General Education Outcomes
Review of 2008 Annual Update
AQIP Action Project #1348
Submitted 09/10/08
Reviewed 10/03/08

A. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.

As of fall 2007, Central Arizona College is a Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Assessment Academy participant. This Action Project is managed by the Central Arizona College (CAC) Assessment Academy Team. The Team developed the action project charter resulting from work completed at the Assessment Academy Roundtable meeting. In the spring of 2008, the Team finalized Action Project plans and began work on reviewing and revising the current set of CAC General Education Outcomes. This work included gathering general education outcomes from institutions similar to CAC, obtaining input from CAC faculty, and reviewing the current CAC General Education Outcomes. The team produced a draft set of General Education Outcomes in April 2008 and sent a request to divisions for feedback. This project's progress slowed temporarily over the summer (refer to the response for Question 5), but is moving forward with renewed developments.

Review *(10-03-08):*

A. CAC's General Education Outcomes Action Project is a vitally important one to the core mission of the institution. The timing of this general education outcomes review is excellent, occurring a decade after the College's initial outcomes were formulated. The one-year timeline for completion of the review is ambitious and admirable, and progress toward completion of the review, despite a recent slowdown, is impressive. In conducting its outcomes review, the CAC Assessment Academy Team followed a sound process of benchmarking with other schools, garnering broad-based faculty input, and reviewing its own past practice.

B. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.

During the spring 2008 Faculty Development Day, the CAC Assessment Team presented an overview of the importance of General Education Outcomes to CAC Faculty. In addition to an overview of the purpose of general education outcomes and CAC's historical timeline, the team presented a draft of this Action Project's plan and the current CAC General Education Outcomes. The presentation was followed by open discussion with faculty providing a list of potential outcomes to be used in the development of a revised set of CAC General Education Outcomes. An initial revision was sent in late April, to Academic Division Chairs, to share with faculty and requested divisions forward feedback. This information was used by the team to further develop the draft.

Review *(10-03-08):*

B. The CAC Assessment Team has sought broad and comprehensive input from the faculty on revision of the General Education Outcomes through a Spring Faculty Development Day and through feedback from the Academic Divisions that was solicited through the Academic Division Chairs. Feedback was used to further develop the initial draft of outcomes. Broad faculty input into the new General Education Outcomes is essential to their successful implementation.

C. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.

The Assessment Team has requested divisions revisit the draft of General Education Outcomes during Faculty Development Day on September 26th. Divisions will forward feedback to the Team for further review and finalization.
Review *(10-03-08):*
C. Requesting that Academic Divisions review a revised second draft of General Education Outcomes at a Fall Faculty Development Day is a sound strategy, and well worth the extra time required to do so.

D. Describe any "effective practice(s)" that resulted from your work on this Action Project.

None at this time

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E. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?

CAC has recently experienced district reorganization and restructuring. In spring 2008, the Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and the AQIP Liaison positions were vacated. The AQIP Liaison also served as the Institutional Liaison for the HLC Assessment Academy. CAC took this opportunity to review the organizational area and has created an Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Advancement. To allow appropriate implementation of new leadership and infrastructure, transitions with the AQIP Liaison and the creation of new roles, the Director of Curriculum & Student Learning Assessment and the Senior Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Advancement, this project's progress slowed temporarily over the summer, but is moving forward with renewed developments.
Review *(10-03-08):*
E. Reorganization and restructuring due to positions being vacated understandably delays major projects. It is unclear whether the General Education Outcomes Action Project is only slowing down or whether it is changing due to new leadership. In either case, it will be vitally important to maintain the project's excellent momentum and to honor the work that has already been done on the project. Since faculty are the key drivers of the general education curriculum, it is hoped that changes in college organization and leadership will not too adversely affect progress on revising General Education Outcomes.

F. If you would like to discuss the possibility of AQIP providing you help to stimulate progress on this action project, explain your need(s) here and tell us who to contact and when?

None at this time
Review *(10-03-08):*