

ALL THINGS ASSESSMENT AT KU

The Official Assessment Newsletter of Kutztown University



General Education Assessment

Updates Presented at January Assessment Day 2020

The General Education Assessment Committee (GEAC) engages in assessment of General Education courses, provides support to keep SLOs and rubrics relevant and manageable, and makes recommendations to the General Education Committee and the Provost. In the Spring 2019 semester, GEAC assessed SLO 2: Apply scientific and quantitative reasoning to solve problems and increase knowledge. This SLO has two sub-goals: SLO 2A, Scientific Reasoning and SLO 2B, Quantitative Reasoning.

Faculty compliance rate for submission for SLO 2 and their sub-goals was about 87%. SLO-2A had a sample of 240 student work products (about 30%) selected from a pool of 768 submitted work products. 40 students (about 17%) were randomly selected for double rating, each time by a different volunteer faculty rater. For SLO-2B, a sample of 221 student work products (about 21%) was selected from the pool of 1050 available student work products, and 31 student work products (about 14%) were randomly selected for double rating.

All Things Assessment at KU is edited by Dr. Karen Rauch, Associate Provost for Accreditation and Assessment and Prof. Krista Prock, Interim Director of the Office of Assessment. GA Crystal Horninger is the student editor. Suggestions for articles, announcements, and feedback are welcome and appreciated.

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General Education Assessment

The benchmark for SLO 2 states that most student work product be rated at Performance Level 2 or above. Overall results show that SLO-2A had a cumulative frequency of 76% performing at level 2 and SLO-2B showed 65% at level 2. The results indicate that student performance meets the benchmark.

In Fall 2019, GEAC assessed SLO 1: communicate clearly and effectively orally and in writing. SLO 1 is broken into two sub-goals: SLO 1A, Oral Communication and SLO 1B, Written Communication. SLO 1A had a sample size of 174 student work products. The average rating was 1.97 which is slightly lower than the desired performance rating; overall, however, 82% of student work products were rated at or above a level 2. SLO-1B had a sample size of 236 work products and averaged a performance rating of 2.1. Overall, 65% of students were at or above a level 2 which matches the desired benchmark.

Between Spring and Fall 2019 assessment cycles, recommendations were made to improve both the assessment process and the general education program. A notable amount of student work product was identified as unusable and thus future collection cycles will include both improved direction and a sample product. In addition, aspects of the working rubrics were determined to be ineffective and thus changes are being discussed within GEAC. Finally, assessment resources will be used to facilitate a more diverse sample of work product and improvement in the artifact rating process. In conclusion, recommendations are based on assessment results to both improve the assessment process and overall student performance.

Assessment Grant Proposals

Conducting assessments and then using assessment findings are essential steps for maintaining high quality programs that are consistent with the University's mission. Assessment findings help the institution identify areas for strategic change or improvement, help the institution determine how best to support needed changes, and also help the institution highlight program and University strengths. Assessment also enables us to evaluate the competence of graduates in terms of the program's goals, those of the core curriculum and the University mission. Ultimately, assessments are not an end in themselves but a means to other ends – specifically, for continually improving our work on promoting student learning and development. The fundamental purpose of the KU assessment grants program, then, is to support efforts to understand and then improve students' achievements in important learning outcomes.

The Office of Assessment is pleased to announce a grant competition in support of new and ongoing assessment efforts related to Student Success. Plans call for supporting approximately 5 to 7 grants. Individual grants will be funded at amounts up to \$5,000. Individual stipends are limited to \$2,500. Budget requests must fit the nature and scope of the project.

More information can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/ufj6cws>

Applications will be submitted online at: <https://app.perfectforms.com/player.htm?f=FI2lgAAF>

Deadline for grant proposal submission: March 2, 2020

January Assessment Day 2020

January Assessment Day was held on Monday, January 13, 2020. Opening remarks were provided by Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Anne Zayaitz. The first session about General Education Assessment, led by Dr. Angela Cirucci, Chair of the General Education Assessment Committee, involved a discussion of assessment results and effective use of general education rubrics. The following session, which discussed successes and challenges in academic program assessment, was a panel discussion featuring Prof. Denise Bosler, Communication Design, Dr. Christine Núñez, Modern Language Studies, and Dr. Julie Palkendo, Environmental Science/Physical Sciences. To end the day, Dr. Karen Rauch, Associate Provost of Accreditation and Assessment, facilitated a hands-on workshop, in which faculty were able to discuss their successes and challenges with their peers both within and across programs. Based on survey feedback, the format of the January Assessment day was a success and appreciated by the attendees. Future conferences will continue with a similar format and include a more expansive workshop

Upcoming Events:

Autumn Assessment Day: Friday September 18, 2020

January Assessment Day: Tuesday January 12, 2021



For More Information

Please visit the Office of Assessment Website

<http://www.kutztown.edu/assessment>