

General Education and Assessment: A Streamlined Process University of Maryland Baltimore County

The General Education Committee (GEC) will be responsible for monitoring general education assessment and results. In collaboration with the Council of Deans (COD) and the Assessment Committee, the GEC will review assessment data and provide reports regarding general education and UMBC's Assessment Plan to the Provost and the COD. The Provost and the COD will disseminate the Committee's analysis and recommendations to the academic departments and the campus community for discussion and policy-making purposes.

The summary below outlines a streamlined process proposed to efficiently and effectively integrate general education assessment with the three institutional processes that are already underway. A vision for systematic review at the institutional level is also proposed.

General Education Assessment Process

Initial and Continuing Course Review for General Education Designation (Assessment Plan, II.F)

- Initial course review for general education designation will be conducted by the GEC. The review will focus on: 1) accessibility to a broad undergraduate student community; 2) whether the course meets criteria for the proposed distribution area; and 3) whether the course addresses a minimum of one of the five functional competencies.
- Continuing review of general education courses will be conducted by the GEC in accordance with the seven year Academic Program Review (APR) cycle. The department will resubmit GEP courses which have not been reviewed since the last APR.

Review of Course Level Learning Outcomes (Assessment Plan II.G)

- As a part of the biennial submission of departmental assessment plans, departments will provide a summary of learning outcomes for one general education course.
- Course selection will be made by the department to ensure that, over time, a sample of courses addressing the various functional competencies is represented.
- Information submitted will include: (1) summary of how the course addresses the distribution area(s) designated; (2) summary of how the course addresses and measures each of the functional competencies designated; (3) examples of learning activities and assessment criteria for measuring designated functional competencies; (4) summary of assessment results on student learning outcomes regarding designated functional competencies; and (5) changes made or proposed to improve student learning.

Review of Departmental Level Learning Outcomes

- As a part of the seven year academic program review cycle, departments will provide a summary of assessment of an identified sample of general education courses.
- The report will summarize information on: 1) assessments and outcomes that are consistent with the review of course level learning outcomes; 2) strengths and weaknesses of the courses; and 3) changes made or proposed at the course and/or program levels to improve teaching and enhance student competencies.

A Vision for Review of Institutional Level Learning Outcomes and Achievements

- In collaboration with the COD and the Assessment Committee, the GEC will review departmental level data across the institution on direct assessment of general education outcomes.
- In collaboration with the COD and the Assessment Committee, the GEC will review institutional level data provided by the Office of Institutional Research (OIR), which may include such evaluations as first-year experiences, senior exit surveys, student engagement & alumni surveys.
- In collaboration with the COD and the Assessment Committee, the GEC will review summarized enrollment and performance data for that academic year's graduating class provided by OIR. Data may include enrollment and outcomes by distribution area and functional competency.