**Guidelines for the 2014 – 2015 General Education Assessment**

**Florida SouthWestern State College**

Florida SouthWestern State College will be initiating a revised assessment of the General Education Program for the 2014-2015 academic year. This process will provide the baseline data for the continuous improvement cycle in the academic unit. It will also provide an interim assessment of our current General Education Competencies while a team of faculty establish the new General Education course sequence and competencies to comply with State Rule 6A-14.0303 *General Education Core Course Options.* As part of the College’s membership in SACSCOC, we will submit a Five-Year Interim Report due in 2017 that includes an update on compliance with standard 3.5.1: *The institution identifies college-level general education competencies and the extent to which students have attained them.*

The General Education Assessment Subcommittee of the Learning Assessment Committee reviewed several commonly-used assessment processes and supports the following approach, based on the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AA&U) Value Rubric implementation model. This is a faculty-driven model which involves measuring achievement of General Education Competencies through locally designed assignments and assessments. In order to encourage college-wide representation, participating faculty will be credited with College Service.

The process will consist of the following steps:

1. An email will go out to all faculty asking for **voluntary** participation in General Education assessment for 2014-2015, which will consist of appealing to all full-time and adjunct faculty to submit artifacts **(either from new or existing assignments)** that, in their opinion, represents attainment of one or more of the five General Education Competencies (Communication, Critical Thinking, Global Socio-cultural Responsibility, Technology/Information Management, Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning). Any assignment from short-answer quizzes, to essays, projects, or videotaped presentations will be acceptable.

2. Faculty will send in their assignment guidelines to Assessment Coordinators by the end of September to give the Learning Assessment Committee time to review them, create a program map, and ensure all disciplines are represented. LAC will then compare guidelines to the rubrics to see which align best and how the rubrics may need to be revised before the scoring sessions.

3. Faculty will then submit all the ungraded artifacts from the selected class sections to the Assessment Coordinators at the end of fall semester.

4. Assessment Coordinators will be the team leaders for the scoring process during spring semester, 2015. Faculty volunteers will be solicited for the scoring teams for each of the General Education Competencies; the teams will meet at least twice to norm and then score the artifacts.

5. Data from the scoring teams will be reviewed by the Learning Assessment Committee and shared with the faculty by the end of spring term, 2015. The data will assist with the next stage of planning for General Education assessment.

6. Faculty who submit assignments and artifacts will receive a certificate for College Service.

*Your assistance in this assessment project is most appreciated!*

*Support for General Education Assessment and course-level assessment is provided by Dr. Joseph van Gaalen (Coordinator of Academic Assessment, jfvangaalen@fsw.edu) and Crystal Revak (Assessment Analyst, clrevak@fsw.edu).*

**References**

Braselton, M. “Using AAC&U Value Rubrics. Case Study: Midland College.”

<https://www.aacu.org/VALUE/casestudies/midland.pdf>.

Rhodes, T. & Finley, A. (2013) Using the VALUE Rubrics for Improvement of

Learning and Authentic Assessment. AAC & U.

**General Education Assignment Template**

*Please complete this form and submit to your department’s Assessment Coordinator by September 26, 2014.*

Faculty Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Full-Time or Adjunct: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Course Prefix, Number, and Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is this assignment common to all sections of the course? Y/N

Is this assignment used in more than one modality? (face-to-face, online, or dual enrollment)

To which General Education Competency or Competencies does this assignment most closely align? (Check all that apply.)

\_\_\_Communication *(COM): To communicate effectively in standard English (written or oral).*

\_\_\_Critical Thinking *(CT): To demonstrate skills necessary for analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.*

\_\_\_Global Socio-cultural Responsibility *(GSR): To identify, describe, and apply responsibilities, core civic beliefs, and values present in a diverse society.*

\_\_\_Technology/Information Management *(TIM): To demonstrate the skills and use the technology necessary to collect, verify, document, and organize information from a variety of sources.*

\_\_\_Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning *(QR): To identify and apply mathematical and scientific principles and methods.*

Assignment Description: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Approximate Due Date of the Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Once you have received the artifacts from your students, submit the ungraded copies to your Assessment Coordinator by the end of fall term, 2014. Include answer keys when applicable.*

*Your assistance in this assessment project is most appreciated!*

*Support for General Education Assessment and course-level assessment is provided by Dr. Joseph van Gaalen (Coordinator of Academic Assessment, jfvangaalen@fsw.edu) and Crystal Revak (Assessment Analyst, clrevak@fsw.edu).*