

Memo

To: Academic Senate Chair
Curriculum Committee Chair
Department Chairs
Provost and VPAA
Academic Deans Library Dean

From: Institution-Wide Assessment Council
Re: IWAC Summer Session 2020
Date: July 31, 2020

Colleagues,

The Institution-Wide Assessment Council (IWAC) concluded its annual week-long summer session in July of 2020. The session was delayed until July due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The session is usually held very close to the end of the semester in order to capitalize on assessment momentum from the last weeks of the spring term.

The assessment cycle for the nine Institution Learning Outcomes (ILOs) begins in the summer each year. IWAC reviewed and made progress on each of the ILOs.

ILO A Communication

Year Four: Implementation of Recommendations

The recommendations from the 2019 report for ILO-A Communication were reviewed and an implementation plan was developed. In the 2020-21 Academic Year, IWAC will be working with MT on the development of a capstone course to address gaps in assessment of communication at the senior-level; review the process of using rubrics in Brightspace to collect assessment data; review the calendar created in 2019; follow up with the Culture and Communication department about their department-wide assessment process, standardization of assignments in EGL 100, and diagnostic assignments in EGL 100 and 110; and identify potential representatives from GSMA and ET to serve on IWAC.

ILO B Critical and Creative Thinking

Year Three: Analysis and Recommendations

Data submitted from instructors was downloaded from Brightspace and aggregated. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, data were only collected for two majors at the mastery level. IWAC recommended that all departments continue to identify where and how these outcomes are taught in the curriculum to prepare for data collection in the next cycle.

A more detailed analysis of methodology, results, and recommendations – including figurative representation of findings and examples of rubrics used – can be found in the report.

ILO C Quantitative Reasoning

Year One: Assessment Tool Design

IWAC reviewed recommendations from the last cycle of assessment. No modifications were made to the rubric. Artifact collection and rubric scoring was largely successful although improvements could be made in some departments at the mastery level. The point-person for the ILO will work with all departments to continue identifying appropriate courses to provide data in the 2021-22 academic year. In

particular, departments that were unable to provide data in the last assessment cycle will be consulted in depth.

ILO D Lifelong Learning

Year Two: Data Collection

In the two previous assessment cycles, surveys of students, faculty, and alumni were used. Previous IWAC discussions and reports have noted the limitations of this approach to assessment of student learning. A rubric from AAC&U was modified and mapped to General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs). After creating the rubric, IWAC discussed how the metrics/outcomes overlap with existing assessment in Critical and Creative Thinking and Informational Literacy. While the value of this ILO is important, IWAC recommends removal of Lifelong Learning as an ILO given the assessment efforts are redundant. A memo with this recommendation was submitted to the WASC coordinator for review and feedback.

ILO E Discipline-Specific Knowledge

ILO E has not been assessed by IWAC in the past. It is the responsibility of programs to complete discipline-specific assessment. But, as IWAC makes progress with the assessment process on campus and begins to improve the practice of closing the loop, it can provide guidance to programs in the assessment of discipline-specific knowledge. IWAC added ILO E to the assessment calendar to begin with Year 1: Assessment Tool Design in 2021. During the four-year cycle, IWAC plans to review the most recent program reviews for all major programs, ensure that assessment is being done, and give a brief summary and analysis of the assessment of discipline-specific knowledge.

ILO F Information Fluency

Year Two: Data Collection

The rubric for assessment of student learning was confirmed. Courses were identified for collection of rubric scoring at both the Introductory and Mastery Level for all majors. The rubrics and courses were submitted to the LMS administrator for inclusion in the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.

ILO G Leadership and Teamwork

Year One: Assessment Tool Design

IWAC met with David Taliaferro this summer to discuss the progress of assessment of leadership and teamwork. He confirmed that the assessment tools used by the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) could be used to provide IWAC sufficient data in the upcoming assessment cycle. During the 2020-21 academic year, IWAC will collaborate with CCL to tailor the assessment tool in preparation for deployment for in the 2021-22 academic year.

ILO H Ethical Reasoning

Year Two: Data Collection

The rubric for assessment of student learning was confirmed. Courses were identified for collection of rubric scoring at the Mastery Level for all majors. The rubrics and courses were submitted to the LMS administrator for inclusion in the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters.

ILO I Global Learning

Year Three: Analysis and Recommendations

Data submitted from instructors was downloaded from Brightspace and aggregated. Due to the COVID - 19 pandemic, data were only collected for two majors at the mastery level. However, the limited data that was analyzed suggested that a revision of the assessment plan for this learning outcome should happen. IWAC recommended that changes be considered for future cycles of the data collection, including the exploration of standardized test instruments.

A more detailed analysis of methodology, results, and recommendations – including figurative representation of findings and examples of rubrics used – can be found in the report.

Other Actions

Beside the assessment of ILOs, the following actions were taken:

- A map of courses used to assess student learning was compiled to standardize and inform the collection of data in future assessment cycles.
- IWAC updated the bylaws for membership and protocols to reflect changes in the assessment process. The revised bylaws were submitted to the WASC coordinator for review and feedback.
- A checklist for tasks to be completed in the 2020-21 academic year was drafted and approved by all members.

The council recognizes the essential support provided by Khaoi Mady, Gary Moser, and Aparna Sinha in the collection and analysis of assessment data.

The council will reconvene in the fall and spring semester to continue work on the identified actions.

Amber Janssen; Chair,
Tamara Burback
Steven Runyon
Sarah Senk
Joshua Shackman
William Tsai