students participated in assessment of clinical skills as rated on a Clinical Performance Instrument (CPI3 is a rating of respectful behavior and CPI8 is a rating of respect for individual differences).

First-year students

| | Beginning level | Developing level | Entry level |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| CPI3 | 0.0% | 11.1% | 88.9% |
| CPI8 | 12.5% | 0.0% | 87.5% |

Second-year students

| | Beginning level | Developing level | Entry level |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| CPI3 | 0.0% | 20.0% | 80.0% |
| CPI8 | 0.0% | 10.0% | 90.0% |

Business Program Results

Critical Thinking: 3 courses, 4 sections, and 154 students participated in assessment of five competencies from the Critical Thinking goal of the Business Program.

Competency 2a: Students will be able to obtain relevant information to use in solving a business problem/issue. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Obtaining information | 86.1% |
|-----------------------|-------|

Competency 2b: Students will be able to make predictions and/or determine alternatives to a business problem/issue. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Generating predictions/alternatives | 86.7% |
|-------------------------------------|-------|

Competency 2c: Students will be able to choose and support a solution to a business problem. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Choosing and supporting solutions | 86.0% |
|-----------------------------------|-------|

Competency 2d: Students will be able to implement a decision regarding a business problem/issue. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Implementing decisions | 88.0% |
|------------------------|-------|

Competency 2e: Students will be able to evaluate the results of a business decision. Students achieving ratings of average or above:

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Evaluating decisions | 85.5% |
|----------------------|-------|

Evaluation of Assessment Results

Assessment Process:

- Assessment activities have increased significantly between the 2003-04 and 2004-05 academic years.
- Within assessed areas there is a significant proportion of faculty who are not participating. We need to address reasons why faculty are not participating and address them.
- The eLumen system has been more fully implemented, but many faculty are choosing to have someone else enter their data.

General Education:

- Results with the Oral Communication assessments show that a high percentage of our students are meeting competencies.
- Speech Department faculty recommend extending Oral Communication assessments to non-required Speech courses and to non-Speech courses.
- Preliminary tests with the Written Communication rubric led to changes that were pilot tested during the Spring 2005 semester. Therefore, most of the data in this report are from the Fall 2004 semester.
- Results with the Written Communication assessments show that 70-80% of our students are meeting competencies.
- English Department faculty recommend that more instructors and more sections participate in future assessments to improve the validity of the sample.
- English Department faculty would like to assess the impact of library training sessions (conducted by college librarians) on Written Communication achievements.
- Results with the Natural Sciences assessments show a high percentage of students meeting the General Education competencies in this area. There appears to be slight improvement between the early and later assessments, but both show high levels of student achievement.
- The purpose of the early and later assessment design is not clear and the design is not used in all Natural Sciences disciplines. The design of the assessments should be re-evaluated.

- Results with the History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences assessment show that a high percentage of students are meeting the competency related to methodology.
- Social Science faculty have set a benchmark of 85% of students achieving the methodology competency, which they are very close to meeting with these initial results (84.8%).
- Social Science faculty would like to expand the number of courses participating in the methodology assessment and expand the competency areas assessed in the goal area.
- Results with the Fine Arts and Humanities awareness assessment clearly show an increase in student awareness between the pre- and post-test. However, it is difficult to evaluate students against the competency using the existing rubric.
- Two semesters of work with the Fine Arts and Humanities awareness assessment have led to suggestions that it be revised since it is not yielding information that can lead to program changes.

Physical Therapy Assistant:

- Most assessments show a high percentage of students reaching the “entry level” of competency during the PTA program.
- Assessments based on the Generic Abilities evaluation appear to be somewhat lower than those based upon the Clinical Performance Instrument. The GA is completed by full-time faculty who teach theory and practical courses. The CPI is completed by Physical Therapists who supervise practicum courses. The GA also appears to be showing a progression of skill development between first- and second-year students, whereas the CPI is not. It might be worthwhile to review the CPI rating parameters with the clinical supervisors.
- The existing assessments for Knowledge Base need to be supplemented with additional assessments. A pre-post assessment of anatomy and physiology knowledge is planned for next year.

Business:

- Results with the Critical Thinking assessments show a high percentage of students reaching competencies related to critical thinking.
- The percentages of students reaching at least average level achievement are consistent across critical thinking components, but there are differences in the proportion of students reaching the highest levels of achievement. While 88% of students reached the “average” level for implementing decisions, no students reached the higher levels of “good” or “excellent.”