

Motion presented to Faculty Senate 5/06/14
Policy for Assessment of General Education at Binghamton University (revised 2014)

The goals for assessment of the general education program are to ensure that the learning outcomes of general education are being met and to provide a system for continuous improvement. Assessment of the general education program is also required for SUNY and for Middle States accreditation purposes. Faculty participation in the assessment of general education courses is essential to the success of the general education program.

Faculty chosen to participate in the process of general education assessment must fulfill this obligation as a condition of the general education designation for their course. The faculty handbook notes the obligation of faculty to participate in assessment projects:

IV.C.10. Faculty Responsibility for Assessment

Participation in assessment, including assessment of General Education and assessment of the unit's graduate and undergraduate programs, is considered to be part of the normal duties of each member of the faculty. Assessment procedures, learning outcomes and detailed information regarding assessment duties are developed by department units with approval by the provost, the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, and the unit's dean.

The basic elements of the general education assessment process are:

1. Several general education categories are assessed each year on a rotating basis;
2. Instructors of sections of courses in the general education category to be assessed in a particular year are asked to generate a course portfolio presenting the instructor's assessment of the extent to which the students meet the general education objectives for the course;
3. The University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UUCC) reviews the course portfolios and writes reports which are shared with the faculty participating in the assessment and the Provost's office.
4. These reports form the basis for recommendations for improvements in general education at Binghamton University.

The detailed procedures to be followed in general education assessment are available in the faculty section of the general education website. These procedures may be changed as circumstances warrant in consultation with the Faculty Senates Educational Policies and Priorities Committee (EPPC).

The April 2014 revision of the procedures for General Education Assessment is presented below along with a rationale for the changes from the previous General Education Assessment Guidelines.