

## Project Details

Title	Enhancing General Education Assessment Using Specific Course Data Collection	Status	IN REVIEW
Category	1-Helping Students Learn	Updated	08-27-2010
Timeline		Reviewed	
Planned Project Kickoff	08-23-2010	Created	08-12-2010
Target Completion	05-31-2013	Last Modified	08-27-2010

- 1: Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:
- A: This action project will expatiate the assessment process previously developed and implemented for the completed action project *General Education Assessment—A New Perspective!* The E-Database, an in-house electronic assessment reporting system, will be further developed and enhanced to allow for the collection of data directly from students and faculty participating in specific courses in the General Education Program. Increased utilization of WebFOCUS© software will augment the E-Database to create a culture of visibility, accountability, and performance enhancement. This Action Project will advance efforts to assess the four program goals of the General Education Program and improve student learning.
- 2: Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:
- A: Wayne State College was accepted into the Higher Learning Commission's Academy for Assessment of Student Learning as a member of the February 2008 Cohort. The Academy Team facilitated the implementation of the Academy Project as an AQIP Action Project for the campus to accelerate and advance efforts to assess the institution's General Education Program goals to improve student learning.

The Academy/AQIP Project received various written AQIP reviews as well as face-to-face feedback from the Team's mentor during the 2009 and 2010 Higher Learning Commission's Annual Meeting.

The most recent Academy mentor review (completed on May 3, 2010) stated: "Wayne State continues to make great progress towards assessing student learning on their campus. They continue to keep faculty involvement high with the use of assessment retreats, workshops, and various other endeavors. They have completed their first full analyzes of all three methods selected to assess general education which all seemed to be telling the same story, which is a wonderful thing. It indicates that the tools are accurately reflecting the outcomes being measured. All in all, they are making great strides in changing the atmosphere of assessment on their campus and should be very proud of everything they have managed to do over the last few years."

A suggestion from the mentor was, “as mentioned at the annual conference, I would suggest to Wayne State that now that this basic system is in place; you may want to take the time and try to refine some of the assessment tools that you are using in your various courses.” In addition, the mentor stated: “Wayne State continues to make remarkable progress in the areas of campus awareness and understanding of the assessment process. They have created a great system in which to collect, analyze, and implement changes of their general education assessment efforts. I believe that if they continue with their efforts, Wayne State will have been able to make a significant change on their campus that will have lasting effects for many years to come.”

Based on this feedback from the mentor, Wayne State has made the determination that the Academy/AQIP Action Project “*General Education Assessment—A New Perspective!*” has in fact been completed, but that there are ways in which to build on what was learned from that project. Due to the versatility and validity of the E-Database system, it was determined that the college could expand its utilization with a new Action Project entitled “*Enhancing General Education Assessment Using Specific Course Data Collection.*” This new project will broaden the electronic reporting to include data collected from randomly selected sections of courses approved for the General Education Program, in addition to the Educated Perspective Seminar courses already required for assessment. Assessment data from these randomly selected sections of General Education Program courses should provide additional validation and evaluation of student accomplishment of the General Education Program goals for improvement of student learning.

- 3: List the organizational areas -- institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project:
- A: All academic units will be involved in this Action Project because eleven of the fourteen institutional academic departments offer courses in the General Education Program. These academic departments include: Communication Arts, Language & Literature, Art & Design, Music, Physical Science & Mathematics, Life Sciences, Health, Human Performance & Sport, Family and Consumer Sciences, Sociology, Psychology & Criminal Justice, History, Politics & Geography, Technology & Applied Sciences, and Business & Economics. The Academy Team will continue to work collaboratively with the General Education Committee to assess the General Education Program. Additional input will be received from the Wayne State College Assessment Oversight Committee and the Vice President for Academic Affairs to assure continuous quality improvement efforts. The Network and Technology Department will work collaboratively with the Director of Assessment to enhance the electronic software programs. It will continue to be a requirement that all students successfully complete an Educated Perspectives Seminar course for graduation and each student will be assessed on each of the four goals of the General Education Program through a project(s) or activity(ties) designed by the Educated Perspective Seminar (EPS) course instructors, but this new project will allow for assessment of general education prior to the capstone class. Selected general education course faculty and students will provide electronic assessment data for analysis for the improvement of student learning.

- 4: Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve:
- A: The process for assessing the General Education Program will be expanded to include randomly selected sections of courses approved for the General Education Program. This process will be developed and continued as on-going for future academic years. The desired results of this project are:
  - 1. Create/implement one direct and one indirect measure prior to the capstone class to assess the four goals of the general education program.
    2. Use the data to make improvements to the general education course offerings.
- 5: Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):
- A: Wayne State College involvement with the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning is a four-year commitment. The initial Academy/AQIP Action Project was completed early and this Action Project has been designed to enhance the previously developed process. Therefore, this on-going enhanced initiative will begin with the fall 2010 term and continue through the spring 2013 term.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 44 General Education Program credit hours distributed over four blocks of General Education courses. Each term during this three-year project, one to three general education courses from the four blocks will be added to the General Education Program assessment by having faculty and their students provide assessment data for analysis for the improvement of student learning. This assessment data will be reported through the utilization of the expanded electronic assessment reporting system. The data will be aggregated, analyzed and interpreted to drive continuous quality improvement efforts.

- 6: Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:
- A: The Assessment Director will serve as the team leader and will coordinate and monitor the progress of this Action Project. The Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Director of Assessment, the Assessment Oversight Committee, and the Academy Team in collaboration with the General Education Committee will analyze results. The General Education Committee will be responsible for implementing changes needed in the General Education Program to improve student learning.

Results will be shared and distributed to faculty and staff during general faculty meetings, on assessment retreat days, and to other internal and external users through postings on the assessment Web site. WebFOCUS© software will augment E-Database for reporting as additional General Education course assessment is added. This will improve the institution's capacity to make data-driven decisions, set goals based on academic achievement results and intervention strategies, and then achieve those goals.

- 7: Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:

- A: Current General Education Program assessment results such as the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) will be continued and will provide feedback on what our students are learning as related to the college's General Education Program goals. Assessment results will be used by faculty and administration to identify curricular improvements for the General Education Program in collaboration with the General Education Committee, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Assessment Oversight Committee and the Director of Assessment.

It is expected that NSSE results will show a progressive improvement from the previous analysis done in 2003, 2006, and 2009. In addition, as specific General Education block courses are added to the electronic data assessment process, course assessment will show that at least 70% of the students will perform at or above the acceptable level.