

General Education Outcomes Assessment at Harper College

Harper College's five General Education Learning Outcomes are achieved as a result of successful completion of the general education requirements for any degree program. The outcomes state that upon completion of a degree program, the student should be able to effectively:

- Communicate information and concepts in oral and written formats. (Communication)
- Use evidence to develop arguments, make decisions, and evaluate outcomes. (Critical Thinking)
- Examine diverse perspectives and cultures as they relate to the individual, the community, and the global society. (Diverse Perspectives and Cultures)
- Apply a variety of credible sources to support a given topic. (Information Literacy)
- Use quantitative analytical skills to interpret and evaluate problems. (Quantitative Reasoning)

Assessment Cycle: Harper conducts General Education assessment annually. The Learning Assessment Committee and its Work Groups lead the assessment, and faculty members across the College measure the outcome within their courses. At least one General Education learning outcome is assessed each year according to the schedule below. The first assessment cycle began with Communication in FY 2014, and a second cycle began in FY 2019.

	Primary Assessment	Review Results and Create Improvement Plan	Implement Improvement Plan	Follow-Up Assessment
Quantitative Reasoning	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Diverse Perspectives and Cultures	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Critical Thinking	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Communication	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Information Literacy	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028

Random Sampling: Beginning in FY 2016, the College increased faculty and student participation in General Education assessment through use of random sampling to determine the classes that are included in a given year's assessment. The sample is drawn from sections of courses that map to the General Education outcome and have a relatively large percentage of students with 45 or more hours of earned credit. This technique ensures the assessment is appropriate to the context the students are experiencing when taking the assessment and focuses the assessment on students who are nearing the end of their degree programs.

Planning for Improvement: After administering a given General Education assessment, the Work Group analyzes the results in partnership with the Outcomes Assessment Office. The Work Group then communicates the results to the College in the fall semester following the assessment. This communication includes faculty workshops, news postings, and presentations at all-faculty meetings. Work Groups use the remainder of the year to continue gathering campus-wide feedback, and then use the assessment results and the campus-wide feedback to create student learning improvement plans. General Education improvement plans are communicated through workshops, internal College communications, and the Harper Intranet Portal. Improvement plans are implemented prior to reassessing each outcome. The partnership between the Learning Assessment Committee and the Outcomes Assessment Office ensures these improvements will be implemented and sustained over time.