

## **Introduction**

The Gen Ed committee is working on developing a process that would be used to strengthen assessment of student learning objectives for the General Education Program.

## **Description of General Education at GBC**

Great Basin College enriches people's lives by providing student-centered, post-secondary education to rural Nevada. Educational, cultural, and related economic needs of the multi-county services area are met through programs of university transfer, applied science and technology, business and industry partnerships, developmental education, community service, and student support services in conjunction with certificates and associate and select baccalaureate degrees.

A primary goal of Great Basin College is to provide students with meaningful, relevant, and challenging learning opportunities in general education, including science and technology. We believe that general education is a continuous process and the heart of the undergraduate experience. General education constitutes learning experiences that will provide educated individuals with essential knowledge. Thus, general education aims to develop individuals with a broad span of knowledge; people who can direct their learning, who communicate clearly, who think logically and critically, and who have the capacity to work independently and as a part of a team.

It is the goal of the faculty of Great Basin College that all students who graduate with either an associate's or bachelor's degree from this institution have had the opportunity presented to them during their attendance to have acquired ability and awareness with the following objectives:

**COMMUNICATION SKILLS.** Communicate clearly and effectively in written and oral form, embracing discussion, reading, listening, and accessing information.

**CRITICAL THINKING.** Integrate creativity, logic, quantitative reasoning, and the hierarchy of inquiry and knowing in social scientific understanding. There are three elements to this objective:

**QUANTITATIVE ABILITY.** Understand mathematical principles and integrate quantitative methods into problem solving.

**REASONING AND INDEPENDENT THOUGHT.** Use logic and visual thinking in selecting, analyzing, and presenting information.

**SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING.** Understand the essential workings of natural systems, understand the hierarchy of scientific knowing and the use of the scientific method in its pursuit, and have the ability to use this knowledge predictively.

**PERSONAL/CULTURAL AWARENESS.** Understand the diversity of individuals in society, the development of human societies, and the significance of creativity in the human experience. There are four elements to this objective:

**SENSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN SOCIETY.** Recognize and respect the rights of the individual, and possess an appreciation of the complexity and variety of the divergent attitudes, values, and beliefs in society.

**SENSE OF THE PAST.** Understand the cultural and historical heritage of contemporary society, and be able to thoughtfully consider the implications of this heritage.

**SENSE OF ACCOUNTABILITY.** Appreciate the consequences of human actions in social and environmental contexts, and have the ability to consider the ethical and practical implications of those actions.

**APPRECIATION OF FINE ARTS.** Recognize and value creative human expression.

**TECHNOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING.** Function effectively in modern society through the use of technology.

## **Actions Taken for the 2015-2016 Year**

- Five Year Assessment Plan developed and is ongoing
- Revision of the ***GBC General Education Course Submittal Form.***
- PYS 208 moved to the AA/AS side of the Gen Ed grid
- INT 100: There has been recent discussion that the CTE program would like the INT course incorporated into their programs in order to decrease credit number. There were some concerns discussed within the meeting about how the outcomes for INT 100 would be met. At this time, INT 100 will continue being taught as is currently.

## **Current and Possible Assessment Practices**

- Assess one outcome per year over 5 year plan
- Graduate Surveys
- Student achievement of general education objectives through examination of faculty course assessment reports
- **Considering:** Value rubrics as a means of assessment at this time
- **Considering:** Using the Canvas Outcomes Tool, instructors will assess the assignments from their general education courses that pertain to the outcome using a general rubric (4 – Exceeds expectations, 3 – Meets expectations, 2 – Approaches expectations, 1 – Unsatisfactory).

- **Considering:** Creating a curriculum map

### **Fall 2016 Action Plan**

- By December in time for catalog changes: Review and possibly approve using the NEH Challenge Grant committee's Core Skills/Habits of Mind as descriptors (skills/competencies) for the Gen Ed outcomes. Some of the language of these descriptors will need to be changed to effectively assess the descriptor.
- Begin developing assessment tools for general education program. Need direct data showing students meeting general education outcomes.
- Create shared drive for general education documents.
- Brett plans to come to the first Gen Ed meeting of the semester to discuss integrating INT 100 into the CTE program and to be taught by CTE faculty.
- Address general education courses to the right of the gen ed grid double line
- Update syllabus template with current general education objectives