



University of Rhode Island

Subcommittee on the Assessment of General Education

Initial Assessment Effort

The University College and General Education Committee of the Faculty Senate is in the process of developing a student outcomes assessment of the University's general education program. This assessment is part of the Board of Governor's assessment initiative and is an important part of our preparations for the upcoming accrediting visit from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. As the subcommittee charged with the assessment of general education, we would like to solicit your participation in the process.

As the initial phase of the assessment process, we want to get a sense of the specific learning opportunities student have in the general education program. Additionally, we also want to get a sense of student performance in response to those opportunities.

Because you are teaching a general education course this semester, we are asking you to help us by doing the following:

- Select an assignment (an exam, a class activity, a paper, an assignment to be done outside of class, etc.) from your general education course that is reasonably representative of the learning opportunities in the course
- Indicate what proportion of the course grade is allotted to the assignment
- Submit the assignment and *copies (ungraded if possible) of the products students produce* in response to the assignment to our committee.

Our principal goal in collecting these materials is to assess the kind and frequency of opportunities for learning our general education program provides, and to begin to develop rules (rubrics) for judging students' work in response to those opportunities. Our focus is on the program of general education and not on the practices of the individual courses that make up the program.

Any materials you submit will be held in confidence and not shared beyond the subcommittee without your express permission.

In addition to collecting assignments and student products, we also plan to sample student attitudes about their experiences in the general education program. We have proposed ten items that can be administered with the SET form in selected general education courses. The items can be included on the existing response form in the space now called "Optional Items." The proposed items are listed on the reverse of this sheet.



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