



General Education Program

For Instructors teaching Critical Thinking Skills in the new General Education Program:

Greetings:

As you hopefully know, the campus has begun the conversation on assessing our new [General Education Program](#) (GEP) and its learning outcomes. Originally articulated and approved as “Step 6: Assessment” of the reform process, we recognize that there are probably still quite a few questions about the specific ways that we will be assessing our new GEP.

One part of the [GEP Assessment](#) process is to collect data on Foundation Level classes – something that campus has already begun to discuss. Another part is the collection of data for assessing our “universal” learning outcomes – those imbedded throughout the GEP. While there are four outcomes that were part of “Step 2: GEP Learning Outcomes” (approved February 2009), we have decided to focus the first assessment year on the first of those learning outcomes, which states that upon completion of the GEP students should:

*“Demonstrate **critical thinking**, quantitative, and communication skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing global society.”*

In other words, we are going to start discussing critical thinking skills as part of the *entire* GEP. To that end, we have organized two sessions on *Teaching and Assessing Critical Thinking* with our campus expert, Dr. Dona Warren, Professor of Philosophy and Assistant Dean of the College of Letters and Science. Dona will help faculty work critical thinking into assignments that are appropriate in the GEP and assist in creating measures to assess critical thinking skills. In addition to assisting GEP assessment efforts, these sessions will also provide ways that we can better support the development of critical thinking skills for our students in general.

The two *repeat* sessions are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, November 5 from 11-11:50 a.m. in CPS 116

or

Wednesday, November 13 from 11-11:50 a.m. in CCC 321

Please feel free to attend either session; pre-registration is not required.

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