



Item: AS: I-2

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
Thursday, April 19, 2012

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT: CORE CURRICULUM

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

No action required. Information item.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A PowerPoint presentation will be provided at the Board of Trustees meeting.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

N/A

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Supporting Documentation:

Inactive Program Notification Form

Presented by: **Dr. Brenda J. Claiborne, Provost and Chief Academic Officer**

Phone: (561) 297-3061



FLORIDA ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees
Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

Assessment: Core Curriculum

April 19, 2012

Introduction

- I. Intellectual Foundations Program
- II. Outcomes for Intellectual Foundations Program
- III. Assessment
- IV. Continual Process



I. Intellectual Foundations Program (IFP)

- General education program (or core curriculum)
- Approved by the Board of Trustees in 2008
- Implemented in Fall 2009
- Provides broad education beyond a chosen major
- Develops comprehensive skills, knowledge, and values that equip students to effectively meet the challenges of contemporary life

II. Outcomes for Intellectual Foundations Program

- Four broad, expected outcomes:
 - Critical thinking
 - Effective communication
 - Appreciation of knowledge
 - Ethics and ethical behavior



II. Outcomes for Intellectual Foundations Program (cont.)

- Additional, expected outcomes in 6 categories:
 - Written Communication
 - Society and Human Behavior
 - Science and the Natural World
 - Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning
 - Global Citizenship
 - Creative Expression

II. Outcomes for Intellectual Foundations Program (cont.)

- Six credits required in each category
 - Written Communication: can select from 7 courses
 - Society and Human Behavior: 12 courses
 - Science and the Natural World: 20 courses + 10 labs
 - Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning: 13 courses
 - Global Citizenship: 14 courses
 - Creative Expression: 10 courses

III. Assessment

- Goal: ensure that the overall Intellectual Foundations Program meets the expected outcomes in the 4 broad areas and 6 foundation categories
- Feedback used to improve individual courses and the overall program

III. Assessment (cont.)

- Two components of assessment
 - A. Do course objectives and content conform to IFP expected outcomes?
 - B. To what extent does student learning demonstrate IFP expected outcomes?

A. Course Objectives and Content

- Do course objectives and content conform to IFP expected outcomes?
 - Curriculum committee reviewed syllabi and assignments from 72 courses (259 sections)
 - Fall 2011 data have been analyzed – see next slide for examples of data

A. Course Objectives and Content (cont.)

Examples of Broad Outcomes	# sections assessed	% sections conforming to expected outcomes
Ability to think critically	259	73%
Ability to communicate effectively	259	48%
Examples of Foundational Categories		
Demonstrate an understanding of mathematical theories and application	65	95%
Demonstrate an understanding of how scientific experiments are conducted	46	83%

A. Course Objectives and Content (cont.)

- Next step is to use the data for improvement
 - Share results with faculty, curriculum committees, deans and Provost
 - Conduct department-level discussions about data
 - Ensure that objectives and content of every course conform to expected outcomes

B. Student Learning

- To what extent does student learning demonstrate IFP expected outcomes?
 - Assessment underway
 - Sample of exam questions and answers, as well as of written student work will be collected for all IFP courses
 - Data will be analyzed in May 2012

B. Student Learning (cont.)

- Next step will be to use the data for improvement
 - Share results with faculty, curriculum committees, deans and Provost
 - Use results for improvement in curriculum and teaching methods
 - Evaluate assessment method and improve where needed

IV. Continual Process

- Intellectual Foundations Program will be assessed annually:
 - Program – the Program itself and its goals
 - Courses in the Program
 - Student learning