

Out Comes Learning

McHenry County College's Assessment Team Newsletter

A newsletter dedicated to the promotion and recognition of Academic Assessment at MCC

11th Annual Assessment Fair for Community Colleges McHenry County College 2 March 2007

On March 2, MCC will host the 11th Annual Assessment Fair for Community Colleges. Themed "Techno-Savvy Assessment in a Data-Driven World," this year's conference will bring together general education assessment, course assessment, and some of the technology tools we use to assess student learning. The keynote speaker, Professor Carol Barrowman from Alverno College, will discuss "Connecting Student Learning to Teaching, Assessment & Curriculum." Alverno College is a leading institution in the area of assessment of student learning. Some of the presentations will focus on cross-disciplinary assessment, testing and assessment, and concept mapping.

Please, mark your calendars and join the collegial discussions and activities together with colleagues from Illinois and neighboring states.

Friday, March 2, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Registration for MCC faculty: \$15.00 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Visit the Assessment Fair website at

<http://www.mchenry.edu/assessmentfair>

Valentine Assessment Blitz!

Assessment workshops each week in February!

Chocolate if you attend a workshop or do a C. A. T.
(send C. A. T. reports to Kathy Chamberlain)

Be your students' best Valentine--
Do a C. A. T!

Our Mission: The mission of the McHenry County College assessment team is to provide support to divisional faculty for learning outcomes assessment. This support will be provided by division liaisons who will communicate information about the assessment and transformation process; coordinate the flow of information; investigate and recommend plans to record, organize, analyze, and report data; and be an advocate for the integration of assessment into the College community for the purpose of improving student learning.

Continuous Quality Improvement Report on General Education Assessment

Last semester, the assessment team took on the task of clarifying the General Education (Gen Ed) assessment process. We began by writing out the current process from beginning to end. We then collapsed the many steps into a few broader processes. The purpose of this activity was to address the concerns of faculty and department chairs who found Gen Ed assessment confusing and frustrating. On December 6, 2006 the assessment presented the Gen Ed assessment process flow chart (Figure 1) to the Continuous Quality Improvement Steering Committee. This flow chart illustrates the cyclical and ongoing nature of Gen Ed assessment. The assessment team is responsible for steps 1 and 6, while the faculty and department chairs are responsible for the cycle shown in steps 2 through 4.

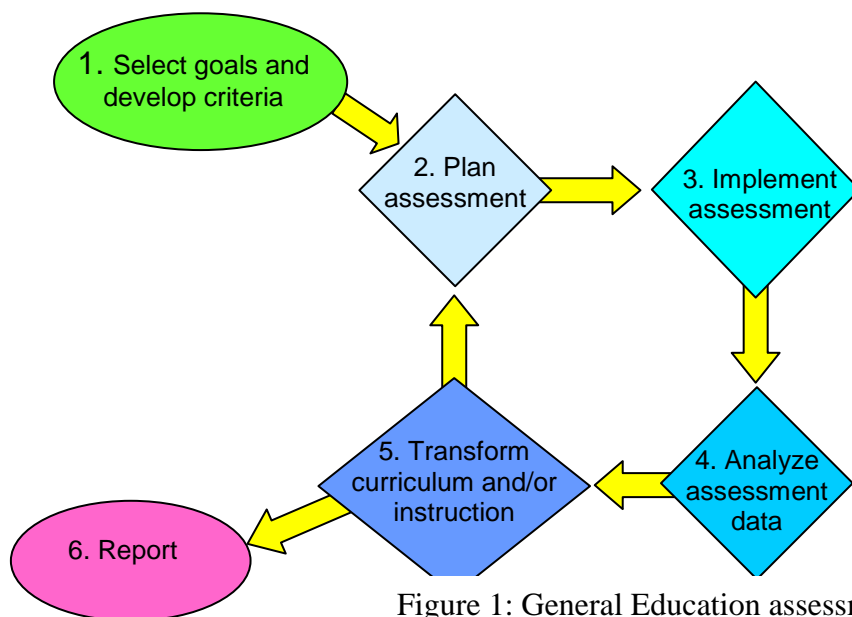


Figure 1: General Education assessment flow chart

The General Education (Gen Ed) assessment flow chart involves six processes. Each of these processes has several steps. The Gen Ed assessment flow chart can be summarized as follows:

1. **Select General Education goals and develop criteria:** Four of the 12 Gen Ed goals are selected each year in a 3-year cycle. Following selection, the assessment team develops measurable criteria for departments to use in their assessment. The goals and criteria are distributed to the faculty through a newsletter and to department chairs along with a planning form.
2. **Plan assessment:** Departments and divisions then meet to select criteria and develop a plan for assessing them.
3. **Implement assessment:** Faculty members implement the assessment plan and collect appropriate data.
4. **Analyze assessment data:** The data are analyzed and discussed by the departments, and transformations are designed as needed.
5. **Transform curriculum and/or instruction:** The faculty implement necessary changes in curriculum and instruction. These transformations are then assessed in the following semester.
6. **Report:** The assessment team reviews institution-wide data and prepares a report to the stakeholders.

We hope this flow chart clarifies the assessment process for you. If you have any questions, please discuss them with your division liaison. We're here to help!