



ASSESSMENT UPDATE

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Assessment website:
www.eiu.edu/~assess

Important Dates

Program Summary Reports are due to Karla Sanders in CASA on **June 1, 2005**. At the dean's retreat in the fall, revisions to the summary form were made. Please use the new summary forms found on the assessment web site under Assessment in the Major and send them to cskjs@eiu.edu as an attachment.

SURVEY OF GENERAL EDUCATION FACULTY UNDERWAY

The Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) and the Committee for the Assessment of Student Learning (CASL) are conducting a survey of faculty who teach general education courses. The targeted courses are those whose CAA-approved course proposal indicated the student learning objectives supported the general education goal that students would become responsible global citizens. These documents may be found at <http://www.eiu.edu/~eiucaa/elibrary/>.

During the site visit from the North Central Association (NCA) in February, it was suggested that Eastern needed to connect its learning goals and the assessment of those goals more directly to the curriculum. While the effective communication goal can be directly tied to

the writing and speaking courses students are required to complete in general education, the global citizenship goal is more broadly spread throughout the general education offerings.

CASL and CAA decided to ask for the help of faculty members teaching general education courses in order to understand which of the global citizenship objectives are actually part of which general education courses. Faculty teaching general education courses in AY2004-05 whose course proposal indicated support of the global citizenship goal were sent a letter requesting that they complete an on-line survey.

This survey is designed to help CASL and CAA understand which courses actually respond to the global citizenship goal. Since it has been several years since the

RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING STUDENT SPEAKING SKILLS

The Speaking Across the Curriculum Committee (SAC) has been working this year to provide resources for faculty assessing students' speaking skills in their courses. A survey of CMN 1310 and Senior Seminar Faculty in fall 2004 indicated that faculty would appreciate having electronic resources available for a variety of speaking topics.

Based on this feedback, SAC is developing resources on the assessment

web site for faculty. Information on creating group and individual speaking assignments are already available.

In addition to these on-line resources, faculty members who are using the speaking rubric to assess speaking assignments in CMN 1310G/1390G or Senior Seminars are encouraged to use SAC members as resources. The following faculty members may be contacted concerning using the rubric, creating

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FACULTY SURVEY CONT.

revision of general education, CASL and CAA are aware that current practice in these courses may not be reflected by the documents residing in the electronic course library.

In the recently approved "General Education Assessment and Refinement" document, CAA calls on departments to "implement assessment of Gen Ed offerings at the department level. This can be integrated into Departmental Assessment Summaries. CASL will facilitate this through identification of appropriate assessment measures for use at the department level." In order to help departments with this CAA recommendation, CASL is seeking input from faculty teaching these

courses.

Making the connection to the curriculum and student learning recommended by NCA is especially important for the responsible citizenship learning goal because currently we are collecting only indirect data on this measure. After data from the faculty survey is analyzed, CASL will begin discussions on ways to assess this goal using direct measures.

Currently, the "become a responsible global citizen" goal is measured through an on-line survey that students take at orientation as freshmen and then again in the senior seminar courses. Data on these

surveys are available on the assessment web site.

The indirect data show very little changes in student attitudes from freshman to senior year. CASL hopes that the faculty survey data will aid the committee in learning where the objectives related to this goal are being taught so that direct data can be collected related to student learning outcomes. If you received a letter concerning this survey, please take the time to complete it. It is available on-line at http://cats.eiu.edu/global_assess/faculty/survey.asp or there is a link from the assessment web site at www.eiu.edu/~assess.

SPEAKING CONT.

speaking assignments, responding to students' presentations, speaking anxiety issues, and other matters related to speaking and its assessment:

Dr. Mary Hogg, cfmch, 581-3300

Dr. Sherry Holladay, cfsjh, 581-6311

Dr. Gail Mason, cfgem, 581-6945

SAC, along with CATS, is also working on bringing faculty and

students samples of student speeches that correspond to the categories of the speaking rubric. Students and faculty will be able to go to the assessment web site and click on video clips to see examples of speeches that fall into the various categories on the rubric. We hope that this tool will be up and running for the beginning of the fall semester. This tool may be

used to help students understand the qualities of excellent presentations or may be used by faculty in anchoring the rubric.

SAC welcomes faculty input on resources they would like to see or topics they would like covered. Contact Karla Sanders at cskjs@eiu.edu to make suggestions to this subcommittee.

PROVOST'S ASSESSMENT AWARD

As departments review their assessment plans and responses, they should consider talking to their deans about being nominated for the Provost's Award for Assessment. In fall 2005, the application materials will be due **October 7**.

This award recognizes academic departments that, in the process of systematically assessing their majors' achievement of learning objectives, adhere to established best practices in assessment, address university-wide learning goals in the major, demonstrate continuous

progress in implementing their assessment plans, and cultivate a culture of assessment.

Past winners include the Departments of Chemistry, Economics, Communication Disorders and Sciences, and the Master's of Business Administration. Recipients receive a monetary award for the department. This year winners will be asked to provide a short presentation on their assessment plan at a CASL forum. Additional information is available at <http://www.eiu.edu/~acaffair/assessment/>.