

## **Assessment of Student Learning Requirements for Graduate Degree Programs at Eastern Illinois University**

**Policy:** Each graduate degree program will complete objective(s) appropriate to assess four learning goals as defined within the discipline so that upon completion of the graduate degree program, the candidates will display evidence of the following:

1. A depth of content knowledge including effective technology skills and ethical behaviors
2. Critical thinking and problem solving skills
3. Effective oral and written communication skills
4. Evidence of advanced scholarship through research and/or creative activity

When reviewing your program's assessment plan, please consider the following clarification for each of the four graduate learning objectives. Evidence of the inclusion of the learning objectives is necessary, but identical wording is not.

**Effective Date:** Spring 2006. The expectation is that within two years, each graduate degree program will have an assessment plan that addresses each of the four learning goals.

### Clarification of learning goals

The **depth of content knowledge** can include program learning objectives related specifically to the knowledge base as defined by the discipline but can also include learning objectives related to ethical behaviors and professional responsibility; specific skill sets in the areas of technology, leadership, management, or laboratory procedures; application of theory into practice; and/or competency as a performer, educator, or conductor.

**Critical thinking and problem solving** can be assessed through various class assignments including laboratory procedures and reports; application of case studies and other simulated situations; and evaluations of health/medical status as well as by performance on the program's comprehensive knowledge component.

**Oral and written communication skills** typically are assessed throughout the students' degree program. Regular course assignments, including position papers, lab reports, research reviews, technical presentations, debates, and facilitated discussions as well as performance as a graduate assistant, if appropriate, can be utilized.

**Advanced scholarship through research and creative activity** is a critical component of all graduate degree programs. Evidence of scholarly activity might include formulating, conducting, and presenting original research, critically reviewing and synthesizing existing research, designing artwork or other creative works and composing a musical piece.