IUPUC General Studies Degree
Program Assessment Report for 2011-2012
May 31, 2012

Current Status of the General Studies Program at IUPUC

Since its inception in 1975, the Indiana University School of Continuing Studies (SCS) has administered the Bachelor of General Studies degree (BGS) at each IU campus, under a system-wide umbrella. In 2011 it was announced that SCS would be closed at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 academic year. The Bachelor of General Studies Degree would continue as an IU program; students in the program would be transitioned to other schools on IU campuses. Each campus was charged with determining a new academic home for the degree and a plan for the transition.

The loss of the SCS "umbrella" also shifted responsibility for academic oversight as well as assurance of learning to each individual campus. On April 20, 2012, the IUPUC Faculty Senate approved the Division of Liberal Arts as the new academic home for the BGS at IUPUC, effective July 1, 2012. Also approved was a reorganization of the program's faculty advisory council to include two faculty members each from the Divisions of Liberal Arts and Science and one faculty member from the Division of Business. The faculty advisory council is charged with oversight of the program degree requirements, certification of graduates, monitoring of student performance of program competencies, and recommendations through appropriate venues for indicated program improvements.

Student Learning Outcomes for Bachelor of Science in General Studies at IUPUC

Upon completion of the General Studies program, students will acquire the following competencies:

I.   **General Studies Core Competencies**
   i.   ***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.
   ii.   ***Diversity:*** Students appreciate local and global diversity and are respectful and empathetic during personal interactions. Students effectively collaborate and resolve conflicts.
   iii. ***Mathematical/Quantitative Reasoning:*** Students demonstrate the ability to use symbolic, graphical, numerical, and written representations of mathematical ideas. Students compute, organize data and effectively problem-solve using quantitative tools.
   iv.   ***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.

II.   **General Studies Degree Requirements**
   i.   ***Arts and Humanities:*** Students interpret and critique the historical, cultural and literary dimensions of human experience. Students develop an appreciation of the aesthetic value of these subjects.
   ii.   ***Science and Math:*** Students investigate, evaluate and develop skills to comprehend and apply basic principles of scientific methodology and differentiate among facts and theories.

        iii.   ***Social and Behavioral:*** Students compare, contrast and construct an understanding of the role social, economic, cultural and political institutions play in shaping human thought and behavior. Students are able to function as engaged members of society, who are willing and able to assume leadership roles.

III.   **General Studies Academic and Career Development**
        i.   ***Academic Planning:*** Students assess their own knowledge, skills and abilities and develop plans of study for degree completion.
        ii.   ***Career Planning:*** Students identify classes, minors and/or certificates that will enable them to achieve career goals upon graduation.
        iii.   ***Distance Education:*** Students develop computing and communication technology skills in the growing open and distance learning environment.

Assessment Plan

Student learning outcomes for the BGS will be assessed through the assessment of the campus (IUPUC) General Education Program and disaggregated for review by the General Studies Faculty Advisory Council. Findings of the assessment will be used to implement needed changes to the curriculum of the BGS.

Assessment Findings

Comparing the present Student Learning Outcomes for the BGS with those of the IUPUC campus (Appendix 1), and IUPUI's Principles of Undergraduate Learning (Appendix 2) has revealed missing baccalaureate competencies. A draft proposal to correct this incongruence is being written and will move through IUPUC campus governance during the 2012-2013 academic year. In addition, preliminary findings indicate a need for a capstone course to incorporate those competencies.

Actions Taken in Response to Findings

Work accomplished to date includes
- changes in the structure and governance of the BGS to include more and better oversight by resident faculty
- development of an assessment plan which will produce first findings in 2012-2013 year
- a proposal for changes to the student learning outcomes is in process
- design work has begun for a capstone course

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Comparison Matrix for Student Learning Outcomes:
General Studies and General Education at IUPUC

General Studies ➡ / General Education ⬇	Communication (Written and Oral)	Diversity	Mathematics/ Quantitative Reasoning	Computer	Arts and Humanities	Science and Math	Social and Behavior	Academic Planning	Career Planning	Distance Education
Core Communication	X									
Mathematical Modeling			X							
Natural, Quantitative, and Information Sciences				X		X				
Arts and Humanities					X					
Social and Historical Studies							X			
World Languages and Cross-Cultural Inquiry		X								
Researched Writing	X									
Ethical Inquiry										

Table: IUPUC General Education Student Learning Outcomes and Principles of Undergraduate Learning Alignment

	PUL 1 Core Communication and Quantitative Skills	PUL 2 Critical Thinking	PUL 3 Integration and Application of Knowledge	PUL 4 Intellectual Depth, Breadth, and Adaptiveness	PUL 5 Understanding Society and Culture	PUL 6 Values and Ethics
SLO 1	a,b,c,d					
SLO 2	a,b,d,e	f				
SLO 3	a,b,c,d	a,b,c,d				
SLO 4	a,b	a,b				
SLO 5		c	a,b			
SLO 6	d	f	b,c			
SLO 7	b	c	a		d	e
SLO 8				a	c	b
SLO 9		b	a			
SLO 10		b,d,e	c			
SLO 11		a,c		d,e	b	
SLO 12					a,b,c,d,e	
SLO 13	a,b,c,d					
SLO 14		b			c,d	
SLO 15						a,b,c,d,e

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