

The University of Michigan-Flint

During 2008-09, the University of Michigan-Flint adopted a general education program which is characterized by a mandatory First-Year Experience course, English composition, coursework within eight categories – fine arts, humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, finance and quantitative reasoning, health and well being, global studies, and technology – and a capstone experience. In addition, the distributional portion of the General Education program is based upon 12 learning outcomes – five of which must be embedded in *every* course seeking inclusion in the curriculum. Three of the five will be assessed. The broad goals and outcomes are as follows:

Integration into the Learning Community of the University of Michigan-Flint

1. Reflect on one's own learning processes
2. Demonstrate facility with research methods
3. Demonstrate the ability to think critically
4. Demonstrate the ability to think creatively

Enhanced Communication Skills: Written, Verbal and Non-Verbal

5. Produce competent written work
6. Participate in dialogue that involves respectful and careful listening
7. Use visual or non-verbal tools to enhance and decode messages

Enhanced Breadth and Interconnectedness of Knowledge

8. Demonstrate knowledge of culture and the arts, social structure and process, and the physical and natural world
9. Demonstrate knowledge of economics, finance, and quantitative literacy; health and well-being; and science and technology
10. Use multiple perspectives and methodologies to analyze real or hypothetical problems

Engaged Citizenship: Local to Global

11. Investigate the nature of citizenship
12. Apply knowledge to complex issues such as social justice, globalization, economic growth and distribution, environmental sustainability, public health, etc., in increasingly broad spheres of influence

Assessment of Student Learning

General Education requirements took effect in the Fall of 2010 and the university began assessing the outcomes within the First Year Experience. The implementation of the assessment plan for the General Education curriculum as a whole began a year later in the Fall of 2011. Given the magnitude of the number of courses and their associated learning outcomes, the assessment of student learning within the General Education program at the University of Michigan-Flint is embedded, incremental and focused. The assessment of the twelve outcomes will be accomplished on a rotational basis with one or two student learning outcomes serving as the outcome “du jour.” Faculty apply the outcome being assessed using the rubric developed for that purpose. Results are compiled in TK20.

The University of Michigan-Flint has not engaged in efforts specific to LEAP but is a member and well aware of AAC&U and LEAP and considered them and their rubrics when developing and then assessing General Education.

Currently both the FYE courses and the process by which courses become eligible for general education designation are under review by the General Education Curriculum Committee.