

General Education Outcomes (GEOs)



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Main Objectives of GEOs Initiative

1. Improve our General Education curriculum to benefit our students

What is General Education?

General Education is the distinguishing feature of higher education. It is a broadly-based core of humanistic knowledge and abilities, the acquisition of which is the distinctive characteristic of the educated person.

Note: Refer to Philosophy Statement in the "General Education Requirements" handout

Main Objectives of GEOs Initiative

2. Measure our institutional effectiveness

Relevant part of the Mt. SAC Mission Statement:

“To welcome all students and to support them in achieving their personal, educational, and career goals in an environment of academic excellence.”

GEOs Committee Members

- Joe Terreri - General Education Outcomes Coordinator (Co-Chair)
 - Barbara McNeice-Stallard - Director, Research & Institutional Effectiveness (Co-Chair)
 - Debbie Boroch - Interim Dean, Instructional Services
 - Darrow Soares - Student Learning Outcomes Coordinator
 - Priya Chaplot - Educational Research Assessment Analyst
 - Kate Scott - Information Technology Representative
 - John Vitullo - Faculty Representative Area A
 - **VACANCY** – Faculty Representative Area B
 - Kristine Allende - Faculty Representative Area C
 - **VACANCY** – Faculty Representative Area D
 - Melinda Bowen - Faculty Representative Area E
 - Mary Johnson – Vocational Area Representative
- Note: The GEOs Committee meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month in 6 – 144 from 9:45 to 11 am.

Today's Objectives

- Promote understanding of the GEOs initiative
- Obtain input on an Assessment Plan for GEOs that the GEOs Committee is developing

What is a GEO?

- **Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**: statements about what a student will think, know, feel, or be able to do as a result of an educational experience.
- **General Education Outcomes (GEOs)**: statements that define the knowledge, skills, and perspectives acquired by students who satisfy our general education requirements. These can be classified as relating to content knowledge from a range of disciplines, to expected intellectual abilities, or to the development of values commensurate with those of an educated citizen in a democratic society. ***A GEO IS A TYPE OF AN SLO.***

Characteristics of a GEO

- Shared - reinforced throughout and across the GE curriculum
- Central to the role of GE curriculum in accordance with the college mission
- Quantifiable - assessable
- Well defined
- Reviseable

Proposed GEOs for Mt. SAC

- Critical Thinking and Reasoning
- Effective Communication
- Quantitative Reasoning

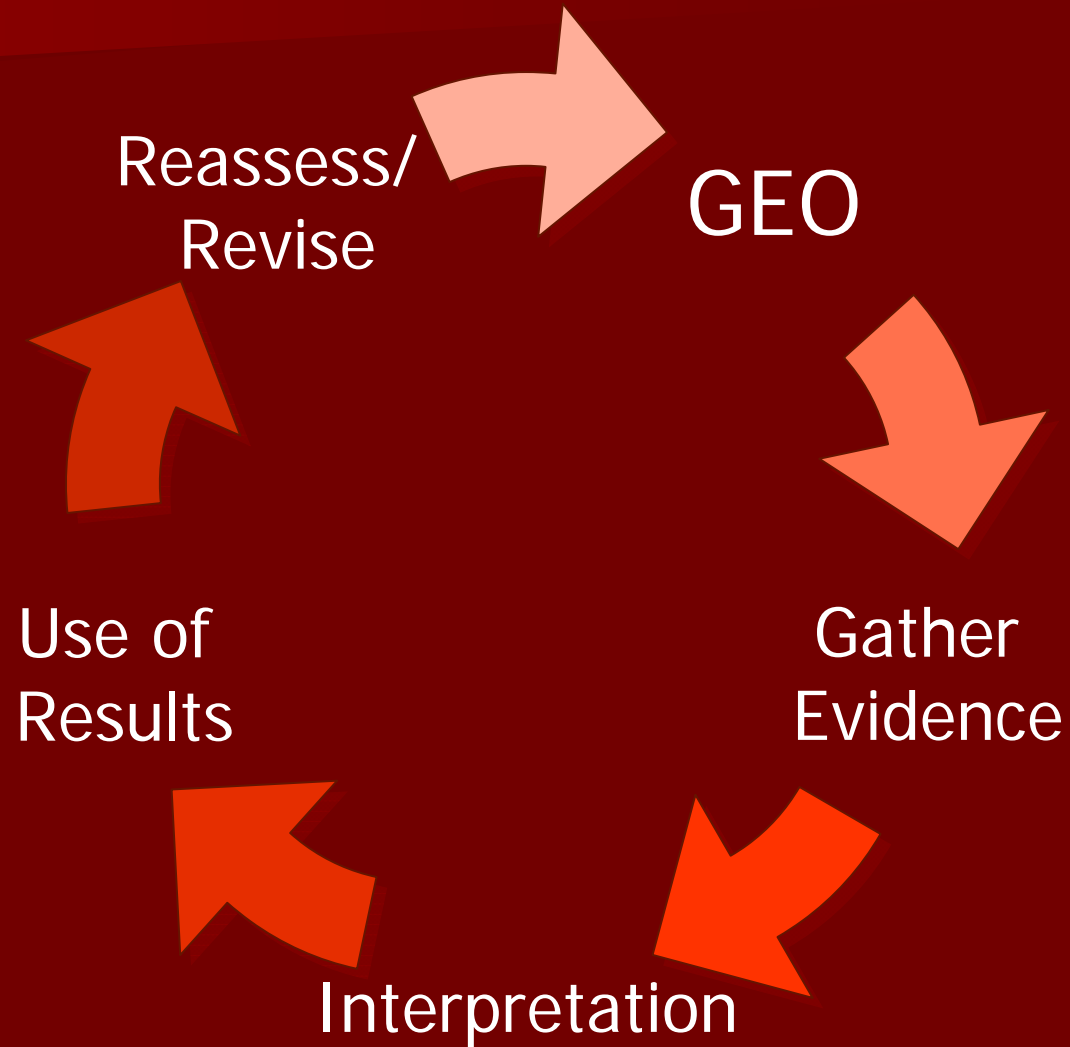
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Note: Refer to "Proposed General Education Outcomes" handout

