Learning Goal: Thoughtful Expression (Written)

Date: Spring 2011
What was assessed: 33 student work products from NSG 327 (out-of-class papers)
How it was assessed: AAC&U Written Communication VALUE rubric, by five faculty scorers

Results:
This was the first pilot study using the Written Communication rubric to assess upper-division student work.

Thoughtful Expression Score Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Capstone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WC1 Context and Purpose for Writing</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>7 (21.2%)</td>
<td>10 (30.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WC2 Content Development</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>8 (24.2%)</td>
<td>15 (45.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WC3 Genre and Disciplinary Conventions</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>4 (12.1%)</td>
<td>16 (48.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WC4 Sources and Evidence</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>2 (6.1%)</td>
<td>17 (51.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WC5 Control of Syntax and Mechanics</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>1 (3.0%)</td>
<td>11 (33.3%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Distribution of Scores for Thoughtful Expression, Applicable Scores Only

Strengths:
WC5 Control of Syntax and Mechanics

Weaknesses:
WC2 Content Development

Other findings:
Total hours completed was correlated with IL4 (.503**), and UNCW hours completed was correlated with IL1 (.334*), IL2 (.328*), and IL4 (.400*)

Discussion:
30.3% to 63.6% of students in this 300-level course attained the milestone 3 score, with strong correlation between scores and number of credit hours completed.

Recommendations:
Additional programs should pilot this rubric. Faculty should share and discuss the rubric with students, noting importance of each dimension of writing.

For additional discussion of these findings, see the General Education Assessment 2011 Annual Report at http://uncw.edu/assessment/general/reports.html