

Academic Policy

Policy Title:	Assessment of Student Learning
Policy Number:	1104
Date Adopted:	2/18/2014
Version:	4.00
Review Cycle:	Biannual
Date Last Reviewed:	09/8/2023
Office Responsible:	Academic Deans
Reviewing Committee:	Academic Council
Related Policies:	
Related Laws:	

Policy Summary: Assessment of Student Learning

It is the policy of Jackson College to assess student learning at the course, program and degree levels on a regular basis to promote continuous improvement of student learning, as required for accreditation and mandated by the Board of Trustees. Jackson College's assessment of student learning ensures compliance of the Higher Learning Commission's requirement that the institution demonstrates a commitment to education achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning (criterion 4.B).

Scope

This policy applies to the College, courses, faculty and students.

In accordance with the Higher Learning Commission's Core Component 4.B, Jackson College demonstrates a commitment to educational achievement and improvement through ongoing assessment of student learning.

1. The institution has clearly stated goals for student learning and effective processes for assessment of student learning and achievement of learning goals.
2. The institution assesses achievement of the learning outcomes that it claims for its curricular and co-curricular programs.
3. The institution uses the information gained from assessment to improve student learning.
4. The institution's processes and methodologies to assess student learning reflect good practice, including the substantial participation of faculty and other instructional staff members.



Definitions

General Education Outcomes (GEOs) involve both traditional intellectual pursuits and practical skill development. As the general education requirements are designed to ensure breadth and depth of knowledge, they are met through carefully designed programs of study. These are skills which the JC Board of Trustees has determined students should develop or enhance while enrolled in the college.

General Education Outcomes:

1. Write clearly, concisely and intelligibly.
2. Recognize/Demonstrate the importance of equity and inclusion in a diverse society.
3. Demonstrate computational skills and mathematical reasoning.
4. Demonstrate scientific reasoning.
5. Understand human behavior and social systems, and the principles which govern them.
6. Identify/Cultivate artistic, linguistic, and theoretical perspectives across the human experience.

GEO Core courses specifically address one or more of the General Education Outcomes. The GEO Core topic is integrated throughout the content of the GEO Course; fundamental to the course design. Each student is required to complete a GEO Core course for each of the 6 GEOs in addition to their program requirements.

GEO Contextual topics are assessed during the last year of program level course(s). At this point, students will have already experienced a course in each of the GEO Core topics and are ready to apply their knowledge/skills to program content. Each student will exhibit proficiency with the Core GEO skills, as they relate to program requirements. For example, in a business program course, one cannot be successful without the ability to write clearly, concisely and intelligibly (GEO 1).

Policy Statement

Jackson College engages in assessment as an ongoing process designed to enhance continuous improvement of student learning. Assessment supports faculty in improving student learning by documenting what students are learning and where improvement should occur.

The four main levels of assessment include the following:

- Course: To what extent do students learn what they are supposed to learn in this course? How do we know?
- Program/Discipline: How well does this program/discipline prepare students for work or transfer? How do we know?
- General Education Outcomes (GEO): How well do students demonstrate General Education Outcomes at both the Core and Contextual levels? Upon course (Core) or program (Contextual) completion, to what extent have students developed into informed and educated persons who are competent within their discipline or program? How do we know?
- Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO) At graduation, to what extent have students achieved the transcendent abilities defined by the college? How do we know?



All full-time and part-time faculty will collect and report assessment data for identified learning outcomes once per year. Data will be reported to the lead faculty, who are responsible for reporting data for all sections of the course. Faculty are responsible for incorporating any resulting improvements and/or adjustments to courses, programs and degrees based on assessment outcomes.

For full details related to the assessment of student learning at Jackson College, please refer to <https://www.jccmi.edu/assessmentofstudentlearning/>.

Date Of Change	Description of Change	Responsible Party
10/4/13	Initial Release	C. DeGroote
2/19/14	Edits from Leadership Council	Chief of Staff
12/10/18	Clarified levels of assessment, added link to Assessment webpage	K. Thirolf
9.8.2023	Updated Levels of Assessment	C. Hughes.A. Price