

ASSESSING GENERAL EDUCATION

A new General Education Program became effective in the Fall 2001 semester. The General Education Program Outcomes are listed below:

- Introduce students to the fundamental principles, concepts, vocabulary, and methods essential for the acquisition of knowledge and skills basic to the field of study;
- Prepare students to communicate effectively using written and oral or signed communication skills;
- Provide a variety of learning experiences that encourage students, independently and in collaboration with others, to use those fundamental principles and methods to acquire, analyze, and use information for purposes of inquiry, critical thinking, problem solving, and creative expression in a diverse environment;
- Prepare students to adapt to change, including the increasing integration of information technology in all fields of knowledge and expression;
- Provide students with the knowledge and skills to understand themselves and others from various cultural, social, aesthetic, political, and environmental perspectives; and
- Provide the experiences that will allow students to become independent learners, the skills to analyze their strengths and weaknesses as learners, and the knowledge to accomplish the tasks involved in learning.
- Use appropriate assessment tool(s) to demonstrate the degree to which students have achieved the objectives of the course.

In order to document student learning in the General Education program and to gather evidence related to the overall effectiveness of this new program, the General Education Review Board has designed a comprehensive assessment plan that includes a variety of both internal and external measures.

Internal Measures

The Academic Profile is a standardized assessment instrument created by the College Board and the Educational Testing Service. This instrument assesses college level reading; writing; critical thinking; and use of mathematical data in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. While the Academic Profile does not provide feedback on all of the General Education criteria, it does provide some standardized feedback that can be used to create baseline data regarding how CCBC's students perform. This assessment was administered for the first time

during the Fall 2001 semester and will be conducted every two or three years. During the second administration of the Academic Profile, every effort will be made to include a larger sample of students who have successfully completed at least 18 credits of General Education coursework.

The SIR II evaluation instrument is administered to students to obtain feedback on items such as instructor effectiveness, course delivery preferences, and relevance of assignments to course requirements. The General Education Review Board has designed four questions to be included in the SIR II to elicit student feedback regarding the General Education Program Outcomes.

Common Graded Assignments are assessments designed by teams of faculty representing each General Education discipline. The discipline teams have become known as **GREATs**, which stands for **GeneRal Education Assessment Teams**. The GREATs have developed a faculty-approved list of assignments and scoring rubrics for each discipline area, and these assignments will be incorporated into designated sections of designated courses each semester. At the end of the fall and spring semesters, a random sample of these assignments will be collected and scored by trained faculty. The feedback from these assignments will provide valuable information about the degree to which students are achieving the General Education Program Outcomes.

External Measures

External measures of the General Education program include items such as the Graduate Follow-up Survey, surveys of students who do not graduate, the Employer Feedback Survey, and a variety of transfer measures obtained from public four-year institutions where many CCBC students transfer. These tools will provide feedback regarding student satisfaction with the General Education program.