



General Education Competencies
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Guide

Adopted by the President's Cabinet on May 29, 2019

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General Education Competencies Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Guide

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for assessing student attainment of the College's general education competencies (student learning outcomes). Learning outcomes assessment is a process for improving teaching and student learning.

Guiding Principles for Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Gadsden State's process for assessing student learning outcomes is guided by the following principles:

- The primary purpose for student learning outcomes assessment is to improve student learning. Assessment results provide evidence upon which to base curricular, instructional, professional development, planning and budget, and other decisions which lead to enhanced student learning.
- The assessment of student learning is a means to pursue and document achievement of the College's mission.
- The implementation of learning outcomes assessment is an ongoing and long-term process that involves continuous improvement of the process and the tools used to assess student learning.
- Effort will be made to use the most reliable and valid assessment instruments.
- Assessment of student learning is an inclusive process. Assessment data are collected from classroom-based courses offered on all of the College's campuses, instructional sites, online courses, and dual-enrollment courses offered at GSCC's off-campus locations such as local high schools.
- The College's assessment initiative includes training opportunities and related support for faculty and staff who are responsible for assessment activities.
- Members of the Student Learning Outcomes Committee will serve as point persons and resources for their divisions/departments.

General Education Competencies

The College adopted the following general education competencies in 2019:

- **Communication:** Effective communication in academic, work, and community settings occurs when the intended message is successfully delivered, received and understood between two or more persons.
- **Critical Thinking:** A competent critical thinker evaluates evidence carefully and applies reasoning to decide what to believe and how to act.
- **Quantitative Reasoning:** Mathematical reasoning and the use of quantitative/ mathematical tools are used to successfully solve problems occurring in daily life.

Success Threshold: GSCC is seeking 70% of students to be proficient in the general education competency area.

Institutional Level General Education Map

The following table displays the general education competencies that are addressed by each general education curriculum area.

| Curriculum Area | General Education Competencies | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | Communication | Critical Thinking | Quantitative Reasoning |
| Language | X | X | |
| Fine Arts | X | X | |
| Mathematics | | X | X |
| Science | X | X | |
| Social Science | X | X | |
| Information Technology | | X | X |
| Business | | X | X |
| Alabama Language Institute | X | X | |
| Health, P.E. & Recreation | X | X | |
| Applied Technologies | | X | X |
| Engineering Technologies | X | X | X |
| Nursing Education Programs | X | X | X |
| Health Science Programs | X | X | |

Assessment Cycle and Schedule

An assessment cycle is displayed in **Figure 1**. A cycle is completed when a general education competency (student learning outcome) has been re-assessed. Re-assessment allows the College to determine if improvements that were made have impacted students learning.¹

