

UMBC General Education Committee (GEC)
Subcommittee Review and Recommendations

Subject: Department Biennial Assessment of One General Education Course
APR-Concurrent Summary Assessments of Sample Education Course

In collaboration with the Council of Deans and the UMBC Assessment Committee, the GEC supports the achievement of institutional learning outcomes at UMBC through regular reviews of general education assessment. For the purposes of this report, the GEC is not expected to critique specific assessment practices nor make substantive recommendations to departments on individual courses. For the purposes of this report, the GEC serves a monitoring role to ensure that general education assessments are being done and that departments are using assessment information to improve teaching and learning.

The GEC review of biennial reports of departmental general education course learning outcomes has determined that substantial progress has been made and that the “culture of assessment” is taking hold at UMBC. Not only do many of these reports reflect the adoption of both direct and indirect assessments, but an increasing number demonstrate that some departments are using the data to improve teaching and increase the success of learning strategies. An increasing number of departments are aligning instruction, assessment, and the general functional competencies.

The inclusion of assessment of General Education courses as part of the APR process has begun. As a result of targeted support, those departments that have undergone the APR since the recommendations in the COD and Assessment Committee Response to the GEC Subcommittee Review and Recommendation Report of July 28, 2010, are submitting all their GEP courses for GEC review and include in the APR an evaluation of their assessment of GEP courses.

All these improvements have shown a steady growth in frequency because of the supportive measures recommended in the COD and Assessment Committee Response to the GEC Subcommittee Review and Recommendation Report of July 28, 2010. The Faculty Development Center is to be particularly commended for the advice and counseling it has given.

Challenges still exist and the GEC evaluation of the progress of assessment at UMBC needs continued support in the following areas:

1. Evaluation of assessment using direct measures.
2. The use of the data from previously evaluated courses in order to continue to improve student learning.
3. Assessment of the processes of learning that the functional competences represent.
4. An internet-based submission process that is functional and is part of a work flow process that includes the Registrar, the UGC, and WI courses.

Passed by the General Education Committee
November 9, 2012