

**Student Learning Assessment Program
Response to Summary Form
Undergraduate Program 2005**

Department: General Studies

Category	Level*	Comments
Learning Objectives	Level 2-3, B.A. General Studies	Objectives offered in this plan describe student behaviors that are clear and programmatic. There is a nice connection between program goals and General Education goals.
How, Where, and When Assessed	Level 2, B.A. General Studies	<p>It is very helpful to identify specific courses and assignments where students display the behaviors you seek. It is not clear, however, how you are actually assessing the critical thinking in these assignments. Are you using a critical thinking rubric of some kind? It is not clear how those assignments are assessed so that you can compare skills across sections and across time. You mention that you are using a rubric to assess writing, so something similar might be helpful for critical thinking as well. For the on-line assignments is the assessment measure completing the assignment or are you looking for particular skills?</p> <p>Given the special nature of this program, indirect measures, such as alumni surveys or student exit interviews/surveys, could also provide useful data.</p>
Expectations	Level 2, B.A. General Studies	Expectations seem reasonable and connected to the measures and objectives given. The expectations for the technology component are very specific, which is good. How do you collect this data to compare over time?
Results	Level 2, B.A. General Studies	The report indicates that data is being gathered and used to enhance the program and aid the students seeking this degree. The improvement the program has experienced in students' critical thinking and writing skills shows that the changes to the curriculum are indeed improving student learning.
How Results Will be Used	Level 2, B.A. General Studies	Feedback loop is in place for giving information to specific students. The retreat you mentioned is a good idea. Will this be an annual event?

* Levels should not be interpreted as grades or scores; they are stages of implementation based on patterns of characteristics described by North Central Association. These levels are approximations based on the information provided in the summaries. Please refer to the checklist for the Primary Traits listed for each level on the assessment web site at www.eiu.edu/~assess.