

Spring 2015 Faculty-to-Faculty Conference  
April 24, 2015

**Content Area Breakout Session:**

**Arts & Humanities (AHUM)**

**COMBINED NOTES**

**GE Council Facilitators: Margaret Doell, Terry Schliesman, Rex Welshon**

**Assessment Facilitators: Ross Perkins, Lisa Snyder**

**Faculty Chair: Lydia Brokaw (FRCC)**

**Scribe: Jennifer Schneider (CSU-FC)**

**Proposed, revised competencies for AHUM content area:**

1. Written Communication - Required
2. Oral Communication - Required
3. Creative Thinking - Required
4. Critical Thinking - Required
5. Global Learning
6. Information Literacy
7. Civic Engagement

**Purpose: Get feedback on all the competencies for this content area.**

1. Focus on the first page of the competencies (the learning outcomes, not the rubric).
2. Begin with a reminder that there are two sets of criteria for gtPathways courses: *content* and *competencies*.
3. Today's focus is on the *competencies*.
4. Faculty will have the opportunity to address the content later.
5. These revised competencies are not open to word-smithing or nitpicking.

## **Guiding Questions for the Discussion:**

1. *Compare the current gtPathways competencies to the proposed, revised competencies. In what ways can the revised competencies help you create assessments and make decisions about student learning?*
2. *Are you currently assessing these competencies? Would using the indicated learning outcomes and the rubric help improve your ability to measure this competency?*
3. *How can the revised competencies be built into your syllabi and assessment plans? Think about this idea in relation to nominating a course for gtPathways peer review.*
4. *These proposed, revised competencies contain the desired skills and dispositions needed for students to be successful in the Gen Ed courses in your discipline, subsequent coursework, and the workforce. Should any of the optional competencies be required?*

## **Final take-away of the session:**

Provide a group response (in writing and to share at “the reporting out” session) to the following 3 questions:

- a. *Do these proposed, revised competencies meet the needs of learners better than the current competencies? If not, why?*
- b. *Can we move forward with the proposed, revised competencies for each content area?*
- c. *Please share any concerns or challenges you foresee.*

## **Comments:**

1. Written Communication
  - Discussed:
    - Certain learning outcomes (????) may be optional, e.g., world languages) instead of meeting all.
    - FINAL: move forward with required:
      - Some discussion on getting buy-in for assessing written communication when don't teach written communication (ultimately, not a concern).
2. Oral Communication
  - Need to add at top of page as required for World Languages (missing at document required header).
  - Discussion: note lack of “technology” in “Integrate Content and Supporting Material” - “sources like” explanations....Discussed how specific if across



disciplines; concluded - adding “technology” is critical in learning objectives. Propose new technology bullet point. Recommend: Add third bullet, e.g., “ability to manage visual aids with appropriate technology.”

- Feedback of student emphasis (?)
- Recommend: put last bullet of “Develop a Central Message” under first bullet “Illustrate Organization;” can’t do 4<sup>th</sup> bullet [sic] without 1<sup>st</sup> bullet.
- Agreed: Oral Communication should be required (would be more open to it if broader description) in all 4 [content area subcategories = AH1, AH2, AH3, AH4] - BUT SERIOUS CONCERNS for implementing and who is responsible for execution - maybe should be separate....

3. Critical Thinking

- Discussed: Critical Thinking being required in AH1. Discussed how Creative Thinking and Oral Communication cover Critical Thinking and thus, should remain optional.
- “Incorporate Evidence” - add bullet: connect evidence to claim/thesis.
- AGREED with all optional and required recommendations (note AH1 ... should be critical or creative thinking required).

4. Creative Thinking

- Concerns over qualifier wording (?) - want more word with rigor to set more objective items to teach and assess. Recommend: Add higher level of qualifier words. Debated: combining Critical and Creative Thinking and then requiring with Oral Communication. They overlap so much that requiring one is appropriate, but other should be optional. Which one should be required may vary by course and should be at discretion of course.
- Proposed: Add Creative Thinking to AH2 as optional (6<sup>th</sup> competency). Make Creative or Critical Thinking (1 of 2) required for AH1.
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