



## **Program Assessment Report (PAR)**

**Liberal Studies (LS) Associate Degree**

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**ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT: 2021-2022**

### **I. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Learning Outcome 1 Graduates will be able to demonstrate effective written and communication skills. Learning Outcome 2 Graduates will be able to systematically access, analyze, and evaluate information and ideas from multiple sources in order to identify underlying assumptions and formulate conclusions. Learning Outcome 3 Graduates will be able to create and support arguments using a variety of approaches.

### **II. PROCEDURES USED FOR ASSESSMENT**

#### **A. Direct Assessment**

Assessment of Learning Outcome 1: Instructor will choose one of the completed essays & examine for writing ability for an IW course. Assessment of Learning Outcome 2: In various IW courses, students are asked to approach texts from a variety of perspectives (e.g. visual) while using secondary sources to draw conclusions about primary texts. The instructor will choose assignments at random to assess students' ability to formally engage with the material. Assessment for Learning Outcome 3: The instructor will specifically choose argumentative essays from ENG 2100: Research Writing and Argumentation to assess this outcome.

#### **B. Scoring of Student Work**

2021-2022: During this time period, four students were enrolled in the program. One student who was not previously enrolled graduated with this degree. Only one

student had taken a course relevant to learning outcome 3. For this year of the assessment cycle, learning outcome 3 (creating and supporting arguments) was assessed by an HSS faculty who evaluated students' final projects for ENG 2100: Research Writing and Argumentation, using the AACU Written Communication VALUE Rubric.

### **C. Indirect Assessment**

No indirect assessment has taken place at this time.

## **III. ASSESSMENT RESULTS/INFORMATION:**

2021-2022: During this time period, there were 2 students enrolled in the program in Fall 2021, and there were 4 students enrolled in Spring 2022. One student who was not previously enrolled in the program graduated with a Liberal Studies AA during this time period. One of the students enrolled is part-time and has not yet taken any courses for which learning outcome 3 is a focus. The student who graduated from the program transferred in the credits for relevant courses, and so there were no Lake Campus artifacts available. Similarly, 2 of the other students enrolled in Spring 2022 transferred in the relevant coursework. One student completed ENG 2100. The compiled results are below.

### Written Communication

Student 1: Not yet taken relevant coursework

Student 2: Relevant coursework transferred from other institutions; no Lake Campus artifacts available

Student 3: Relevant coursework transferred from other institutions; no Lake Campus artifacts available

Student 4: Relevant coursework transferred from other institutions; no Lake Campus artifacts available

Student 5: Capstone Level 4 For the one student who has available artifacts, a level 4 (Capstone) was achieved for program learning outcome #3.

One of the challenges of assessing low enrollment programs that sometimes function as ways for students to leave their college experience with a credential, even if they haven't completed the intended BA degree, is that much of the coursework is transferred in and therefore student artifacts are difficult to obtain. In the future, it is recommended that indirect assessment be used to try to fill in these assessment gaps, although in the case of students who have transferred in the relevant credits, these indirect assessments would have little bearing on the program offered at Lake Campus, since most of the courses were not taken at the Lake Campus.

Recommendation Of the students with artifacts available, learning outcome 3 is being adequately met. There are no recommended changes at the course level or the curriculum level at this time.

#### **IV. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING**

Due to low enrollment, the AA - Liberal Studies is being modified to an AA - General Studies in Fall 2022.

#### **V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Additional documentation, when provided, is stored in the internal Academic Program Assessment of Student Learning SharePoint site.