General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Math 8 College Algebra

GE Area: B4

Results reported for AY: 2014 - 2015

# of sections: 23

# of instructors: 13

Course Coordinator: Tim Hsu, Marilyn Blockus

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Department Chair: Bem Cayco

College: Science

Instructions: Each year, the department will prepare a brief (two page maximum) report that documents the assessment of the course during the year. This report will be electronically submitted to <curriculum@sjsu.edu>, by the department chair, to the Office of Undergraduate Studies, with an electronic copy to the home college by October 1 of the following academic year.

Part 1

To be completed by the course coordinator:

(1) What SLO(s) were assessed for the course during the AY?

SLO 3: Mathematical Concepts courses should prepare the student to arrive at conclusions based on numerical and graphical data.

(2) What were the results of the assessment of this course? What were the lessons learned from the assessment?

Assessment data was collected from all 23 sections of Math 8 offered during the 2014 – 2015 academic year.

Using embedded questions on the final exam, we found that 61% of the 664 students who took Math 8 performed at the C level or higher on questions related to SLO 3. This is consistent with the 64% obtained in 2011 – 2012 when SLO 3 was last assessed. Students enrolled in Math 8 have weak mathematical backgrounds and so it is not very surprising that they difficulty with the course concepts.

The embedded questions used for this assessment:

Fall 2014: Recall that the formula for the balance in an account that is compounded continuously is A(t) = Pe^{rt}, where P is the principal and r is the annual interest rate. If you invest $50,000 in an account at 4% interest, compounded continuously, how much time will it take for you to accumulate $75,000 in your account? Show all your work, round off your final numerical answer to the nearest .01, if necessary, and give your final answer in the form of a complete sentence, using the correct units.

Spring 2015: The Internet top-level domain name .troll is created to host annoying web pages. The .troll domain starts with 5000 active web pages, and the number of active web pages on .troll after t days of its existence is W(t) = 5000e^{0.01t}. If the .troll domain can only contain a maximum of 10,000,000 web pages, after how many days of its existence will .troll run out of space for web pages? Show all
your work, round off your final numerical answer to the nearest .01, if necessary, and give your final answer in the form of a complete sentence, using the correct units.

(3) What modifications to the course, or its assessment activities or schedule, are planned for the upcoming year? (If no modifications are planned, the course coordinator should indicate this.)

We have not planned any modifications to the course or assessment activities or assessment schedule for Math 8.

Part 2

To be completed by the department chair (with input from course coordinator as appropriate):

(4) Are all sections of the course still aligned with the area Goals, Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), Content, Support, and Assessment? If they are not, what actions are planned?

Yes, all sections of Math 8 are still aligned with the B4 area goals.

(5) If this course is in a GE Area with a stated enrollment limit (Areas A1, A2, A3, C2, D1, R, S, V, & Z), please indicate how oral presentations will be evaluated with larger sections (Area A1), or how practice and revisions in writing will be addressed with larger sections, particularly how students are receiving thorough feedback on the writing which accounts for the minimum word count in this GE category (Areas A2, A3, C2, D1, R, S, V, & Z) and, for the writing intensive courses (A2, A3, and Z), documentation that the students are meeting the GE SLOs for writing.

This does not apply to Math 8 in Area B4.