Project Details

Title: Evaluating General Education Competencies
Status: Updated
Category 1 - Helping Students Learn: Updated
Timeline: Reviewed
Planned Project Kickoff: Created 08-25-2014
Target Completion: Last Modified 08-25-2014

1: Briefly describe the project in less than 100 words. Be sure to identify the key organizational areas (departments, programs, divisions, units, etc.) and key organizational processes that this action project will affect, change, and/or improve:

- A: In its Philosophy of General Education, SEARK College emphasizes the role of general education in fulfilling its mission and states a quality commitment to students. The general education faculty has taken on this project to ensure that a quality education is attained by students who chose to attend. This project will allow the opportunity for faculty examine and if needed, revise the learning outcomes for general education to ensure their relevancy to today’s students. The key organizational process to be improved is the ability to assess and report data supporting student learning.

- 2: Describe your institution’s reasons for initiating this action project now and for how long it should take to complete it. Why are this project and its goals high among your institution’s current priorities? Also, explain how this project relates to any strategic initiatives or challenges described in the institution’s recent or soon-to-be submitted systems portfolio:

A:

The Academic administration of the college has undergone change with the appointment of a new Vice President for Academic Affairs. The new V.P. has challenged faculty in all disciplines to provide data supporting student engagement and teaching/learning. Technical areas of the college have in place specific measures to collect and report data on the success of learning. The Systems Appraisal Feedback Report identified an opportunity for the College to improve through the identification of outcomes which measure the success of our common learning objectives for general education. Collection and analysis of this data will offer a data driven approach to measure student learning and lead to improvements in teaching and learning.

- 3: List the project goals, milestones, and deliverables along with corresponding metrics, due dates, and other measures for assessing the progress for each goal. Be sure to include formal evaluations when the project progress will be reviewed:

- A: Project goals:
  - Review and revise as needed the general education outcomes. **Milestone:** Review /revision- if required, will be reported, discussed, and approved by the college
wide Instructional Affairs Committee (IAC) by 11/21/14. **Metrics:** Stated goals with established methods and measurable outcomes

- Map success indicators for each stated outcome by discipline. **Milestone:** A plan which maps process and timelines for evaluation of general education outcomes will be completed for respective disciplines for all disciplines by 1/18/15. **Metrics:** Development of methods, tools, and timelines for collection and review of data for English, Math, Social Science, Humanities, and Human Science disciplines.

- State specific measurable outcomes for each objective by discipline. **Milestone:** Ongoing through the process. Presentation of progress as disciplines are mapped twice per semester. **Metrics:** Identified through the mapping process and reported results of outcomes.

- Identify timelines for reporting data collected and actions based on data. **Milestone:** This project will be given a wider window for completion necessitated by its breadth and importance to the mission of the college. Progress reports through IAC and annual AQIP Updates will be monitored. **Metrics:** A documented achievable timeline with reports of data and actions based on stated outcomes to be included with IAC progress and AQIP Annual Reports.

4: Describe how various members of the learning community will participate in this action project. Show the breadth of involvement by individuals and groups over the project’s duration:

A: Members involved in this project will be the faculty, who are experts in the respective disciplines. The dean of general studies spearheads this project and will be responsible for engendering engagement of faculty to meet the challenges. To provide the interdisciplinary perspective, faculty from nursing & allied health and technical studies will participate. The college has invested in numerous IT infrastructure upgrades. IT will be consulted to provide input on the possible use or creation of a database for the data being collected. This project will be expansive and will impact every course and discipline offered at the college.

5: Describe how the institution will monitor project progress/success during, and at the completion of this project. Be sure to specifically state the measures that will be evaluated and when:

A: Progress will be monitored through reporting of progress being made toward meeting with the stated goals during monthly meetings of the college wide Instructional Affairs Committee (IAC). The Milestones and metrics are defined in #3.

6: Describe the challenges that may be encountered in successfully completing the project or for institutionalizing the learning from the project’s goals:

A: The major challenge will be with development or identification of tools appropriate for the metrics identified to gain data for the project. This will require research, meetings, and finally
consensus among the disciplines. The nature of the project will require several face-to-face meetings posing the challenge of getting groups together around complex teaching schedules. An additional challenge will be in the event there is software available to provide infrastructure for collecting and organizing the data. In this event the project may require a fiscal outlay in times when budgets are getting tighter. Even with these challenges, there is sufficient administrative commitment to make this project a success.

7: Provide any additional information that the institution wishes for reviewers to

This project will take place over the next 24 months and has many inherent challenges to be overcome in the process. The timeline may require modification based on availability of faculty for meetings and group discussions. The group has opted to use face-to-face meetings because of the integrated nature of the metrics and need for immediate consensus before moving to the next stage of the project.

Ultimately, the goal is to map and collect outcomes data from all disciplines. The project will be segmented according to discipline, beginning with the English department. Department succession will be decided by the team as progress is made.