

## **General Education Assessment Social Sciences Competency Action Plan**

Please interpret the findings and provide a specific action plan that can be implemented to improve or reinforce student learning as a result of the assessment process. The action plan should address the area(s) in need of improvement or reinforcement. The plan does not have to be limited to general education student learning but could include departmental initiatives designed to improve student success.

### **Part One: Results Discussion / Reflection**

The results analyzed here were provided by IPAR and are not included here (please see Social Sciences Competency 2018-2019 Report for details on methodology and results). The overall outcome of the analysis is that the MoAs used weighted heavily on the results. While the report details the general results and each individual department, it was clear that the MoAs used had a strong influence on the results. When the MoA used artifacts based on open ended questions (eg essays) students performed significantly better than closed-ended (ie multiple choice) artifacts. Results based on closed-ended artifacts were significantly impacted by the number of questions mapped to each SLO. SLO linked to fewer questions resulted in lower scores (each question weighted too much on the overall results). Course level was confounded with MoAs based on different methods and no direct inferences can be made but results seem to suggest that upper level courses may not be suitable to assess General Education SLOs. This does not refer to the student classification. Differences found across disciplines seem to reflect different approaches to the assessment of these SLOs. Small differences were found between delivery methods (face to face and online delivery) but not enough to draw conclusions. In essence, the MoAs and perhaps differences related to the level of the class limited the ability to analyze the SLOs and therefore the MoAs need to be redesigned.

### **Part Two: Action Plan**

Please describe what actions you will take as a result of the assessment in the following four areas.

#### **a. Pedagogical / Curriculum**

The different units involved in this assessment will work on developing MoAs that better align with the SLOs during Spring 2021. These new MoAs will be based on closed-ended artifacts, similar across disciplines, and will have enough questions to allow for a meaningful statistical analysis and to allow comparisons across departments. Individual departmental actions may be developed as results of the analysis of the results but not necessarily as part of the General Education Program.

#### **b. Student Support Services**

Results were not conclusive to develop actions in this area.

**c. Faculty Development**

Results were not conclusive to develop actions in this area.

**d. Other Areas**

Results were not conclusive to develop actions in other areas.