

General Studies Major Assessment Plan/Student Learning Outcomes

I. Overview of the General Studies major

The General Studies major requires the completion of 15 hours of upper-level (100-level) coursework from each of three of the five undergraduate colleges. The 45 semester hour major enables students to take a wide variety of courses from many different departments. This can lead to a well rounded liberal arts education. The major is not directed toward any particular vocation or certification; it is designed to lead students toward many different career paths. For example, a General Studies major may prepare for a career in event planning by taking public relations courses from the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, leisure services courses from the College of Education and business courses from the College of Business Administration.

The General Studies major is designed to enhance students' critical and analytical thinking skills through repeat exposure to interdisciplinary knowledge and to deepen their understanding of how interdisciplinary learning differs from traditional learning focused on single-subject topics.

II. Mission Statement

The purpose of the General Studies major is to provide a program of study that may appeal to students who are interested in integrating various academic disciplines. The major is designed to contribute to the development of students by providing unique and diverse educational experiences, which enables students to explore a wide range of scholarly endeavors.

III. Program Goals

- Promote student learning and academic success
- Provide a setting for academic and social support
- Provide students with information about relevant and applicable learning opportunities (e.g., student organizations, internships/Co-ops, volunteer programs, student exchange programs)
- Inform students about institutional policies and procedures
- Inform students about the purpose of the major and its requirements (e.g., how to read a degree audit)
- Explain the importance of interdisciplinary knowledge
- Assist students with career exploration and development

IV. Student Outcomes

Through the General Studies major, students will be able to:

- Discover the value of integrating various academic disciplines
- Tailor courses toward a specific career goal
- Combine course offerings in different academic departments to create a unique field of study
- Explore intellectual interests that are not realized through existing degree programs
- Understand the relations among perspectives derived from different disciplines

V. Evaluation Methods

- Indirect measures – program evaluation (pre/post-test) surveys, alumni surveys, student satisfaction surveys, etc.
- Documentation review from other on-campus sources (e.g., Career Services, Office of Institutional Research) – percentage of student who go on to graduate school, graduate follow-up studies, retention and transfer studies, job placement statistics, graduation rates

Method	Overall Purpose	Implementation
Program Evaluation (pre/post-test)	To gain information regarding students' understanding of interdisciplinary studies and to gauge their growth of knowledge.	To be administered when students declare the major and during the last semester prior to graduation.
Alumni Surveys	To gain information regarding employment history, life-long learning and job satisfaction.	To be administered to General Studies graduates every five years.
Student Satisfaction Surveys	To assess the services provided by the Individual Studies Office to General Studies majors.	To be administered to General Studies majors every three years.
Documentation Review	To gain information concerning successful employment, continuing education, job placement statistics, etc.	Information will be gathered from Career Services and the Office of Institutional Research and will be included in assessment reports as well as posted on the GS website.

VI. Use of Results

Assessment results will be used to improve the overall quality of the General Studies major and guide future practices. Results will be communicated and shared with the Dean of Continuing Education & Special Programs, General Studies majors, members of the General Studies Faculty Advisory Committee and other pertinent University faculty and staff.