

TO: LOWG/APSC
FROM: Brenda Bretz, Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
DATE: August 22, 2016
RE: Assessment of All-College Graduation Requirements

Having completed the cycle of assessment for each academic program, we now turn our focus to the all-college graduation requirements. [See link to 4-year assessment schedule on the APSC page: <http://www.dickinson.edu/info/20027/academics/2985/assessment>]

During the 2016-2017 Academic Year, we will:

- Approve Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, Comparative Civilizations and Quantitative Reasoning
- Gather data for each of the graduation requirements

During the 2017-2018 Academic Year, we will:

- Analyze/discuss data
- Report on those findings and recommend appropriate response

Graduation Requirements for which SLOs have not yet been approved by faculty

(Arts, Comparative Civilizations, Humanities, Quantitative Reasoning, Social Sciences)

- Faculty working groups¹ completed the task of drafting SLOs.
- The draft SLOs are being revised based on feedback from relevant departments.
- SLOs will be sent to APSC for approval by mid-September so that they can be approved by the full faculty at the October 2016 meeting.
- Once approved, faculty who teach courses meeting those requirements can gather data in the fall if they have a relevant assignment already in place that addresses the newly approved SLOs. (Faculty will not be required to create an assignment in the middle of the semester).
- During spring 2017, all faculty teaching courses that meet graduation requirements will gather data.

¹*Arts*: Todd Arsenault, Sherry Harper-McCombs, Nicoletta Marini-Maio, Antje Pfannkuchen, Sarah Skaggs, Todd Wronski; *Comparative Civilizations*: Shawn Bender, Dan Cozort, Ann Hill, Ed Webb, Rui Zhang; *Humanities*: Mara Donaldson, Siobhan Phillips, Jorge Sagastume; *Social Sciences*: Terry Barber, Heather Bedi, Toby Reiner, Steve Riccio; *Quantitative Reasoning*: Steve Erfle, Noreen Lape, Sarah Niebler, Sherry Ritchey

Graduation Requirements with Approved SLOs

(Lab Science, Language, Sustainability, US Diversity; see below re: FYS and WiD)

- Faculty working groups² met to determine how to gather data for assessment of each requirement.
- In some cases, the faculty working groups also identified criteria for what constitutes “Met” for each of the SLOs.
- During fall 2016, faculty teaching these courses will gather data.
- During spring 2017, all faculty teaching courses that meet graduation requirements will gather data.

As a reminder, all faculty are required to participate in the assessment of the graduation requirements. However, because we are committed to making assessment manageable:

- faculty who teach courses that meet more than one graduation requirement will not be expected to gather data for each of those requirements.
- faculty who teach courses in a single semester that meet different requirements will not be expected to gather data in each of those courses.

Instead, we will ask faculty to choose the requirement for which they will gather data. The only exception would be if we do not have enough faculty gathering data on a particular requirement in which case LOWG/APSC may ask faculty to gather data on another requirement.

Faculty will use a form to report their data to Brenda Bretz, Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, who will prepare it for analysis. During the 2017-2018 academic year, a working group for the all-college graduation requirements (except those indicated below) will meet to analyze the findings and recommend on appropriate actions.

Who to Contact:

Noreen Lape as director of FYS and the Writing Program is coordinating the assessment of FYS and the Writing in the Discipline graduation requirements. Assessment for these two requirements will continue as it has in the past: Noreen will collect writing samples from the faculty teaching these courses which will be assessed by a group of paid volunteer faculty at the end of the academic year. No additional data collection for the assessment of these two requirements is required by the faculty.

Neil Leary as director of CSE is coordinating the assessment of the Sustainability graduation requirement. Data will be collected from 14 SCON courses, 7 this fall and 7 in the spring. The 7 fall courses have already been identified and relevant faculty contacted. The 7 spring semester courses have not been selected yet.

Brenda Bretz is coordinating the assessment of all other graduation requirements.

²*Lab Science*: Tiffany Frey, Jason Gavenonis, Marcus Key, Tony Morgan; *Language*: Asuncion Arnedo; Lucile Duperron; Jorge Sagastume; Magda Siekert; *US Diversity*: Asuncion Arnedo; Sarah Bair; Mariana Past; Jerry Philogene; Claire Seiler