

Point Park University Core Curriculum Assessment Process

In 2013-2014, the University adopted a new Core Curriculum consisting of three Fundamental courses, ten Foundation courses spanning eight themes, and one Capstone course. The Core Curriculum includes five learning outcomes:

1. Communication – Employ written and oral communication skills in order to convey clear and organized information to target audiences for specific purposes.
2. Information Literacy – Locate, evaluate and use information effectively, ethically, and legally from a variety of traditional and digital formats.
3. Problem Solving – Analyze problems and develop independent solutions
4. Global / Cultural Literacy – Analyze issues within their political, economic, socio-cultural, historical, and environmental contexts.
5. Creativity / Aesthetics – Recognize, define, analyze and interpret a variety of aesthetic expressions and/or demonstrate originality and inventiveness

Assessment of Core Curriculum (COAC – Approved March 2014)

Starting in Fall 2014, Point Park University will require all first-time, full-time freshmen to take three new Fundamentals courses: UNIV 101, ENGL 101, and COMM 101. Each of these courses will follow a course level assessment process in order to make improvements to these courses before the new Core is required by all students.

UNIV 101, City-University Life:

- Direct Assessment: Pre/Post Test
- Indirect Assessments: Student Surveys, Faculty Surveys
- Indirect Assessment: Formative measures

ENGL 101, College Composition:

- Direct Assessment: Portfolio Assessment scored by common rubric (Director of Composition)
- Indirect Assessment: Reflection essay
- Indirect Assessment: Formative measures

COMM 101, Oral Communication and Presentation:

- Direct Assessment: Pre/Post Test
- Indirect Assessments: Student Surveys, Faculty Surveys
- Indirect Assessment: Formative measures

The above course level assessments also may be used as embedded assessment of the core outcomes of Written and Oral Communication and Information Literacy. Written and Oral Communication, as well as Information Literacy outcomes, will be assessed annually.

Beginning in Fall 2015, the University will assess Foundation (theme) courses and the core outcomes of Problem Solving, Global Cultural Literacy and Creativity/Aesthetics. Each core outcome will be assessed using a common rubric. The schedule for outcomes assessment follows:

2015-2016 Problem Solving Outcome

2016-2017 Global Cultural Literacy Outcome

2017-2018 Creativity/Aesthetics Outcome

Annually: Communication and Information Literacy Outcomes

Assessment of the Core will be coordinated and reviewed annually by the Core Outcomes Assessment Committee (COAC) with assistance from the Assessment Coordinator.

The Fundamentals course and Writing Intensive course faculty leaders will plan and coordinate assessment with assistance from the Assessment Coordinator.

COAC will recommend improvements based on assessment results, and the Center for Teaching Excellence will offer appropriate professional development sessions/materials to assist with improvement in instruction and student learning. NSSE (administered in odd-numbered years) and SSI (administered in even-numbered years) will also be used as indirect measures of core outcomes where appropriate.

©Diane Maldonado for the Core Outcomes Assessment Committee

Curriculum Committee February. 2014

Faculty Assembly March. 2014

In order to view Core Curriculum Assessment results, including NSSE data, go to [the Center for Teaching Excellence's Blackboard page](#).