

GE Standard IV: Information Literacy and Technological Skills Standard

Courses seeking to meet the Information Literacy and Technological Skills 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 four areas listed below. Direct assessment must be used in *each* of the four areas.

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 four Areas.

Area 1: Identification of the Need for Information

Briefly describe contexts in which your course will require students to do the following:

- Recognize generally when the need for information arises in discussions, define the scope of the information needed in such cases, articulate the scope of the information needed in such cases, and reevaluate the nature and extent of the information required as the discussion progresses.

Your course is asked to demonstrate improvement in *two or more* of the following student skills:

- The ability to identify the type and scope of information needed in order to advance a discussion
- The ability to distinguish relevant from irrelevant information
- The ability to identify the type and scope of information that may be obtained from a variety of sources and locations, potentially presented in a variety of formats
- The ability to assess the relative benefits of, the feasibility of obtaining, and the costs associated with acquiring and applying information that originates from a variety of sources

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

Area 2: Information Collection and Evaluation

Briefly describe contexts in which your course will require students to do the following:

- Select and implement research methods that effectively and efficiently extract information while evaluating the information so obtained critically.

Your course is asked to demonstrate improvement in *all of* the following student skills:

- The ability to select appropriate research methodologies that allow the effective extraction, compilation, and management of information, and the ability to demonstrate the technological skills necessary to complete such tasks
- The ability to identify the sources, accuracy, scope, currency, context, and potential biases associated with information
- The ability to evaluate information critically, the ability to recognize when the information obtained is insufficient to the task at hand, and the ability to implement new or modified strategies in order to obtain the additional information required

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

Area 3: Synthesis and Communication of Information

Briefly describe contexts in which your course will require students to do the things listed in one of the following bullet points:

- Identify, select, adapt, and apply prior or newly learned information, technology, and other tools in order to accomplish a specified task, and display technological skills appropriate to the task in so doing.
- Communicate the results of a particular information-rich analysis effectively in an appropriate format to a given audience, and display technological skills appropriate to the task in so doing.

Your course is asked to demonstrate improvement in *three or more of* the following student skills:

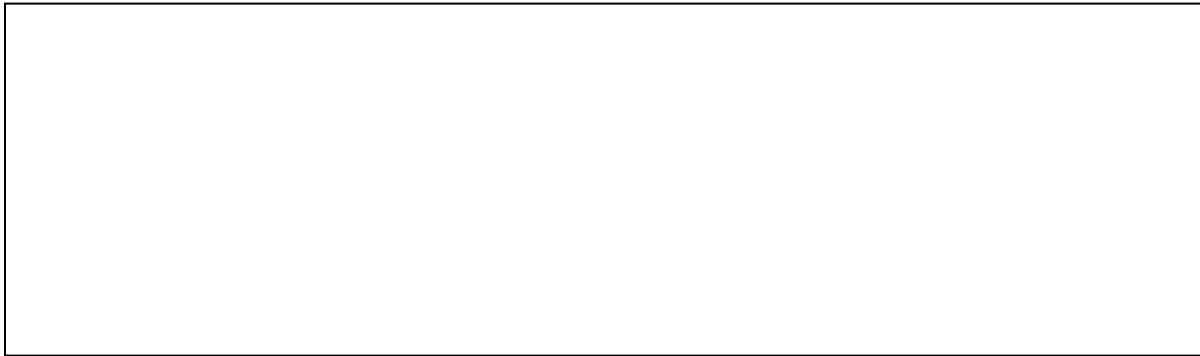
- The ability to compile information from a variety of sources, the ability to extract ideas and concepts from the varied sources, and the ability to compare the sources critically. In demonstrating such abilities, the student should be able to display competence in the technological skills most appropriate to the task.
- The ability to evaluate and challenge prior knowledge in the face of new information in a way that respects the viewpoints of others
- The ability to use new information to expand previous concepts and to construct new ones. In demonstrating this ability, the student should be able to display competence in the technological skills most appropriate to the task.
- The ability to distill the key ideas and implications from a body of information, and the ability to communicate these ideas and implications effectively to a given audience. In demonstrating these abilities, the student should be able to display competence in the technological skills most appropriate to the task.
- The ability to effectively use a body of information to challenge and/or defend a particular idea

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

Area 4: Ethical Use of Information and Technology

Briefly describe contexts in which your course will require students to do the following:

- Explore the legal and ethical aspects of the access and use of information across a variety of technological platforms.



Your course is asked to demonstrate improvement in *one or more* of the following student skills:

- The understanding of the economic, legal, ethical, and social issues surrounding the production and use of information
- The understanding of the economic, legal, ethical, and social issues surrounding the use of technology

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

