Assessing Student Learning General Education

GOOD PRACTICE CASE STUDIES

MARILEE J. BRESCIANI

Assessing Student Learning in General Education covers several case studies of good practices. The purpose of the book is explained as an outline for educators of various approaches to education. The evaluation process in education is just as variable as the methods of teaching. The book covers multiple teaching approaches and methods of evaluation while covering the challenges that ensue.

The selection of case studies in this book is based on Seymour Papert's constructionist learning philosophy. "Papert's philosophy was used in the context that those delivering the learning are learning about how to improve student learning when they evaluate the delivery of their teaching and evaluate the student learning." The criteria for choosing good practices come from Astin et al.'s Nine Principles of Good Practice for Assessing Student Learning (1991) and the 1994 Association of American College publication, Strong Foundations. Each of these publications has a set of principles that determine good practices that are highlighted throughout this book.

Each case study in this book covers the following seven main topics areas:

- 1. Overview of the Institutional Culture
- 2. Overview of the General Education Program
- 3. Overview of Assessment of the General Education Program
- 4. Examples of Assessment and How Results Are Used
- 5. Tips for Implementing the Process
- 6. Challenges to Assessing General Education and Strategies to Overcome Them
- 7. References

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Contents

1. The Challenges of Assessing General Education: Questions to Consider (Marilee J. Bresciani)

The Context

The Challenges

Lack of Perceived Priority to Improve General Education

Debate Over Ownership of General Education Offerings

Clarifying the Goals of General Education

Faculty and Student Disconnect Regarding Expectations for General Education

Delivery of Organization of General Education and the Occasional Disconnect With General Education Goals

Debate Over Knowledge Acquisition and Demonstration of Skill Within General Education or the Discipline

Establishing an Assessment Plan That Will Lead to the Improvement of General Education Offerings

Debate Over General Education's Role in the Establishment of Institutional Undergraduate Learning Principles

Identifying and Clarifying the Role of Cocurricular in the Delivery and Evaluation of General Education

General Education Case Studies

- 2. Alverno College (Mary Diez, Robert O'Brien Hakanson, Marcia Mentkowski)
- Blinn College (Loraine Phillips, Leslie Janac)
- 4. Coker College (David Eubanks)
- James Madison University
 (Donna L. Sundre, Linda Cabe Halpern)
- 6. Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Trudy W. Banta, Sharon J. Hamilton)
- 7. Isothermal Community College (Nancy H. Womack)
- 8. North Carolina State University (Allen P. Dupont)
- 9. Paradise Valley Community College (Paul A. Dole)

- 10. State University of New York System Administration (Patricia L. Francis, Anne E. Huot
- 11. The College of William and Mary (Susan L. Bosworth)
- 12. University of Central Florida (Martha Marinara, Kristina Tollefson)
- 13. University of Cincinnati (Janice Denton, Wayne Hall, Claudia Skutar)
- 14. University of South Florida (Teresa L. Flateby)

And This Additional Information

15. A Summary of Good Practice Strategies for Assessing General Education (Marilee L. Bresciani)

Suggested Resources for Assessing General Education

Index