University Student Learning Outcomes Assessment - Instrument Determination/Timeline

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Instrument Determination

Fall 2012

The Critical and Creative Thinking Student Learning Outcome Assessment Discovery Committee was formed and included thirteen faculty from around campus. Chaired by Dr. Mike Russell, the task of this group was to research and evaluate the various instruments (e.g., rubrics, standardized tests) that would best assess the critical and creative thinking abilities of our graduating (exit) students. The committee presented recommendations to the faculty at large in focus groups held during the first week of December. Participants were asked to provide feedback regarding their preferences about which assessment instruments they believe would best assess Washburn’s definition of critical and creative thinking. The following instruments were recommended:

Critical Thinking – AAC&U Value Rubric (Piloted FY14; Conducted FY15)

Creative Thinking – Torrance Tests of Creativity (Conducted FY15)

Spring 2013

Outcome assessment discovery committees, chaired by Dr. Mike Russell, were formed to research and evaluate the various instruments (e.g., rubrics, standardized test) that would best assess the quantitative and scientific reasoning (12-member faculty team) and global citizenship/ethics/diversity (16-member faculty team) student learning outcomes of our graduating (exit) students. Results were shared through online PowerPoints with requests for faculty to review and submit recommendations:

Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning – Madison Assessment Test (Being Conducted FY16)

Global Citizenship/Ethics/Diversity (Conducted FY15)

Global Citizenship – Global Perspective Inventory
Ethics – Defining Issues Test – 2
Diversity – Mollie-Guzman University Diversity Scale – Short Form

Based on the difficulty of administering multiple standardized tests during the testing year, the decision was made to utilize components of the Missouri-Study of Leadership standardized test to assess the USLO.

Instrument Determination (cont.)

Fall 2013

Outcome assessment discovery committees, chaired by Dr. Mike Russell, were formed to research and evaluate the various instruments (e.g., rubrics, standardized test) that would best assess the communication (16-member team) and information and technology literacy (9-member team) student learning outcomes of our graduating (exit) students. Results were shared through online PowerPoints with requests for faculty to review and submit comments regarding the recommendations of the teams:

Written Communication – AAC&U VALUE Rubric (Piloted FY15; Being Conducted FY16)

Oral Communication – AAC&U VALUE Rubric (Piloted FY15; Being Conducted FY16)

NonVerbal – No standalone instruments were found - tends to be linked to (inseparable from) oral communication

Information Literacy – Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (Will Be Conducted FY17)

Technology Literacy – No assessment instrument was discovered which matched the USLO definition.

Students Completing USLO Instruments

Critical Thinking (VALUE Rubric) – 157 junior/senior students

Torrance Tests of Creativity – 165 senior students

Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership – 1,558 undergraduate students

Written Communication Pilot - 157 junior/senior students

Oral Communication Pilot – 35 senior students

Madison Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning – 39 senior students

(Fall 2015 – additional students will complete Spring 2016)