2011-2012

[IUPUI GENERAL STUDIES DEGREE ASSESSMENT REPORT]

This report is a review of IUPUI's General Studies Degree program. It dictates student learning outcomes and goals for the General Studies degree. It also details plans for career and academic development, as well as, current assessment techniques.

IUPUI General Studies Degree
Program Assessment Report for 2011-2012

Current Status of the General Studies Program at IUPUI

The Indiana University School of Continuing Studies (SCS), created in 1975, was given responsibility for the Bachelor of General Studies degree (BGS) at each IU campus. The programs were similar in many respects, but also unique to each campus structure. Following the recommendation from a study commissioned by President McRobbie, the decision was made to close the system wide school at the conclusion of the 2011 – 2012 academic year. Each campus was instructed to prepare a plan to transition the degree to a new academic home effective July 1, 2012.

Revised and approved by IFC Academic Affairs Committee January 12, 2012

Through June 30, 2015, Indiana University should transfer the degree conferral of the Bachelor of General Studies program at IUPUI to the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts. Academic oversight will continue to be provided by a campus-wide faculty advisory committee. In early 2015, the academic oversight and administrative structure should be reviewed and reconsidered.

The General Studies Degree Program is administered by the IUPUI Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) along with other programming departments: Center for Adult Lifelong Learning and the Community Learning Network. The key role of the IUPUI Division of Continuing Studies is to increase access for professional development, community outreach and degree completion through multiple delivery formats.

General Studies brings a college education to those who have been prevented from beginning or completing work in a traditional degree program because of work schedules, domestic responsibilities, or logistical programs. The program enables nontraditional students to complete a degree in General Studies at their own pace and their own location.

General Studies takes pride in providing quality and flexible academic advising. General Studies offers day and evening advising appointments at our off campus locations: Park 100 Learning Center (71st & Zionsville), Greenwood Learning Center and Stewart Center (downtown). Appointments are available until 7:00 pm. We also offer Online Interactive Advising, during which students can have advising in the privacy of your own home. Online Advising is available during regular office hours and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00-11:00 pm.

I. Student Learning Outcomes

General Studies program is a unique multidisciplinary degree completion program that offers adult learners the opportunity of a wide variety of individualize degree options. Student take courses in a broad range of subjects tailored to their interest, goals, or career needs. Many students use their General Studies degree to move to better positions, obtain job security, or to enter graduate school.

To earn a Bachelors of General Studies, students must successfully complete a minimum of 120 credit hours.

Each student will have an introductory knowledge of selected courses (12 hours) in each of the following three learning areas:

a. **Arts and Humanities:** Students are provided knowledge and informative frameworks through which to reflect on human history, assess the difficulties of determining moral values, appreciate the range and value of human emotion and thoughts, and to be sensitive to the varieties of aesthetic expression.

Departments that offer courses that fulfill the arts and humanities distribution requirements include:

AFRO African Am. Studies	**FINA** Fine Arts	**WLAC** World Lang. & Culture
AMST American Studies	**FOLK** Folklore	***Foreign Languages***
ASL American Sign Language	**HER** Herron Art	**FREN** French
CLAS Classical Studies	**HIST** History	**GER** German
COMM Comm. & Theater	**HPSC** Hist & Phil of Sci	**ITAL** Italian
CMLT Comparative Literature	**MUS** Music	**NELC** Near Eastern
ENG English	**PHIL** Philosophy	Lang. & Culture (Arabic)
FILM Film Studies	**REL** Religious Studies	**SPAN** Spanish

b. **Science and Math:** Students will investigate, evaluate and develop skills to comprehend and apply basic principles of scientific methodology and differentiate among facts and theories.

Departments that offer courses that fulfill the science and math distribution requirements include:

AST Astronomy	**CHEM** Chemistry	**GEOL** Geology	**MICR** Microbiology
BIOL Bioloy	**CSCI** Computer Science	**MATH** Mathematics	**PHYS** Physics

c. **Social and Behavioral:** Students will analyze and understand the role social, economic, cultural, and political institutions play in shaping human thought and behavior.

