

2009 General Education Curriculum Mapping Project

“The General Education Subcommittee conducted a curricular mapping assessment project to determine the extent to which these 10 Student Learning Outcomes were found in the AA, AS and AAS programs of study. The AA degree without an emphasis was not included in this project.

Initially, these outcomes were sought in course outlines for the General Education courses, and where it was found that the outcomes were not addressed in those General Education courses, they were sought in the program-specific courses. The results of the mapping project are shown in Table 1.”¹

Students who complete a degree at WNC are expected to demonstrate they:

1. Have college-level skills in reading, writing, and oral communication appropriate to their degree and/or emphasis.
2. Can use appropriate college-level mathematical skills.
3. Have problem solving, creative, and critical thinking skills.
4. Have effective and efficient learning skills, including the location and evaluation of information.
5. Have appropriate technological skills, including computer skills.
6. Know the basic principles and processes of government at the local, state, national and international levels.
7. Understand the methods of science and the role of science and technology in the modern world.
8. Understand and apply social science principles, including an appreciation of participation in civic affairs.
9. Have an understanding of fine arts or performing arts.
10. Understand the importance of cultural traditions, diversity, and ethics in the modern world.

¹ WNC General Education Program Review Report 2004-2009

2009 General Education Curriculum Mapping Project

Table 1: Programs of Study / General Education Student Learning Outcomes Matrix

		General Education Student Learning Outcomes									
Code	Program Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AA-CRJ	AA Criminal Justice	X	X	X	X			X		X	X
AA-MTH	AA Musical Theatre	X	X	X	X					X	X
AA-DS	AA Deaf Studies	X	X	X	X			X		X	X
AA-FA	AA Fine Arts	X	X	X	X					X	X
AASAUT	AAS Automotive Mechanics	X	X	X	X						X
AAS-RE	AAS Business - Real Estate Emphasis	X	X	X	X			X			X
AASACC	AAS Business - Accounting Emphasis	X	X	X	X			X			X
AASCPM	AAS Construction Project Management	X	X	X	X			X			X
AASCRJ	AAS Criminal Justice	X	X	X	X					X	X
AASDTA	AAS Drafting - Architectural Emphasis	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
AASDTC	AAS Drafting - Civil Emphasis	X	X	X	X	X					X
AASDTM	AAS Drafting - Mechanical Emphasis	X	X	X	X	X					X
AASECE	AAS Early Childhood Education	X	X	X	X	X					X
AASGBU	AAS General Business Emphasis	X	X	X	X	X		X			X
AASGIS	AAS Geographic Information Systems	X	X	X	X	X					X
AASGRC	AAS Graphic Communications	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
AASLEA	AAS Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement Academy	X	X	X	X			X			X
AASMG	AAS Business - Management Emphasis	X	X	X	X						X
AASMTT	AAS Machine Tool Technology	X		X	X			X			X
AASNET	AAS Computer Networking Technology	X	X	X	X			X			X
AAS-OT	AAS Business - Computer and Office Technology	X	X	X	X	X					X
AAS-RN	AAS Nursing	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
AASWLD	AAS Welding Technology	X	X	X	X			X			X
AS-BIS	AS Biological Sciences	X	X	X	X			X		X	X
ASCHEM	AS Chemistry	X	X	X	X			X		X	X
AS-CS	AS Computer Science	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
ASENGS	AS Engineering Science	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
ASGEOS	AS Geosciences	X	X	X	X			X		X	X
AS-MAT	AS Mathematics	X	X	X	X					X	X
ASPHYS	AS Physics	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X

2009 General Education Curriculum Mapping Project

Following are the findings and recommendations that resulted from this assessment project:

FINDING 1:

Curriculum mapping revealed that all programs reviewed can guarantee that students will be exposed to General Education Student Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10. However, depending on the specific General Education courses that a student may choose to take, programs cannot insure that all students will encounter General Education Student Learning Outcomes 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Recommendation: Since programs cannot insure a student's exposure to outcomes 6 and 8 for every possible course combination that fulfills the U.S. and Nevada Constitution requirement, the General Education Subcommittee recommends that all applicable course combinations do fulfill both outcomes 6 and 8.

Recommendation: Because course outlines for a few General Education science courses do not indicate that they address outcome 7, the General Education Subcommittee has recommended that all General Education science courses address outcome 7, and that recommendation is currently under consideration by faculty in the science disciplines.

Recommendation: While students are likely to need technological skills, including computer skills, many times during their studies, regardless of which program of study they are in, there are many programs that do not promise to address outcome 5. The General Education Subcommittee suggests that faculty of each program of study reexamine outlines of both the General Education courses and the program-specific courses in order to identify courses that should include outcome 5.

FINDING 2:

While all AA and AS programs expose students to outcome 9, currently no AAS degree programs, with the exception of nursing, require a course that addresses the fine arts outcome.

Recommendation: The General Education Subcommittee should work collaboratively with divisions offering AAS degrees to evaluate the need for those programs to add a fine art General Education requirement.

FINDING 3:

Several of the General Education Student Learning Outcomes at WNC have multiple foci, making them difficult to assess. For instance, outcome 1 combines reading, writing, and oral communication skills in the same outcome. Other outcomes with multiple foci are outcome 3 (creative and critical thinking), outcome 8 (social science principles and participation in civic affairs) and outcome 10 (cultural traditions, diversity, and ethics). The multidimensional aspect of some outcomes made the mapping project difficult because a course may address one aspect of the outcome but not the others.

Recommendation: The General Education Subcommittee recommends that preliminary discussions begin regarding the review and revision of General Education Student Learning Outcomes.