

## **Goucher College Student Learning Outcomes Assessment [SLOA] Status as of July, 2007**

### **Overview:**

A comprehensive SLOA plan for general education and programs was developed and approved in the summer of 2006 by the academic dean. As defined in Middle States' Standard 12 and 14, a SLOA plan should be written and implemented at an institution of higher education as an integral component of institutional effectiveness plan.

SLOA Plan consists of four phases: planning, implementation, assessment and using results. Specific, measurable student learning outcomes tie into course goals. Course goals may range from Goucher's liberal education goals to Middle States' core competencies. Various course goals converge to their associated program goals. Student expected learning outcomes and their assessment are indicators of institutional effectiveness.

The proposed plan suggests that assessment is a collaborative endeavor involving faculty, staff, administrators, and students. The faculty has prime responsibility for developing assessment policies, designing the assessments of academic programs, and using the results. The Office of Institutional Research provides guidance, an assessment framework (e.g., Assessment and Planning Report Form), and assistance to faculty and departments.

The curriculum committee has adopted ten liberal education learning goals in the Summer of 2005. These goals speak to Goucher's mission statements on student learning and achievement. In the current academic catalog, some courses in the core learning areas are tied to one or more of Goucher's liberal education goals.

**Table1: Department Assessment Cycle**

Division	Arts	Humanities	Social Sciences	Natural Sciences	Interdisciplinary
<b>Fall 2006 - Spring 2008</b>					
Department	Theatre	English- Writing Program	Management	Chemistry	Frontiers – First-Year Seminar
Course	THE140	ENG103	MGT110	CHE000	FRO100.001
Course	THE220	ENG104	MGT245	CHE000	FRO100....
Course	THE390	ENG105	MGT380	CHE000	FRO100.029
Course	THE391	ENG106			FRO140.001
<b>Fall 2007 - Spring 2009</b>					
Department	Art	Modern Languages	Mathematics	Sociology	Frontiers – First-Year Seminar
Course	ART100	FR/SP110*	MAT000	SOC000	FRO100
Course	ART102	FR/SP120*	MAT000	SOC000	FRO100
Course	ART330	FR/SP130*	MAT000	SOC000	FRO100

\* FR = French , SP = Spanish

### **Where we are now:**

The IR office has revised and uploaded the Assessment plan form and other related materials on the IR site which has a link from Goucher's home page.

Assessment site URL: <http://www.goucher.edu/x11876.xml>

### **English Writing Program :**

- Assessment of final papers was done in Fall '06 and Spring '07
- Extracted samples from student database for 4 courses, ENG-103(College Essay), Academic Writing courses ENG-104, ENG-105 and ENG-106
- Writing program faculty graded the papers based on their developed rubrics.
- IR office administered and managed the whole evaluation process, collected and organized data
- Prepared and presented a preliminary report and a final report to the writing program faculty. Included are different statistical test results and their significance.

- A follow-up discussion will take place in Fall '07 for any changes in course planning based on report data.
- Please contact Dr. Gail Wisan ([gwisan@goucher.edu](mailto:gwisan@goucher.edu)) for the full report.

### **Management :**

- After discussion with D Sherwin, a decision was made on courses to be assessed. MGT-110(Accounting Principles), MGT-245(Organizational Behavior) and MGT-380(Strategic Management)
- For MGT-110 and MGT-245, the instructor, with assistance from IR, defined course goals, related learning outcomes and developed rubrics. Exams and an integration papers were used for assessment.
- The assessment plan for MGT-380, strategic management course was prepared by IR and is being reviewed by the lecturer. The assessment data will be collected in Fall '07 as this course is offered in Fall semesters only.
- Final data are collected, organized and linked back to the database for demographic fields.
- Available data are analyzed. A report is due to the instructor in Fall '07.

### **Chemistry**

- Met with the chair Esther G in late Fall-06, discussed the possibility of beginning the assessment process. The process is yet to start due to shortage of instructors and lack of enthusiasm about course assessment.
- Discussion is expected to resume in Fall-07.

### **Theatre :**

- IR office met with the program chair and came up with a plan for course assessments.
- The plan for THE-140(Theatre Production) with learning outcomes is finalized . One goal, namely to engage students in imagining physical theatrical elements) was measured in Spring '07. Other goals are to be assessed in the coming Fall and Spring.

- The assessment plan with learning outcomes for THE 390-391(Senior project workshop/production) has been worked on and currently being reviewed by the instructor, Jen Curry.

### **Frontiers :**

- IR presented general assessment topics at Frontiers workshops in Fall and Spring of the academic year 06-07.
- The plan with goals was prepared by IR and reviewed by the program director. IR uploaded the form on IR website and assisted the program director in defining learning goals.
- Learning outcomes for a specific section (Philosophy of Science) of Frontier's class were developed by IR and shared with the program director Bob Welch. Bob reviewed the plan, suggested few changes and defined the levels for rubrics.
- IR will participate in the Frontiers workshop in August to assist faculty in preparing plans for individual courses.

### **Modern Languages:**

- IR met with the chair Florence Martin and Spanish instructor Frances Ramos-Valdez in June, '07. All aspects of foreign language course assessment including purchasing software for placement and achievement tests were discussed.
- All the issues emerged from the meeting and detailed notes were documented and dispatched to Florence and Frances for their review. IR is waiting for their response.
- IR will attend the Modern Language faculty meeting in August.

### **Art:**

- IR had a brief but effective discussion in July-07 about Art course assessment with the chair Allyn Massey. She briefed us on the existing plan, possible courses to assess in Fall-07 and name of the instructors to contact for specific course assessment.
- Courses proposed for assessment : ART100, ART102 and ART330

- Suggested instructors to be involved: Gail Husch, April Oettinger, Ed Worteck, Pamela Thompson, and Laura Barnes.
- IR will follow up with the instructors in early September.