

### **SECTION 3, COMPREHENSIVE STANDARD 3.5.1**

The institution identifies college-level competencies within the general education core and provides evidence that graduates have attained those competencies.

#### **JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

Compliant

Partially Compliant

Noncompliant

#### **RATIONALE FOR JUDGEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

North Georgia College & State University identifies competencies within the general education core and provides evidence that graduates have attained those college-level competencies through a variety of ways.

The faculty's understanding of general education competencies and ways of assessing those competencies has evolved over time. Five learning outcomes, which will be taught and assessed in general education courses and in major courses, were adopted by the Academic Activities Committee in April 2006. The implementation timeframe is 2006-07 for general education courses and 2007-08 for major courses. These five learning outcomes, based on work from the Association of American Colleges and Universities, are:

1. The student will communicate effectively using multiple literacies and forms of expression.
2. The student will demonstrate analytic, contextual, and holistic thinking.
3. The student will engage in integrative learning.
4. The student will reflect critically and take informed action individually as citizens.
5. The student will analyze ethical interactions in the local and global communities.

These learning outcomes are in addition to program-specific outcomes, and will be evaluated primarily through a variety of course-embedded assessments (e.g., essays, exam questions, portfolios, etc.). In addition, there will be some use of standardized national exams and self-report instruments.

The five learning outcomes replace these seven general education outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively in standard English.
2. Students will demonstrate an ability to find information and to evaluate it quantitatively, qualitatively, and analytically.
3. Students will demonstrate an ability to use mathematics and to solve problems.
4. Each student should learn to observe natural phenomena and use data to test an hypothesis.
5. Students will demonstrate a knowledge of the history, values, and culture of the United States and world civilizations.
6. Students will demonstrate a knowledge of wellness principles and strategies related to the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle
7. Students will demonstrate a knowledge of literature

Multiple methods have been used for assessing these seven outcomes. Assessment methods and results are listed below.

1. **Students will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively in standard English.**
  - a. Successful completion of essay portion of Regent's exam

#### Passing Rates For First-Time Examinees – Essay Portion

	NGCSU	University System of Georgia
1999-2000	88.3%	81.5%
2000-2001	88.9%	82.3%
2001-2002	86.8%	82.1%
2002-2003	88.3%	83.9%
2003-2004	90.2%	85.5%
2004-2005	88.5%	84.9%
2005-2006	89.9%	85.6%

b. Successful completion of reading portion of Regent’s exam

Passing Rates For First-Time Examinees – Reading Portion

	NGCSU	University System of Georgia
1999-2000	92.6%	85.9%
2000-2001	91.9%	85.1%
2001-2002	93.6%	85.2%
2002-2003	91.7%	84.4%
2003-2004	88.7%	76.4%
2004-2005	87.0%	75.6%
2005-2006	87.9%	73.5%

c. Response to item on National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) “To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in writing clearly and effectively?”

	2005 NGCSU Seniors	2005 National Seniors	2005 NGCSU First-Year Students	2005 National First-Year Students
Very little	1%	4%	3%	5%
Some	14%	19%	17%	22%
Quite a bit	45%	38%	46%	42%
Very much	40%	39%	34%	31%

d. Response to item on National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) “To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in speaking clearly and effectively?”

	2005 NGCSU Seniors	2005 National Seniors	2005 NGCSU First-Year Students	2005 National First-Year Students
Very little	3%	5%	5%	9%
Some	15%	22%	29%	29%
Quite a bit	38%	38%	41%	37%
Very much	43%	35%	25%	25%

- e. Response to item on Alumni Survey “ How would you rate the adequacy for your job of your writing skills?” (n=229)

Very poor	1%
Poor	2%
Moderate	12%
Good	45%
Very good	41%

**2. Students will demonstrate an ability to find information and to evaluate it quantitatively, qualitatively, and analytically.**

- a. Successful completion of reading portion of Regent’s exam

Passing Rates For First-Time Examinees – Reading Portion

	NGCSU	University System of Georgia
1999-2000	92.6%	85.9%
2000-2001	91.9%	85.1%
2001-2002	93.6%	85.2%
2002-2003	91.7%	84.4%
2003-2004	88.7%	76.4%
2004-2005	87.0%	75.6%
2005-2006	87.9%	73.5%

- b. Successful completion of a research paper in English 1102 with a “C” or better

2002-03	83%
2003-04	85.2%
2004-05	78.7%
2005-06	82%

- c. Response to item on National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) "During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized making judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions?"

	2005 NGCSU Seniors	2005 National Seniors	2005 NGCSU First-Year Students	2005 National First-Year Students
Very little	3%	5%	6%	6%
Some	24%	24%	34%	29%
Quite a bit	35%	40%	41%	41%
Very much	39%	32%	19%	24%

- d. Response to item on National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) "To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in thinking critically and analytically?"

	2005 NGCSU Seniors	2005 National Seniors	2005 NGCSU First-Year Students	2005 National First-Year Students
Very little	1%	2%	1%	2%
Some	8%	11%	17%	16%
Quite a bit	38%	36%	44%	42%
Very much	54%	51%	38%	40%

**3. Students will demonstrate an ability to use mathematics and to solve problems.**

- a. Scores on C-Base exam in mathematics

	Fall 2005 (n=552)	Spring 2006 (n=252)	National Mean
Math - overall	294	275	300
General Math	293	286	300
Algebra	294	282	300
Geometry	299	278	300

A difference between scores of less than 17 points is not considered significant.