Genesis of the GEOs Draft

- Input solicited from entire campus community in November 2007 survey
- Input solicited from attendees at Flex Day 2008 presentation
- Input from 75 participants broken into about 290 sentence fragments
- Fragments independently analyzed by GEOs Committee members to determine what GEO, if any, corresponds
- Committee consensus on analysis results in draft of GEOs

The Assessment Loop



The 5 Column Model for Outcomes Assessment

- Alignment with Unit Goals
- Intended Outcome
- Means of Assessment/Criteria for Success
- Summary of Data Collected
- Use of Results

Assessment Questions

- Why Assess?
- Who to Assess?
- What Defines an Assessment Activity?
- How is the Data Analyzed?
- Who Analyzes Data?
- Who Determines Use of Results?

Why Assess?

Assessment for Improvement

Vrs.

Assessment to Satisfy External
Accountability Requirements

Note: Refer to the "GEO Accreditation
Standard II.A.3" handout

Who to Assess?

- Any student enrolled in a GE course that involves the outcome being assessed
- Students enrolled in a GE course that involves the outcome being assessed and that have completed a specified number of GE units at Mt. SAC

Classification of Outcomes Assessment Models

- (C) Centralized: Ownership of assessment process belongs to an identified campus group
- (D) De - Centralized: Ownership of assessment process belongs to individual faculty members
- (H) Hybrid

What Defines an Assessment Activity?

- (C) Activity that results in student product using an externally devised assessment instrument
- (D) Activity that results in student product using course embedded assignments that are deemed appropriate measures of the outcome being assessed by the faculty member involved
- (H) The above, but guidelines provided by an external group are also considered in determination of an appropriate assessment activity

How is Data Analyzed?

Note: The ideas here will reflect the most common method used at other colleges, a scoring rubric

- (C) Using a shared rubric designed by an external group
- (D) Using rubrics designed by individual faculty members
- (H) Using a shared rubric designed by an external group that was generated using faculty input

More Than a Scoring Rubric

An Idea from Johnson County Community College:

- Simple, easy to use rubric
- Suggested assignment guidelines

Note: Refer to the “Speaking Outcome” handout

Who Summarizes Data?

- (C) An external defined group that has gone through a norming process to ensure consistency
- (D) Individual faculty members teaching the course from which data is collected

Who Determines Use of Results?

- (C) An external group provides recommendations
- (D) Any interested faculty member provides recommendations
- (H) An external group provides recommendations using faculty input

Timelines

- Spring 2008: Using POD session input, modify GEOs Web Site to include Assessment Plan ideas for campus consideration
- Spring 2008: Faculty survey that includes which GEO to assess first and opportunity for input on Assessment Plan
- End Spring 2008: Determine Assessment Plan
- Fall 2008: Implement Assessment Plan for one GEO
- Fall 2008: Lay groundwork for assessment of another GEO in Spring 2009
- Spring 2009: Determine use of Fall 2008 assessment results
- Spring 2009: Implement Assessment Plan for another GEO, using things learned from Fall 2008 assessment experience

Contact Information

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General Education Outcomes Committee webpage:

<http://www.mtsac.edu/instruction/generaled>