

**Cover Sheet  
Assessment Grants  
Application Form for 2008-2009**

**Submission Deadline: May 1, 2008**

The name of the project: **Baseline Assessments of General Education Indicator Courses (BAGIC project)**

Total dollar amount requested from Assessment Grant funds: \$6,100.00 if money above \$5,000 is available:

Includes monies for Blackboard programming, payment for course monitor additional authorship duties, participating instructors, administrative costs for Discipline and Associate Discipline Chairs, and grant administrator/project director costs. Grant administrator is responsible for directing the project, managing timelines and writing results paper. Grant administrator intends to submit paper to an academic journal for publishing.

If the department intends to provide matching funds, please include the total dollar amount of matching funds. Otherwise leave this blank: none available at this time.

Primary contact:

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The goal(s) of the project:

- Enter into ERPP the 14 Program Outcomes developed by the Department of Arts and Sciences.
- Create Indicator Course mini-matrix outlining coverage of Department of Arts and Sciences Program Outcomes.
- Discipline and Associate Discipline Chairs will select Program and Learning Outcomes that will be measured for the Baseline Assessment.
- Course Monitors will assess the results of the baseline assessment and make appropriate changes in the Course Outlines.
- Re-measure of baseline assessments is projected for March 2009 term.
- Results of this project will be the basis of the SACS 2010 self-study.
- Present this paper at the CTLE Symposium at the 2008 Worldwide meetings.
- Publish this paper in an appropriate academic journal.

**Project abstract:**

This project seeks to develop and implement an assessment strategy using the Program Outcomes matrix developed by the Department of Arts and Sciences. This project is initially designed for a small number of indicator courses during this initial test. However, even though the number of indicator courses is limited, the Program Outcomes

measured will be comprehensive. Additionally, this project seeks to evaluate the effectiveness and ease of using Blackboard as a tool for Program Assessment. All plans and results are expected to be entered into ERPP of IR. This project is intended to be an integral part of the Department of Arts and Sciences SACS self study of 2010.

### **Objective of the Project**

The objective of this project is to develop the first cycle of direct assessment of students and related quality improvements based on critical analysis of the results. This project is also intended to assess the effectiveness of using Blackboard for direct assessment of program outcomes across campuses. Results from the baseline assessment will be used for documented improvements in academic quality and as a guide in developing the assessment process across the campuses for courses within the Department of Arts and Sciences.

### **Participants**

Project Manager: Kelly Whealan George  
Department Chair of Arts and Sciences, Discipline and Associate Discipline Chairs of Physical Sciences, Social Sciences and Economics, Math and English, Course Monitors of Indicator Courses, Volunteer Faculty, Blackboard consultant.

### **Timeline**

The implementation of the baseline assessment is projected for October 2008 and a reassessment during the March 2009 term.

### **Assessment Plan**

- Enter into ERPP the 14 Program Outcomes developed by the Department of Arts and Sciences.
- Create Indicator Course mini-matrix outlining coverage of Department of Arts and Sciences Program Outcomes.
- Discipline and Associate Discipline Chairs will select Program and Learning Outcomes that will be measured for the Baseline Assessment.
- Course Monitor for each indicator course will generate an assessment of the learning outcomes using Bloom's taxonomy to be used by each participating instructor. (Grant administrator will help ensure a variety of assessment tools are used in this project.)
- Grant administrator will have assessment entered into Blackboard.
- Grant administrator will choose from pool of October term instructors across all campuses, 3 instructors per class. These instructors will require the assessment as a graded activity in the student's final grade. Preferably, the assessment tool will not be available or viewable by the participating instructor.
- Discipline and Associate Discipline Chair will have access to participating instructor's Blackboard courses to review and record results of the assessment.
- Discipline and Associate Discipline Chairs will provide Course Monitors and volunteer Instructors results of the assessment.

- Course Monitors will assess the results and make appropriate changes in the Course Outlines.
- Re-measure of baseline assessments is projected for March 2009 term.

### **Assumptions**

Participating instructors will be Blackboard conversant and require students to use Blackboard in their courses. Results will be compiled across campuses by collecting data from the grade book in Blackboard.

Assessments will be created and available in Blackboard by October 2008.

Assessments will not be available for preview by participating Instructors as an attempt to avoid an instructor teaching to the test.

Assessment results will not be used as an evaluation of the Instructor.

The assessment tool will be integrated into the course to ensure students take the assessment as seriously as they would take any other graded activity of the course.

### **Criteria for success**

Eight indicator courses will be chosen so that a wide coverage of Department Program Outcomes is generated.

Each Course Monitor will generate an appropriate assessment tool and related rubric of a key learning outcome based on the Course Outlines that are current as of 1 July 2008.

Assessments will be delivered to students via the Blackboard portal in the course.

Critical analysis of the assessment results will be reflected in an updated Course Outline that resides on the University website in Blackboard under Communities, Academic Support for Faculty and Staff. Deans from the four regions will be notified of the outcomes of this project and the importance that Instructors create his/her syllabus for each term using the updated Course Outline.

This project is entered into ERPP as steps 1, 2, 3 during October/November 2008 and results will be represented at steps 4 & 5 for 2009.

### **Definitions for This Project**

**Assessment:** Assessment is the process that focuses on student and faculty processes and products that contribute to the achievement of the Program's goals. Any Program assessment should be able to be observed, recorded, and compared for time series evaluation. Assessments should be able to provide information about the successful achievement of any goals and identify gaps in the curricula that may need addressing.