

Assessing and Meeting the Goals and Objectives of GEP 101



HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE SCHOLARLY COMPONENT & ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN YOUR CLASS

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Goal 1



Students view themselves as scholars and understand the role of scholarship in the University and larger society

Ways to Meet Goal 1



- Engage first-year students in the scholarly process
- Undergraduate Research is a “High Impact” activity
 - ✦ Associated with Student Success and Retention
- Tied to PA, by collaborating on research projects exploring “enduring question”
 - ✦ Poverty
 - ✦ High School drop out
 - ✦ Childhood obesity
 - ✦ Sustainability
 - ✦ Economic crisis

Ways to Meet Goal 1



- Create multidisciplinary collaborations around enduring questions
- Encourage inquiry and discussion that is public and open for peer review
- Go through then entire research process
 - ✦ Review the literature
 - ✦ Discuss with peers how to best conduct the research
 - ✦ Discuss the connection between the question and Public Affairs
 - ✦ Design an appropriate research project
 - ✦ Formulate hypotheses
 - ✦ Communicate the results orally and in writing

Ways to Facilitate Achievement of Goal 1



- Create an online network for GEP 101 instructors and students
 - ✦ Supported through Blackboard management system

- Present a list of enduring questions to choose from
 - ✦ Create multidisciplinary collaborations around questions
 - ✦ Start today! Sign up sheet available and discuss at your tables later

- Create a forum to formally present results of scholarly work
 - ✦ Scholarly forum in the Spring semester

Ways to Assess Goal 1



- Examine the collaborations formed around enduring questions
- Evaluate quality of the research projects
 - Literature review
 - Measures used
 - Results obtained
 - Conclusions and Summary of impact
- Number of students presenting their work at the GEP 101 research forum
- Changes in ability to think, behave, and interact like a scholar in the field

Ways to Assess Goal 1



- Quality and depth of discussions on online networking site
- Examine impact of community
- Student engagement
 - National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
 - Engagement questions (hand-out)
- Student retention
- Student success

Goal 2



Students comprehend the importance of the University's Public Affairs Mission, which includes *community engagement, cultural competence and ethical leadership*

Ways to Meet and Assess Goal 2



- Several opportunities to enhance Public Affairs understanding
 - ✦ Enduring research questions pilot project
 - ✦ GEP 101 Service-Learning component
 - ✦ Learning Communities
 - ✦ The Common Reader experience

- Public affairs Self-Report Scale
 - ✦ Levesque-Bristol and Cornelius-White (2010)
 - ✦ Consult hand-out

Goal 3



Students establish *campus connections* and a supportive network of faculty, staff, and students

Ways to Meet and Assess Goal 3



- Exposure to campus resources
- Awareness and use of campus resources
- Involvement with co-curricular activities
- Learning objectives attained from participating in co-curricular activities
- Membership in student groups/organizations
- Perceptions of working relationship with instructor and advisor
 - ✦ Learning climate Scale
 - ✦ Student Satisfaction Scale (hand-out)

Goal 4



Students develop knowledge of their abilities and skills related to the pursuit of their academic and personal goals

Ways to Meet and Assess Goal 4



- Involvement in undergraduate research is a challenging goal
- Personal Development
 - ✦ Self-Regulation Scale (hand-out)
- Engagement
 - ✦ Scores on National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
 - ✦ Similar engagement questions (hand-out)
- Development of Skills
 - ✦ GPA
 - ✦ Course grades
 - ✦ Development of competencies from course learning activities (handout)

Assessment Loop

