

College-Wide General Education Learning Outcomes Assessment
Cultural Understanding
Spring 2018

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Cultural Understanding scoring

In Spring 2018, PSC examined the Cultural Understanding outcome. Full-time and adjunct faculty who teach both face-to-face and online volunteered to submit anonymized samples of student work. Members of the Assessment Council read the student work to determine whether the samples demonstrated each component of the outcome. When readers disagreed, the sample went to a third person.

Samples were collected from Biology, Communication, English, Philosophy, and Psychology courses. Overall, a majority of the samples (see Table 1) demonstrated two of the components: a global perspective; an appreciation for the values of diversity, equity, and sustainability. The fewest number of samples demonstrated the ability to navigate and thrive within diverse communities and workplaces. Readers questioned whether one assignment can demonstrate this ability, and suggested that might be more apparent from an indirect source, such as an employer survey. It could also be more evident in a lab or other simulated activity. The Assessment Council and College-Wide General Education Learning Outcomes Committee will take up these questions in Fall 2018.

Table 1
Cultural Understanding Component Scores

Component	Demonstrated
Demonstrate a global perspective	54%
Demonstrate the ability to navigate and thrive within diverse workplaces and communities	29%
Demonstrate an appreciation for the values of diversity, equity, and sustainability.	63%

Next steps

The Assessment Council, College-Wide General Education Learning Outcomes Committee, and Faculty Development Committee will collaborate to determine whether the outcome needs to be refined, what samples to include in a future assessment project, and what resources to offer faculty to support their teaching of the outcome. In addition, Dr. Christie Toth, University of Utah, will offer a workshop during Fall 2018 Convocation to address how faculty can improve their cultural understanding instruction and support students' learning about the outcome. The Assessment Council is currently designing a multi-year schedule to examine each general education outcome, and is working with Institutional Research to determine a sampling plan for robust representation.