



12 September 2019

GECAP met on 12 September 2019 and makes the following recommendations for the General Education program for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Based on Fall 2018 data for the Written Communication outcome, students (especially at the Tier II and III levels) need to enhance their skills in the areas of Content, Conventions, Sources, and Mechanics. Our plan is to launch faculty development sessions using Blackboard to address these areas. We will invite all faculty members teaching a course with Written Communication as one of their outcomes to participate.

The first module will focus on effective assignment design, involving faculty members revising signature assignments using Mary Ann Winkelmes' model (<https://www.njcu.edu/academics/resources-services/general-education/information-faculty-and-advisors>) as well the advice of a "Teaching in No Time" webinar from the National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development (Week 3: <https://www.facultydiversity.org/webinars/teachingweek3>). Members of GECAP, as well as module participants, will provide feedback on the revised signature assignments. It is the hope of GECAP to have this first module ready by 1 October.

The second module will look at how we can help students to "use appropriate, relevant, and compelling content to illustrate mastery of the subject, conveying the writer's understanding, and shaping the whole work." As part of this, we will also look at the sourcing of content so that students "demonstrate skillful use of high-quality, credible, relevant sources to develop ideas that are appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing." Faculty members will get best practices advice, and be asked to try out a new technique or two in their classes, whereupon they will report back on their experiences on Blackboard. GECAP, as well as module participants, will provide feedback. The content for this module is still in development. The third module will focus on "Control of Syntax and Mechanics," which will take the same essential form of the other two. It, like the second module, is still in development.

Since we have a lot of data on all the learning outcomes, we would like to use this opportunity to focus end-of-the term assessment only on Written Communication.

The Spring 2019 assessment results are now available. They can be found here: <http://itweb.njcu.edu/gothicnet/files/gen-ed/Report-of-Spring-2019-Results.pdf>

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