- b. Response to item on National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) "To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in analyzing quantitative problems?"

	2005 NGCSU Seniors	2005 National Seniors	2005 NGCSU First-Year Students	2005 National First-Year Students
Very little	1%	5%	5%	7%
Some	19%	23%	28%	28%
Quite a bit	38%	37%	42%	39%
Very much	42%	35%	25%	26%

- c. Response to item on Alumni Survey "Did your education at NGCSU prepare you for the math requirements in your job and other endeavors?" (n=230)

Definitely no	3%
Probably no	7%
Unsure	17%
Probably yes	38%
Definitely yes	35%

**4. Each student should learn to observe natural phenomena and use data to test an hypothesis.**

- a. Students must pass two laboratory science courses in order to graduate from NGCSU.
- b. Scores on C-Base exam in science

	Fall 2005 (n=552)	Spring 2006 (n=252)	National Mean
Science – overall	268	247	300
Science Lab	271	251	300
Science Foundations	288	271	300

A difference between scores of less than 17 points is not considered significant.

**5. Students will demonstrate a knowledge of the history, values, and culture of the United States and world civilizations.**

- a. Students must pass tests on US/Georgia history and constitution or pass US History (HIST 2111 or 2112) or US Government (POLS 1101) in order to graduate from NGCSU
- b. Students must pass World Civilizations (HIST 1112) in order to graduate from NGCSU
- c. Scores on C-Base exam in social science

	Fall 2005 (n=552)	Spring 2006 (n=252)	National Mean
Social Studies -overall	278	278	300
History	283	287	300
Social Science	277	276	300

A difference between scores of less than 17 points is not considered significant.

- d. Response to item on Alumni Survey “Did your core requirement course(s) in U.S. and Georgia history prepare you for your roles as a U.S. citizen?” (n=221)

Definitely no	3%
Probably no	12%
Unsure	31%
Probably yes	33%
Definitely yes	21%

- e. Response to item on Alumni Survey “Did your World Civilizations course give you a better understanding of world cultures represented in the media?” (n=217)

Definitely no	4%
Probably no	16%
Unsure	31%
Probably yes	33%
Definitely yes	16%

**6. Students will demonstrate a knowledge of wellness principles and strategies related to the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle.**

- a. Student attendance at training /fitness facilities is recorded

	Average number of students signing in to use Wellness Center each Week	Number of students participating in classes
2002-03	898	Aerobics – 85 Fitness Reward - 37 Fitness Challenges -26
2003-04	1329	Aerobics - 135
2004-05	1450	Group Exercise - 240
2005-06	1511	Group Exercise - 295

b. Student participation in intramural sports in recorded

	Basketball	ballSoft	Soccer	Tennis	ballVolley	Flag Football	SportsOther
2001-02	353 m 321 w	402 m 387 w			308 m 240 w	364 m 335 w	380 m 240 w
2002-03	292 m 271 w	375 m 396 w	168 m 146 w	12 m 8 w			
2003-04	494 m 286 w	693 m 344 w	456 m 292 w	47 m 31 w			
2004-05*	170 m 100 w	225 m 180 w			100 m 140 w	264 m 204 w	482 m 303 w
2005-06*	230 m 110 w	285 m 180 w		25 m 25 w	110 m 130 w	312 m 288 w	626 m 422 w

\*Counted differently from past years (averages rather than actual numbers)

c. Student participation in health/wellness seminars/screenings is recorded

	Number of Students Participating
2001-02	110
2002-03	194
2003-04	296
2004-05	177
2005-06*	125

\*Number of seminars reduced due to drug/alcohol position not staffed until late November 2005

- d. Response to item on National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) "During the current school year, about how often have you exercise or participated in physical fitness activities?"

	2005 NGCSU Seniors	2005 National Seniors	2005 NGCSU First-Year Students	2005 National First-Year Students
Never	18%	13%	11%	11%
Sometimes	36%	32%	30%	28%
Often	19%	23%	29%	25%
Very often	27%	32%	30%	36%

### **7. Students will demonstrate a knowledge of literature.**

- a. Students must pass an ENGL 2100-level course (World Literature I, World Literature II, British Literature I, British Literature II, American Literature I, American Literature II, or African-American Writers) in order to graduate from NGCSU.

A pilot study was conducted in fall 2005 with students in the ENGL 2100-level courses. Students in four classes were asked a literature question that required them to see changes over a chronological period to an aspect of social importance. Using a four-part rubric, a committee of English faculty evaluated the essays. The percentage of essays that achieved each aspect of the rubric was

Adequate Thesis = 71%  
 Textual Examples = 85%  
 Adequate Completeness = 72%  
 Writing Skills = 92%

The committee felt that the question for Fall 2006 may need to be reworked to focus student responses better. The next committee will discuss the issue further.

- b. ENGL 2100-level syllabi meet National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) standards 2 and 3 for English Language Arts

NCTE Standard 2 states " Students read a wide range of literature from many periods in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions (e.g., philosophical, ethical, aesthetic) of human experience." NCTE Standard 3 states "Students apply a wide

range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).”