# **GE Area 1 Assessment**

**Semester:** Spring 2018

**GELO:** Conduct research and obtain information from reliable sources (ILO 2.2)

Method of assessment: Analysis of activities across multiple semesters in ENGL 120, 123, 125, BUSI 105, SPEE 122, 128 and LIB 100 courses

**Criteria:** 70% of students will earn a 70% or higher on exams, presentations, performances, and writing

**Results**

The cumulative average across multiple courses and semesters was 74%, which exceeds the criteria for the general education area outcome. Students demonstrated strong understanding of the need to conduct research for the purposes of providing background on a topic and giving credit to scholars whose work proceeds their own. They showed a consistent ability to locate statistics and other data-based evidence, as well as identify significant persons related to a topic. Students increased their use of library resource tools across courses, finding quality sources and assessing them at the college-level. Instructors attributed some of their improved skills in achieving balance between their research material and other objectives of their projects to the college implementation of Canvas as a learning management system, with built-in tools such as Turnitin.com.

Instructors reported that students demonstrated difficulty with discipline-focused research. Locating experts in a particular field was a challenge. Students also showed deficiencies when integrating research material into their projects with clear connections to their own claims. In-text citations and Works Cited pages did not always conform to the format assigned by the instructor.

To further improve student success, individual instructors plan to devote more class time to conducting research and assigning smaller research tasks before a larger research project. Department faculty discussed possible collaborations on a source evaluation form that could be utilized across disciplines. Faculty also considered this form might prove to be a useful GE assessment tool, as some instructors felt they needed to examine student research trends more closely in their disciplines.

Departments expressed the need for more Writing Success Center workshops focused on targeted discipline research, examining data/statistics, and practice writing citations. Students would also benefit from the development of additional Library Guides that are discipline specific.