

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

## GENERAL EDUCATION OVERVIEW

Ferris State University will be implementing a revised General Education program beginning in the fall of 2017. It is a three-tiered system that is centered around eight core competencies. Like the preceding program, this is a course-based distribution model. Tier one (foundation competencies) include Communication and Quantitative Literacy. All bachelor's degree students are required to complete three written communication, one oral communication, and one quantitative literacy course. Tier two (distribution competencies) include Diversity, Natural Sciences, Culture, and Self and Society. All bachelor's degree students are required to complete two sciences (one with a lab), three culture, and three self and society courses. The diversity requirement is also satisfied by specific culture or self and society courses. The final tier (application competencies) consist of Collaboration and Problem Solving. Upper division courses within each academic program on campus have been identified to assess these competencies. Essentially, this component of the General Education program will be fulfilled by each major on campus. The administration of each core competency is overseen by a specific faculty subcommittee. These subcommittees all report to the Academic Affairs General Education Committee which is chaired by the General Education Coordinator.

## GENERAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

A total of four Ferris Learning Outcomes (FLOs) have been created for each of the eight core competencies (32 total FLOs). Four-point scoring rubrics (roughly modeled upon the VALUE rubrics) have also been created to evaluate student performances for each outcome. One outcome from each of the eight competencies is assessed every semester (e.g. in spring 2017, all competencies will be assessing outcome number two). This results in a two-year rolling cycle of assessment. A series of Excel workbooks have been created to simplify and standardize data collection. These instruments allow instructors to enter student-level assessments and generate a standard statistical summary for reporting. Different workbooks have been created to evaluate students based upon rubric scores, assignment raw scores, pre-/post-tests, and nationally normed exams. All assessment data is stored using TracDat. Meta-analysis of the aggregated data is used to create a composite picture of the current state our General Education program. Ferris is currently considering augmenting this course-based assessment with periodic external direct measures (such as CLA or CAAP).

## ANY OTHER LEAP EFFORT OUTSIDE OF YOUR GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

In advance of our next HLC accreditation visit (2020), Ferris is carrying out a Quality Initiative project. As part of this project, each academic college will be reporting ways in which they have improved student learning in their programs. Many of these plans will involve LEAP materials directly or indirectly.