

General Education Assessment Plan

The General Education Assessment Plan is an assessment of the goals for student learning outcomes stated in the MyCore program. As established in PRP 3612, the General Education Council (GEC) Bylaws and Operating Procedures, the GEC is responsible for monitoring the quality of the MyCore program and making recommendations to the BUCC and the university community to improve the program or to maintain the high quality of student learning. "The GEC will receive assessment data concerning all aspects of General Education and work with Departments and Colleges to use that data to improve General Education. When appropriate, the GEC will make recommendations to the BUCC to modify General Education. The GEC will be responsible for ensuring the role of General Education at the University is understood by members of the University and other interested persons" (see GEC Bylaws).

The MyCore program aligns with the goals and mission of the university as expressed in the BU Strategic Plan. The Office of Planning and Assessment (OPA) and the GEC administrative designee will be responsible for connecting the structure and implementation of the MyCore program with the University's strategic plan. The OPA also will work closely with the GEC, providing assessment expertise, collecting assessment data from departments at the GEC's request, compiling data from instruments used for indirect assessment, and administering the Assessment Fellows program. Assessment Fellows, in collaboration with the OPA, are an important part of the ongoing assessment of general education.

The General Education Assessment Plan includes both direct and indirect faculty and staff assessments of student learning over a cycle. The planned cycle allows for assessment of all MyCore goals for student learning outcomes (Figure 1). The first year of assessment for a goal (Phase 1) will involve data collection. The second year of assessment (Phase 2) focuses on analyzing the data and communicating a summary and recommendations to the university community. The two-year assessment periods for the goals will overlap, so data are collected for one set of goals (Phase 1) while the analysis and summary of the previously collected data for another set of goals are conducted (Phase 2).

Academic Year	GOAL 1 Communication	GOAL 2 Information Literacy	GOAL 3 Analytical & Quantitative Skills	GOAL 4 Culture & Diversity	GOAL 5 Natural Science	GOAL 6 Social Science	GOAL 7 Arts & Humanities	GOAL 8 Second Language	GOAL 9 Healthy Living	GOAL 10 Citizenship
Year 1	Phase 1									
Year 2	Phase 2			Phase 1						
Year 3				Phase 2			Phase 1			
Year 4							Phase 2			
This cycle will be coordinated with Middle States cycle of review										

Figure 1. Two-phase cycle of the General Education Assessment Plan

The process includes five stages to provide a multidimensional picture of student learning in the MyCore program. These five stages include:

- (1) **MyCore Data Collection:** Departments, Programs, and Units offering courses and Co-curricular Learning Experiences (CLEs) that carry General Education Points (GEPs) toward a goal in Phase 1 of the data collection process will be asked to submit assessment data for the goal at the end of the semester. Also during the same semester, faculty and staff will collect student artifacts from the course or CLE in an assessment process to be established within their department/program. These artifacts may include papers, presentations, questions and answers from exams, or any other student product as appropriate to the course and the approved assessment plan for that course.
- (2) **General Education Summary Assessment Reports (GESAR):** Departments, Programs, and Units will assess course(s) and CLEs using student artifacts, rubric data, and other relevant departmental or program data (e.g., student surveys, focus groups, interviews, etc.). Departments and programs will describe their assessment process and findings using the General Education Summary Assessment Report (GESAR), which will be collected by the OPA and reported to the GEC. GESAR reports are an essential element of the GE Assessment Plan. To encourage authentic and meaningful reporting through the GESAR, these reports will be reviewed by Specialist Groups and the GEC only.
- (3) **Specialist Group Reports (SGR):** During Phase 1, the GEC will identify a GE Goals Specialist Group of faculty and staff. The Goals Specialist Group is derived from the GEC membership, but additional members may be invited at the discretion of the GEC or may volunteer, based on their interest and expertise in the goals under review. These members do not need to be from one particular discipline. Each Specialist Group should exemplify a range of interests, for example, the colleges, non-aligned faculty, and Student Affairs staff. The GEC votes on the final selection of each Specialist Group, denoting membership that is based on need, interest, and expertise.

During Phase 2 (the analysis and reporting phase), the Specialist Group will convene to review the course-level assessment data, i.e., the VALUE rubric data and the departmental GESARs. In addition the Specialist Group will review relevant institution-wide data as appropriate (e.g., focused MyHusky queries about general education enrollment, and data from national instruments like NSSE, FSSE, and the ETS Proficiency profile). The Specialist Group will discuss if there are ways to improve student learning and/or improve the assessment. The Specialist Group will submit their summary and recommendations to the GEC in the spring semester.

- (4) **GEC Findings and Recommendations:** The GEC will review the Specialist Group Reports and send the findings to the BUCC. These results are subsequently forwarded to the Forum and to the Provost. In addition, the GEC "chair will report the results of the annual review of the program and the detailed review of the learning outcomes to the University community including a formal report of the results to the BUCC, the Forum and others as requested" (See GEC Operating Procedures, approved 4-4-11).
- (5) **BUCC Response:** BUCC will review the GEC findings and forward recommendations to the Provost.