Jefferson Davis Community College  
General Education Program and Student Learning Outcomes

Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2007, 1:00 p.m., Hines Classroom 6

Present: Deborah Albritton, Carol Bates, Mike Tedder, Sue Laing, Cornelia Miller, Linda Miller

Next meeting: February 14, 2007, Hines Classroom 6

Items of Discussion

• General Education Student Learning Outcomes and statement for new catalog
• Revisit measuring SLOs across the curriculum
• Reminder to collect SLOs data and evaluate data at the end of spring
• No data will be collected summer

Discussion

The committee reviewed the general education student learning outcomes and the statement that will appear in the new catalog right before the associate in arts degree requirements. Slight changes were made in the wording of the SLOs. The statement and general education outcomes to be included in the catalog are attached.

Committee members discussed methods that might be used to measure student learning outcomes across the curriculum. The committee members decided to begin with a pilot program in the fall 2007 semester. We will attempt to determine if students who have taken English 101 are using effective communication skills in their other classes. Four subject areas have been identified to measure written communication skills: 1) math, 2) economics, 3) art, and 4) psychology. Faculty members in these four areas will incorporate an essay assignment in selected classes and include this assignment in their fall syllabi. Students in these classes who have already taken English 101 will be identified. Teams of faculty will grade the assignments using a grading rubric provided by the English faculty. The scores of those students who have taken English 101 will be compared to students who have not yet taken English 101.

Committee members were asked to remind faculty about collecting student learning outcomes for spring semester. At the end of spring/beginning of summer semester, data will be analyzed for fall and spring. Use of results will be determined, and new goals will be developed based on the results of data collected and analyzed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Bates
General Education Student Learning Outcomes

Faculty and staff are committed to enhancing student development through a variety of learning experiences while attending the college. This commitment includes maintaining the highest form of instruction that promotes success after graduation as students transfer to a four year university or enter the workplace. The general education courses provide the knowledge, skills, and values essential to all academic disciplines. These courses expose students to commonly recognized areas of knowledge, introduce students to diverse subject areas, and equip students with skills essential and necessary for careers and lifelong learning.

Emphasis is placed on the following student learning outcomes:

- Graduates will demonstrate effective composition skills.
- Graduates will demonstrate effective communication skills.
- Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of major historical events affecting their own culture and other cultures.
- Graduates will explain the contributions of diverse groups to the advancement of western civilization.
- Graduates will use computers to achieve academic, work-related, and personal goals.
- Graduates will demonstrate the ability to compute basic mathematical operations accurately, comprehend mathematical information, and utilize analytical thinking skills to solve problems.
- Graduates will exhibit an ability to use scientific reasoning and scientific methods to make observations, to answer questions, and to gather and interpret data.