

Assessing General Education: It's Easy to Get in on the Action!

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Director

University Assessment Office



Request

- November 2005
- Comprehensive, yet manageable method for assessing General Education at Illinois State University.
- Purpose: To provide the Council for General Education – an external committee of the Senate – with sound evidence to base decisions regarding the Gen Ed program at ISU.

Research

- Thorough review of what had been done in the past at ISU.
- What is currently being done at other institutions – both those that look like us and those that do not.

Options

- Variety of “home-grown” systems
- Individual student portfolios
- CLA – Collegiate Learning Assessment
- MAPP – Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress
- CAAP – College Assessment of Academic Proficiency
- Institutional Artifact Portfolio

Institutional Artifact Portfolio [IAP]

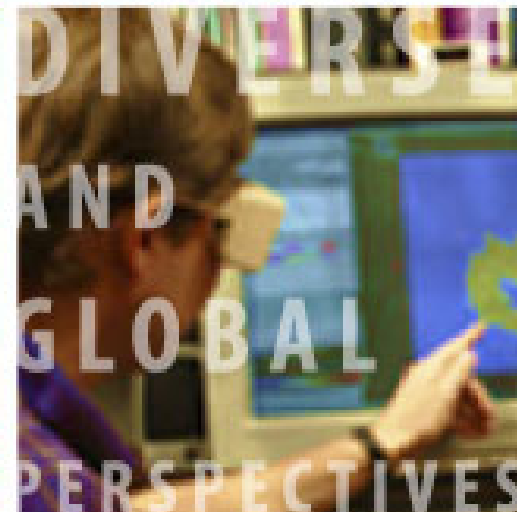
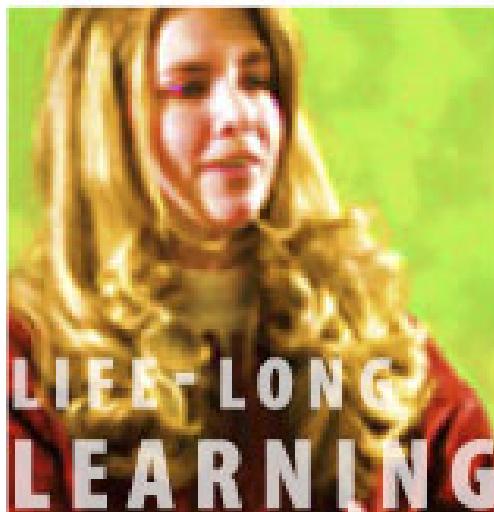
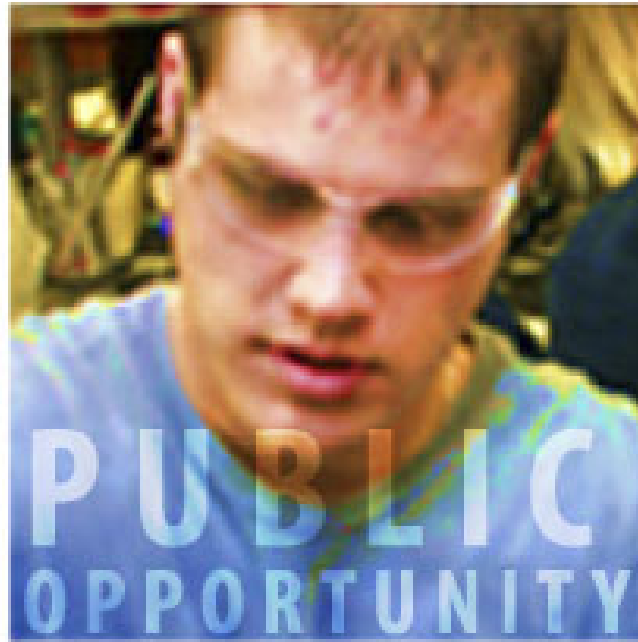
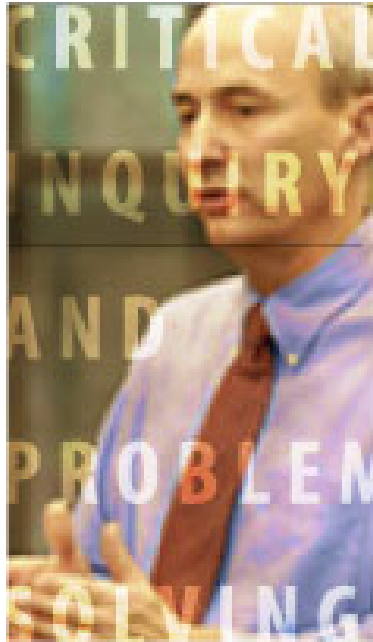
- Preserved the *institution* as the focus of the assessment
- Least intrusive to faculty and students
- Comprehensive
- Manageable
 - Resources

