

**General Education Program
ASSESSMENT PLAN SUMMARY
2004**

The General Education Program Assessment Plan was developed by the General Education Committee in consultation with faculty and academic leaders. The plan was adopted and approved by the Faculty Council on Academic Affairs and the Faculty Senate.

The plan includes both direct and indirect forms of assessment taken over several points in time. The direct forms of assessment are of two types: (a) embedded assessment approaches and (b) standardized testing. In using embedded assessment, the plan calls for collecting a sample of student papers from entering students *and* a sample of papers from students enrolled in upper level courses, typically 300 level. Selected faculty who have undergone an orientation into the use of rubrics and a norming process will score the papers using rubrics designed for the use of assessment of NEIU's Gen Ed goals. Faculty participating in the scoring process will receive additional compensation from the university's assessment budget. Secondly, a sample of students enrolled in upper level courses will also participate in a standardized testing program to assess gen ed goals. These instruments will be administered during class time.

Indirect forms of assessment include use of questionnaires including CIRP, the NSSE, and CRS or SBG (the latter are alumni surveys). The general education committee has selected items in each of these instruments that will help to support the assessment of gen ed goals. In addition to student exit interviews already conducted through selected departments, additional interviews and focus groups with external constituencies are planned as part of the assessment process.

General Education Assessment will be conducted on a yearly basis. One year special attention using embedded approaches will be used to assess three Gen Ed goals, the following year the remaining goals will be assessed using embedded approaches. To establish baseline results, the standardized testing program will be used every year for the first 3 years; then will be used in alternating years. Similarly, indirect forms of assessment will be used every year; then will be used in alternating years.

Results will be shared with faculty, academic leaders, students and external constituencies as appropriate on a yearly basis. The General Education Committee will report findings and resulting actions to the FCAA and the Faculty Senate.