General Education Annual Course Assessment Form

Course Number/Title: Biology 100W
GE Area: Z

Results reported for AY 2014-2015 # of sections 5 # of instructors 3

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Department Chair: Jeff Honda 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, 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: Students shall be able to organize and develop essays and documents for both professional and general audiences.

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

Writing to a professional audience was assessed using a research article summary or literature review, depending on the instructor. Of the 114 students for whom data are reported, 43% mastered this outcome at a high level, 34% demonstrated average proficiency, 4% demonstrated marginal proficiency, and 19% were not proficient.

Writing to a general audience was assessed using a general audience writing assignment, letter to a journal editor, nonscientific essay, or editing assignment, depending on the instructor. Of the 115 students for whom data are reported, 67% mastered this outcome at a high level, 30% demonstrated average proficiency, 3% demonstrated marginal proficiency, and 0% were not proficient.

Based on these results, more instruction and feedback must be given on writing to a professional audience.

(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.)

Instructors will be guided on how to provide more effective instruction and feedback on writing to a professional audience.
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?

To the best of my knowledge all sections are aligned with respect to area goals, SLOs, content, support and assessment. There are roughly 5 instructors teaching this course. We have a course coordinator who oversees the course to ensure consistency across all sections. Most of the instructors run their course off a master syllabus and use the same text.

(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 course has a capped enrollment of 24 students, and as a workshop receive thorough, personal assistance throughout the course period. Students also submit rough drafts that are returned with feedback and expected to turn in final drafts with feedback addressed. Documentation can be found on assignments given on the course syllabi.