Initial Challenge

- **Goals of General Education**
 - Numerous
 - Difficult for faculty/staff/students to remember and reference
 - In some cases, challenging to measure

Solution

- Shared Learning Outcomes
- Common and integrated elements of the established goals of Gen Ed
- May help to eliminate some of the division that is present among Gen Ed and the Major



Shared Learning Outcomes

- **Critical Inquiry and Problem Solving**

Students will develop and communicate a range of interests and curiosities, engaging those interests and curiosities through critical thinking, reasoning, and problem solving

- **Public Opportunity**

Students will identify the resources and articulate the subsequent value of civic and community engagement.

Shared Learning Outcomes

- **Diverse and Global Perspectives**

Students will be exposed to diverse and global perspectives by developing and communicating an appreciation for the impact made in personal and professional lives.

- **Life Long Learning**

Students will utilize the skills indicative of an effective life-long learner actively pursuing knowledge and applying new information and skills in interdisciplinary approaches.

IAP Process at Illinois State University

- Fall pilot study included sections of four courses in the Inner and Middle core, as well as LinC sections.
- Spring will include 5 courses in the Inner and Middle core.
- Individuals and Civic Life – U.S. Tradition
- Public Opportunity – Political Engagement Project

IAP Process at Illinois State University

- Faculty indicate their intent to participate
- Assignment(s) is identified
- UAO collects and copies ungraded assignment (s)
- All artifacts are returned to the department/school the next business day
- Review teams complete analysis using developed rubric
- Data reported to CGE to formulate commendations/recommendations

What the IAP process is NOT

- It is not an assessment of an individual faculty member, course, or student.
- The artifacts are not “graded” based upon the parameters of the assignment; artifacts are reviewed only for their contribution to the primary traits of the shared learning outcome.
- NOTE – All primary traits have been developed from the original Gen Ed goals and applied to one or more of the 4 Shared Learning Outcomes.

Next Steps

- The pilot study will provide valuable information to help us refine the system
- Complete review process requirements
- Begin direct marketing efforts with departments/schools/faculty

Campus Implementation

- Fall 2008 all-campus roll out
- [Find your course...](#)

Fall 2008	Public Opportunity
Spring 2009	Critical Inquiry and Problem Solving
Fall 2009	Diverse and Global Perspectives
Spring 2010	Lifelong Learning
Fall 2010	Critical Inquiry and Problem Solving
Spring 2011	Public Opportunity
Fall 2011	Lifelong Learning
Spring 2012	Diverse and Global Perspectives

Important Contributors

- Dr. Sally Parry – Director – Gen Ed
 - CGE
- General Education Assessment Task Force
 - Dr. Bob Broad
 - Mr. Chad Kahl
 - Dr. Claire LaMonica
 - Ms. Danielle Lindsey
 - Dr. Ken Newgren
 - Dr. Sally Parry
 - Dr. Paul Walker
 - Mr. Matthew Fuller – Assistant Director – UAO
 - Dr. Sara Campbell & Dr. John Poole – 2006-2007
- Assessment Advisory Council

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