

Minutes: General Education Competency Review

April 30, 2020

9:00-11:00 AM

Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97434263932?pwd=Y045T0xCWTFKWHpVZnZuYWU5RVhhQT09>

- I. Dr. DeLuca welcomed participants and gave the background and purpose on reviewing the General Education competency map and reconsidering integral and supplemental competency representation.
- II. Dr. DeLuca gave a presentation entitled, "Academic Affairs Objectives and Assessments."
 - a. The attendees shared ideas about why we focus on objectives and assessment in higher education.
 - b. Objectives and assessment help us make decisions...
 - Curricular
 - Choosing methods and strategies
 - Deciding whether to increase or decrease time or emphasis on student learning outcomes
 - Selecting texts or material
 - Determining a focus for professional development
 - Improving assignments to better align with stated outcomes
 - Programmatic
 - Determining course sequence and necessary pre-requisites
 - Demonstrating preparedness of program completers
 - Determining budgetary focus
 - Measuring achievement of stated goals and outcomes and demonstrating efficacy of courses and programs
 - c. Relevant legislation and standards were reviewed.
 - d. SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation Section 7, 8, and 9 and their purpose were reviewed and discussed, as well as the SACSCOC Distance and Correspondence Education Policy. The attendees reviewed the purpose of assessing comparability with distance education and ground courses in regards to student learning outcomes, student retention, and student satisfaction.
 - e. Florida Statute 1007.271 was reviewed in regards to Dual Enrollment programs, accountability and assessment.
 - f. Relevant language from our Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreements with the counties in our service region was reviewed.
 - g. Florida Statute 1008.30, Common Placement Testing (SB 1720) was reviewed in regards to assessing for comparability and student achievement.
- III. Purpose & History of GenEd with Professor Ransford
 - a. Professor Ransford discussed the purpose and responsibilities of the General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC), the roles of the stakeholders and the process for identifying integral and supplemental competencies.
 - I. The General Education Advisory Council is a standing committee of the College whose purpose is to supervise and maintain the General Education program at Florida SouthWestern State College.

- II. It is the responsibility of the General Education Council to:
- Create a high-quality General Education program for students at the College that reflects the values and mission established by the faculty at Florida SouthWestern State College, meets the standards of the State of Florida, and aligns with the criteria set forth by the College's governing accreditation body.
 - Develop a plan for implementing and monitoring the integrity of the General Education program.
 - Continuously evaluate the effectiveness of the General Education program.
 - Establish a collegial process that encourages and maximizes participation by faculty in the development and delivery of courses to support the mission of the General Education program.
- III. The mission of Florida SouthWestern State College's General Education Program is to provide students with transdisciplinary learning experiences that empower them to be inquisitive, active, informed and ethical citizens. Our innovative curriculum promotes collaboration and communication in diverse settings, encourages greater understanding of the relationship between individuals and their natural surroundings and cultivates intellectual curiosity that leads to independent research, creative problem-solving and meaningful engagement with the global community. We provide the framework for students to acquire both discipline-specific professional skills necessary for occupational success and a broad spectrum of skills in critical, creative and scientific problem-solving that will allow them to contribute in multiple real world settings.
- Communicate clearly in a variety of modes and media.
 - Research and examine academic and non-academic information resources and evidence.
 - Evaluate and utilize mathematical principles, technology, scientific and quantitative data.
 - Analyze and create individual and collaborative works of art, literature, and performance.
 - Think critically about past, present, and future questions to yield meaning and value.
 - Investigate and engage in the transdisciplinary applications of research, learning and knowledge.
 - Visualize and engage the world from different historical, social, and cultural approaches.
 - Engage meanings of active citizenship in one's community, nation, and the world.

- IV. Expert faculty shared ideas for realizing the General Education competencies across courses. Follow-up discussion from attendees led to transdisciplinary connections.

- a. Communicate – Dr. Amy Trogan, English
 - b. Research – Professor Arenthia Herren, Libraries
 - c. Evaluate – Dr. Joseph van Gaalen, Team AASPIRE (Adj. Science Professor)
 - d. Analyze – Professor Monica Krupinski, Humanities
 - e. Think – Dr. Mary Ellen Schultz, Academic Success
 - f. Investigate – Professor Jacqueline Davis, Psychology, Professor Karen Maguire, Academic Support.
 - g. Visualize – Professor Elijah Pritchett, Humanities
 - h. Engage – Dr. Brian Page, Assoc. Dean, SoAHSS
- V. Session wrapped with final comments about the transdisciplinary nature of the current general education program mission and competencies. Faculty leaders are asked to work with departments to review competencies, and consider the following questions:
- I. Are there additional competencies that are being addressed in courses that are not listed as integral or supplemental in the syllabi?
 - II. Is the level of engagement (integral or supplemental) for the listed competencies accurate?
 - III. Are there competencies listed that do not align with the course that should be removed?
 - IV. In our schools and programs, do students have an opportunity to have sufficient exposure to all the competencies? Which courses could benefit from additional competency acquisition?