

Diverse Perspectives and Cultures Improvement Plan

Spring 2018

In 2016-17, the Learning Assessment Committee and the General Education-Diverse Perspectives and Cultures Work Group assessed the general education outcome “Examine diverse perspectives and cultures as they relate to the individual, the community, and the global society.” [Results of the assessment](#) showed a need for improving students’ capabilities in Assumptions/Biases and Skills related to the outcome. The results also indicated that students needed additional help connecting a variety of topic areas (e.g. race/ethnicity, gender, disability) to course content. Although program, course, and indirect assessments related to Diverse Perspectives and Cultures had somewhat better results, the majority of students consistently show substantial room for improvement on this outcome.

After reviewing the assessment results, [feedback gathered in Fall 2017](#), and the Fall 2017 “[Improving General Education Outcomes at Harper](#)” faculty survey, the Work Group developed the following Improvement Plan. Much of the plan focuses on faculty development around infusing Diverse Perspectives and Cultures topics into their courses, as well as helping students make connections across a variety of topic areas.

The Learning Assessment Committee, General Education-Diverse Perspectives and Cultures Work Group, and Outcomes Assessment Office will work jointly to implement this plan throughout the 2018-19 academic year. These groups will partner with the Academy for Teaching Excellence for faculty development initiatives and the International Studies and Programs committee for items relating to the College’s Global Learning Outcomes.

Professional Development

- Develop a Diverse Perspectives and Cultures focus for the 2018-19 Learning Assessment Community of Practice.
- Provide a Graduate Equivalency Course in 2018-19 with a focus on Diverse Perspectives and Cultures.
- Hold Lunch ‘n Learn sessions focusing on specific general education outcomes, including Diverse Perspectives and Cultures. Ideally, Lunch ‘n Learns will include guest faculty speakers who have successfully infused these topics into their classrooms.
- Recommend infusion of this and other General Education outcomes into the New Faculty Course.
- Recommend infusion of Diverse Perspectives and Cultures and/or general education assessment into the FY2019 Faculty Retreat.
- Develop a resource page on the HIP to provide access to resources and assessment information related to the Diverse Perspectives and Cultures outcome. The resource page will provide materials that will provide faculty members with ideas for incorporating these concepts across the College curriculum. The page will include the following materials:
 - Results from the 2016-17 assessment and the review of other assessment evidence
 - Link to the College’s Global Learning Outcomes and curriculum infusion resources
 - Information about the above professional development opportunities

Infusion across the College

- Work with an ad hoc work group of the Curriculum Committee to review and revise the Application for World Culture and Diversity Graduation Degree Requirement.
- Collaborate with the Curriculum work group of the International Studies and Programs committee in Global Learning Outcomes assessment and curriculum infusion efforts.
- Discuss possible connection with Social Justice Leadership Certificate.
- Ensure focus on connection across different topics related to diverse perspectives and cultures

Communication

- Continue communicating progress and faculty development opportunities through the Student Learning Showcase blog, Orientation Week activities, and Assessment Conference/Share Fair.
- Disseminate results and next steps to students, in cooperation with the Student Communication Manager. Targeted communication regarding this outcome is scheduled for May 2018.
- Discuss assessment results and improvement plan with the General Education Assessment Advisory Committee, planned for launch in fall 2018. Consider revisions or additions to the improvement plan based on Advisory Committee work.

Next Steps: A follow-up General Education assessment of this outcome will be conducted in FY2020.

Questions? Contact Rich Johnson, General Education-Diverse Perspectives and Cultures Work Group Chair at rjohnson@harpercollege.edu or Faon Grandinetti in the Outcomes Assessment Office at fgrandin@harpercollege.edu.