

General Education Assessment – Geography (Fall/Spring 2017-2018)

Goal(s) and Objectives

The Committee for Social and Behavioral Sciences identified the following as its goal:

Students will apply critical thought and scientific principles to understanding human behavior and society in a diverse world.

Students should be able to:

1. Interpret data, evidence, and arguments using discipline specific criteria.
2. Identify theories in the discipline relevant to understanding human behavior and society.
3. Distinguish the forces shaping human behavior and society
4. Describe relations among individuals, groups, and society utilizing discipline specific terminology
5. Recognize the significance of individual, cultural, and societal diversity.

Measures and Criterion

For Geography:

1. Instructors of Geography 103, World Regional Geography, used specific embedded assessment questions in regular assessments to measure each objective.
2. The threshold for success is 75% of students correctly answering the embedded assessment questions.
3. Schedule of assessment for Geography 103, World Regional Geography.
 - A. Fall Semester (2017), Geography 103, Sections 1 and 2
Objectives measured: 1, 2, and 3.
Assessment tool: test questions embedded in regular course exams.
 - B. Spring Semester (2018), Geography 103, Sections 1 and 2
Objectives measured: 4 and 5.
Assessment tool: test questions embedded in regular course exams.

Findings

For Geography:

Overall, results indicate that a significant number of students were successful at meeting stated objectives. In Fall 2017, averaged across two courses which includes approximately 160 students, 85% of students achieved success with Objective 1, 82% with objective 2, and 79% with objective 3. In the Spring of 2018 the threshold for success was met with the following results: Objective 4 at 85% and Objective 5 at 75%

Improvement Narrative

In Geography, the following were identified as ways to improve measurement going forward:

1. We agreed that a 75% threshold for success was a reasonable desired outcome.
2. We agreed that to improve the process for a more accurate measure for success it is necessary to embed a greater number of questions into the assessments. For Fall 2017, the total number of questions across two courses for three objectives was 12 and for Spring 2019 to measure two objectives was 10. We feel it would be a better assessment plan to include more questions in our assessments. In order to better coordinate across different instructors the plan is to build a test bank of questions that assess each objective.