

HLC Fact of the Day:
“HLC Assurance Argument: Core Component 4B”
(with specific focus on “general education assessment”)
(August 29, 2017)

In the HLC Criteria for Accreditation, Core Component 4B says: *The institution demonstrates a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning.*

In our Assurance Argument being prepared for HLC, this is part of what we say regarding general education assessment:

General Education Assessment

Assessment of the General Education Program has been an area of ongoing improvement for Lindenwood. The 2013 HLC Team observed that the program did not yet have fully articulated outcomes or measures for assessment. For three years, the university experimented with different methods of assessment, none of which succeeded in obtaining a satisfactory level of participation and reliability or satisfactory results. While schools used the results to make modifications to their programs (see 4.B.3), the small number of artifacts and haphazard collection practices made assessment efforts dubiously useful.

In 2015-16, Lindenwood initiated several measures to improve general education assessment. After the Lindenwood Outcomes Task Force reworked and clarified the ILOs (see 4.B.1), a General Education Task Force was able to revise the curriculum. As a result of those efforts, Lindenwood has a [revised general education curriculum](#) and a [new approach to its assessment](#). The GE curriculum now requires that every course map to at least two ILOs: one component of ILO 1 (a content area) and one component of one of the other three ILOs (a skill). These mapped ILOs are to be assessed in every section of the course. In 2016-17, faculty teaching general education courses in the Schools of Arts, Media, and Communications, Humanities, and Sciences piloted an assessment process using rubrics to evaluate student accomplishment of mapped outcomes as demonstrated by a course assignment. In 2017-18, general education assessment will be expanded to a sample of general education courses but covering the full range of ILOs. This will generate a considerable amount of data, allowing meaningful conclusions and appropriate interventions. To facilitate the assessment process, every school (St. Charles) and the Belleville campus has a GE Assessment Coordinator. In 2018-19, the assessment effort will be expanded to all general education courses.

To learn more about accreditation and Lindenwood’s comprehensive evaluation and site visit scheduled for November 6-7, 2017, and to see the countdown clock to the visit, go to the HLC page on the Lindenwood website here: <http://www.lindenwood.edu/about/higher-learning-commission/>.

Past HLC Facts are archived [here](#).

Questions? Contact David Wilson, Associate VP for Institutional Effectiveness, at DWilson@lindenwood.edu or x4737.