Departments that offer courses that fulfill the social and behavioral: distribution requirements include:

ANTH Anthropology	**PSY** Psychology	**SOC** Sociology
ECON Economics	**POLS** Political Science	**WOST** Women's Studies
GEOG Geography		

3. Each student will develop one of the above three areas as it substantial body of knowledge by completing an additional eighteen (18) credit hours in that area.
4. Each student will complete additional course work to fulfill electives requirements. Electives permit students to explore other areas of interest and to tailor the degree using minors and certificates to his or her individual needs. General Studies students may use electives to simultaneously fulfill requirements to obtain minors and certificates.

II. Goals for General Studies Degree

1. Provide adult students with a degree program that offers quality, convenience, reputable advising and personal satisfaction.
2. Enable transfer students and Veterans to maximize the number of credit hours applicable towards the degree.
3. Provide students with means of professional advancement and development of specific career related skills.

III. General Studies Academic and Career Development:

- Academic Planning: Students will assess their own knowledge, skills, and abilities and develop plan of study for degree completion.
- Career Planning: Student will identify classes, minors and/or certificates that will enable them to achieve their career goals upon graduation.

IV. Current Assessment Activities

General Studies students complete courses from academic units across the IUPUI campus. IUPUI has a clear proven track record of effective, continuous assessment within the various disciplines throughout campus. While General Studies program leadership and staff rely heavily upon the inherent assessment processes that exist at the campus, unit, and department levels, General Studies does have some mechanisms in place to ensure program quality.

The General Studies Faculty Advisory Council was re-convened in Fall 2012. The purpose of the IUPUI General Studies Faculty Advisory Council is to provide academic oversight; ensure the quality of the program; facilitate communication within the university; make recommendations to assure degree quality, and address concerns related to the degree.

This constituent group is composed of faculty who are:
1. full-time, tenured or tenure-track.
2. committed to the recruitment, retention and program completion of adult learners (access and success).

3. willing to serve as a voice for adult students on the IUPUI campus

The goals of the General Studies Faculty Advisory Council are:

1. Advocate for changes or improvements for the program.
2. Advise the administration of the Division of Continuing Studies and the on policies affecting adult students.
3. Promote General Studies within the University and the community.
4. Interact and coordinate with the University-Wide Faculty Council
5. Develop a broader understanding among the campus departments of the strategic goals and challenges of the General Studies program.
6. Provide a forum for discussion of the degree.
7. Review and apply research as it relates to adult learning.

From a curriculum standpoint, General Studies student must demonstrate six competencies through successful competition (grade C or better) of a 3-credit hour courses drawn from faculty approved courses. The variety of courses approved to satisfy the competencies tie into the Principle of Undergraduate Learning (PUL). Each student will demonstrate competency in each of the following area:

1. **Communication/Written/Oral:** Students effectively communicate in written or spoken language to diverse audiences. Students comprehend, evaluate and respectfully respond to the ideas of others.

Courses that that fulfill the written and oral competency include:

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION							
BUS	X204						
ENG	**W131**	**W150**	**W233**	**W301**	**W331**	**W365**	**W401**
	W132	**W206**	**W250**	**W310**	**W350**	**W370**	**W411**
	W140	**W231**	**W290**	**W315**	**W360**	**W398**	**W490**
TCM	220	320	340	350			
JOUR	**J200**	**J201**					

ORAL COMMUNICATION							
COMM.	C180	C228	C392	C401	R110	R310	R321	T205
	C223	C322	C393	C481	R227	R320	T133	T333
NURS	**B231**						
TCM	370						

2. **Mathematical/ Quantitative Reasoning:** Students demonstrate the ability to use symbolic, graphical, numerical, and written representations of mathematical ideas.

Courses that that fulfill the written competency include

QUANTITATIVE REASONING (MATH)					
AHLT	**M120**				
BUS	A202	A311			
CIT	**122**	**220**	**230**	**240**	**330**
CSCI	230				
ECON	**E270**				
EET	105				
ENGR	**196**				
GEOG	G488				
HPER	**TCM 241**				
MATH	MATH M118 or higher				
MET	**156**				
NURS	H355				
PHIL	**P162 (replaces P262)**	**P265**	**P365**		
PSY	B305				
SOC	**R359**				
SPEA	E326	K300	H322	V348	H352
STAT	**301**	**302**	**311**		

3. **Computer**: Students locate, critically evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in various traditional and new media formats. Students understand the social, legal, and ethical issues related to information and its use.