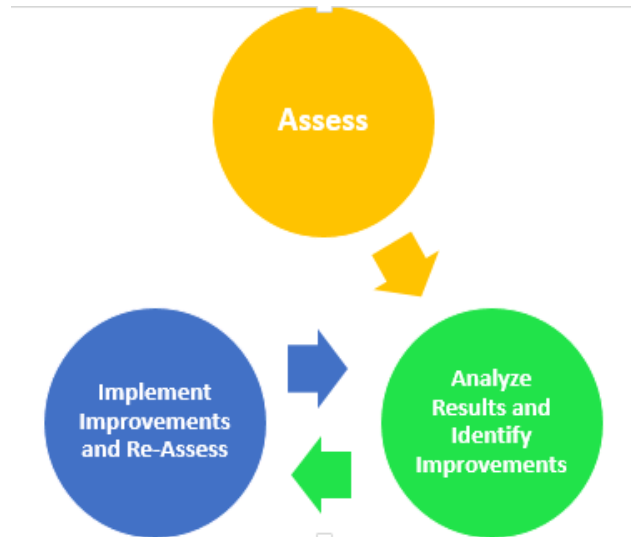


Figure 1: Assessment Cycle

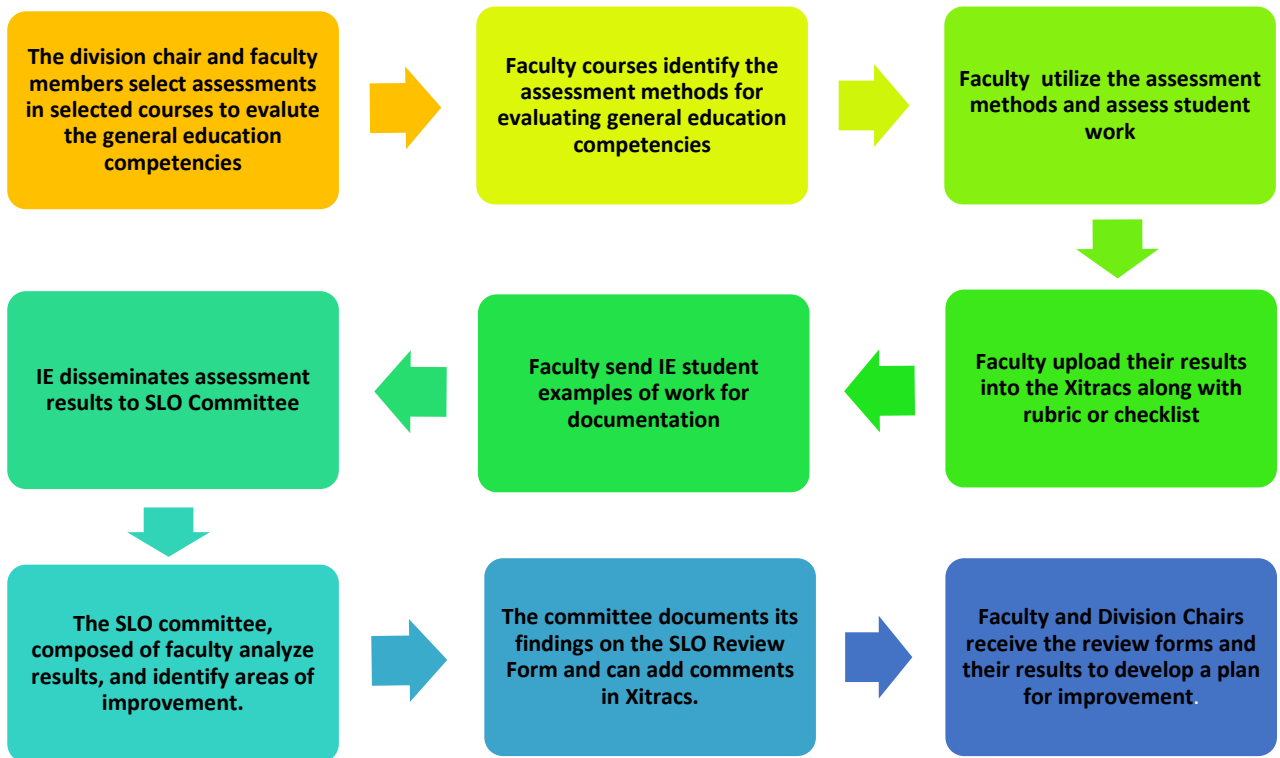
General Education Assessment Schedule

The following criteria were used to develop the three-year assessment schedule that is displayed on the next page:

1. The assessment cycles are on-going and planned out.
2. The assessment schedule is manageable.
3. There is time to identify areas to make improvements.
4. Fall and spring assessment periods are scheduled to allow all general education courses to be included in the assessment process.

¹ This definition of an assessment cycle conforms to SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation Section 8.2.

General Education Assessment Process Steps



Three-Year Assessment Schedule for General Education Competencies

| General Education Competency | 2019-2020 | 2019-2020 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2020-2021 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2021-2022 | 2021-2022 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| | Fall | Spring | Summer | Fall | Spring | Summer | Fall | Spring | Summer |
| Communications | Assess | Assess | Analyze with Office of Institutional Effectiveness | Implement Improvements and Re-Assess | Assess | Analyze Results and Identify Improvements | Implement Improvements and Re-Assess | Assess | Analyze Results and Identify Improvements |
| Quantitative Reasoning | Assess | Assess | Analyze with Office of Institutional Effectiveness | Implement Improvements and Re-Assess | Assess | Analyze Results and Identify Improvements | Implement Improvements and Re-Assess | Assess | Analyze Results and Identify Improvements |
| Critical Thinking | Assess | Assess | Analyze with Office of Institutional Effectiveness | Implement Improvements and Re-Assess | Assess | Analyze Results and Identify Improvements | Implement Improvements and Re-Assess | Assess | Analyze Results and Identify Improvements |

**Gadsden State Community College's Student Learning Outcomes Committee
Members for 2018-2019**

| Division | Committee Member |
|--|--|
| Information Technology | Billa Burger, Faculty |
| Health Sciences | Debbie Cole, Faculty |
| Science | Chris Edmondson, Faculty |
| Fine Arts | Mario Gallardo, Division Chair–Committee Chair |
| Social Science | Trudie Guffey, Faculty |
| Technical Education | Tim Hardy |
| Business | Gerri Langley |
| Institutional Effectiveness, Grants, Special Proj. | Pam Johnson, Dean – Cabinet Liaison |
| Health Sciences | Cindy Mullinax |
| Health Sciences | Evelyn Musick |
| Science | Jeana O’Bryant |
| Science | Kaci Rogers |
| Mathematics | Cal Smith |