

GE Standard III: Communication Standard

Courses seeking to meet the Communication Standard must:

- (i) Require students to engage in particular activities, and
- (ii) Use direct assessment to demonstrate improvement of student skills in particular areas

To meet the Standard, courses must address *each* of the first three areas below (Areas 1, 2, and 3), and must address *at least one of* the last four areas (Areas 4, 5, 6, or 7). Direct assessment must be used in *each* area chosen.

As a suggested guideline, the General Education Committee asks faculty to consider devoting at least 25% of a student's course grade to the assessment of Areas 1, 2, and 3 below.

The specific requirements for addressing and assessing each Area follow, and are listed under the Area headings themselves. One page is devoted to each of the seven Areas.

Area 1: Acquisition of Relevant Supportive Evidence

Briefly describe means through which this course requires students to do the following:

- Support verbal and written communication with relevant evidence acquired through textual, visual, and/or audio sources.

In this course students are expected to demonstrate improvement in one or more of the following skills:

- The ability to support verbal and/or written communication with relevant evidence acquired from textual sources.
- The ability to support verbal and/or written communication with relevant evidence acquired from visual sources.
- The ability to support verbal and/or written communication with relevant evidence acquired from audio sources.

Describe what direct assessments you will use in order to demonstrate improvement of such skills among your students.

Area 2: Demonstration of Higher-Order Thinking Skills

Briefly describe means through which this course requires students to do the following:

- Demonstrate higher-order thinking skills – such as evaluation, synthesis, and critique – through verbal and/or written communication.

In this course students are expected to demonstrate improvement in one or more of the following skills:

- The ability to evaluate material through verbal and/or written communication.
- The ability to synthesize material through verbal and/or written communication.
- The ability to critique material through verbal and/or written communication.

Describe what direct assessments you will use in order to demonstrate improvement of such skills among your students.

Area 3: Presentation of Organized and Supported Information

Briefly describe means through which this course requires students to do the following:

- Present organized information – supported with relevant facts, reasoning, and/or visual aids – while using effective and clear language.

In this course students are expected to demonstrate improvement in one or more of the following skills:

- The ability to present organized information – supported with relevant facts – with effective and clear language.
- The ability to present organized information – supported with sound reasoning – with effective and clear language.
- The ability to present organized information – supported with visual aids – in a manner in which the receiver can comprehend the message.

Describe what direct assessments you will use in order to demonstrate improvement of such skills among your students.

Area 4: Utilization of Logical, Supported Argumentation

Briefly describe means through which this course requires students to do the following:

- Use logical argument, persuasively supported by data or by theory, to advance ideas and/or propose solutions to problems.

In this course students are expected to demonstrate improvement in the following skill:

- The ability to use logical argumentation, persuasively supported by data, to advance ideas and/or propose solutions to problems.

Describe what direct assessments you will use in order to demonstrate improvement in this skill among your students.

Area 5: Clear Expression of Ideas to Diverse Audiences

Briefly describe means through which this course requires students to do the following:

- Clearly express ideas to diverse audiences utilizing verbal, written, and/or visual means of communication for a variety of purposes.

In this course students are expected to demonstrate improvement in one or more of the following skills:

- The ability to clearly express ideas to diverse audiences through verbal means of communication for a variety of purposes.
- The ability to clearly express ideas to diverse audiences through written means of communication for a variety of purposes.
- The ability to clearly express ideas to diverse audiences through visual means of communication for a variety of purposes.

Describe what direct assessments you will use in order to demonstrate improvement of such skills among your students.

Area 6: Engagement and Participation in Discussion

Briefly describe means through which this course requires students to do the following:

- Engage and participate in discussions through active and receptive listening, thoughtful development of questions and responses, and clear articulation of ideas.

In this course students are expected to demonstrate improvement in one or more of the following skills:

- The ability to engage and participate in discussions through active and receptive listening.
- The ability to engage and participate in discussions through the thoughtful development of questions and responses.
- The ability to engage and participate in discussions through the clear articulation of ideas.

Describe what direct assessments you will use in order to demonstrate improvement of such skills among your students.

Area 7: Employment of Organizational Strategies

Briefly describe means through which this course requires students to do the following:

- Employ a variety of organizational strategies, such as pre-writing and/or brainstorming, in order to effectively and clearly craft a message or idea.

In this course students are expected to demonstrate improvement in one or more of the following skills:

- The ability to employ a variety of organizational strategies (such as pre-writing or similar strategies) in order to effectively and clearly craft a message or idea.
- The ability to employ a variety of organizational strategies (such as brainstorming or similar strategies), in order to effectively and clearly craft a message or idea.

Describe what direct assessments you will use in order to demonstrate improvement of such skills among your students.