Courses that that fulfill the computer literacy competency include:

COMPUTER LITERACY						
ART	**117**	**200**				
BUS	A337	K201				
CIMT	**102**	**205**				
CNT	ART 120	ART 117				
CIT	**All Courses**					
CSCI	All Courses					
EDUC	**W200**	**W205**	**W210**	**W223**	**W310**	**W410**
EE	263	359	361	446	466	
EET	**206**	**305**				
GEOG	G237	G336	G337	G338		
HPER	**P200**					
JOUR	J100	J463/563				

MET	105	222	328			
MUS	M110					
RHI	**251**					
SLIS	L140	L401				
SWK	**S300**					
SPEA	E325	V261	V369			
SPV	**360**					

4. **Diversity:** Students appreciate local and global diversity and are respectful and empathetic during personal interactions. Students will effectively collaborate and resolve conflicts, and are able to function as engaged members of society, who are willing and able to assume leadership roles.

Courses that that fulfill the diversity competency include:

DIVERSITY						
AFRO	**A150**	**A202**				
AMST	A301	A302	A303			
ANTH	**A104**	**E320**	**E310**	**E356**		
FOLK	F101					
HIST	**A352**	**H105**	**H106**	**H108**	**H109**	**H221**
INTG	I300					
LSTU	**L385**					
NURS	B104					
REL	**R133**	**R173**	**R212**	**R283**	**R339**	
SOC	R314	R325	R415	R537	R561	
SWK	**S100**					
WOST	W105					

V.   New General Studies Electives

General Studies offers two new elective courses which will use course evaluations and self-assessment summative evaluations to focus on student learning outcomes.

The General Studies Internship allows students to gain relevant work experience while acquiring credit toward their degree under the supervision of the General Studies Department. The internship must be relevant to student's academic and career plan and contain tasks that will help with higher level skill-building and thinking.

General Studies Capstone assists student in creating a tool for authentic assessment of their proficiency, skill, style and talent using the IUPUI Principles of Undergraduate Learning as minimum learning standards. It offers students an opportunity to make an assessment of their complete education experience and program.

IUPUI General Studies Student
Principles of Undergraduate Learning Alignment

General Studies Courses	PUL 1 Core Communication & Quantitative skills	PUL 2 Critical Thinking	PUL 3 Integration & Application of Knowledge	PUL 4 Intellectual Depth, Breadth, & Knowledge	PUL 5 Understanding Society and Culture	PUL 6 Values and Ethics
Internship		✓	✓		✓	✓
Capstone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

VI.   Evidence of Student Learning

As noted, the General Studies degree program is composed of courses that are courses completed from academic units across the IUPUI campus which makes the assessment of student learning complex. It is difficult to capture the holistic educational experience of students learning from different units; however, the General Studies degree program graduates approximately 400 students a year.

In 2011-12 academic year, 33% of General Studies students completed minors or certificate. Below is the break down of the number of credit hours that General Studies students are taking from other academic units for Fall 2012.

School	Credit Hours
Business	287
Education	24
Engineering and Technology	1349
Herron Art	158
Health, Physical Education and Recreation	1048
Informatics	142
Journalism	18
Liberal Arts	3508
Medicine	1
Military	9
Nursing	5
Public Health	102
Science	1444
Health and Rehabilitation Science	90
Library and Information Science	6
Public and Environmental Affairs	179

Social Work	288
University College	3
Total	**8661**

VII.   Use of Student Learning Evidence

Throughout the evolution of the General Studies program mission, the program has continued to meet the ever-changing needs of the institution, student, and community by integrating program planning and partnership with the community.

The General Studies degree only offers two elective courses, therefore, it is noteworthy to mention that the degree is unique and set apart from other degree granting programs with large number of courses and majors. Although it is highly encouraged for students to complete the degree in 6 years or less, time is not a limiting factor for students in General Studies.

VIII.   Assessment Plans

General Studies degree program has assessed a need to generate reliable qualitative and quantitative data of student learning outcomes for both the internship and capstone course. General Studies has also assessed a need to identify a method to track students who are working towards graduate degrees as an evidence of student learning.