

November 13, 2015

Gen Ed Task Force Meeting

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Assignment: What are the outcomes in terms of content and transferrable skills that an NMSU graduate should have after earning a degree from NMSU?

Before tackling the specific task at hand everyone expressed a lot of ideas about general education, not necessarily related to our specific task at hand. I will attempt to summarize these here:

- the need to reduce the number of gen ed credits from 41, so that departments, especially those that receive outside accreditation, can still impart the necessary courses to assure accreditation.
- although gen ed courses go through a rigorous process to “become” gen ed courses, what is written on paper, often is not applied in the classroom
- the need to have gen ed courses “connected” through the curriculum, not only to each other, but to the disciplines students’ enter
- “the sense of identity & community with NMSU” category on the Vision of Baccalaureate experience represents an indoctrination, rather than a skill/quality that should be achieved and therefore does not belong in this rubric
- It was not clear to us what is meant by “content”, so we therefore focused this first meeting on transferrable skills.

We then focused the discussion on transferrable skills that an NMSU graduate should have after earning a degree from NMSU. We compiled a list and brief description, which we plan to revisit and discuss in more detail and determine which ones may be embedded in others, possibly.

1. Critical Thinking—Identify premise, evaluate quality of information and develop argument.
Example: Global warming
2. Learning to learn/life-long self-learner—Not just memorizing to pass a test, but rather gaining knowledge to expand and move into new context. Connecting the information between classes.
3. Technological Literacy—This might be a part of Critical Thinking, and other categories as this is implicit in several other categories.
4. Communication skills—Oral and written
5. Quantitative Skills/Numeracy
6. Social and Cultural Awareness
7. Teamwork, Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Skills