

A Middle States Team visited Penn State from April 10 - April 13, 2005. In June, 2005, the Middle States Commission reaffirmed accreditation and requested a progress letter from the University documenting "the development of a comprehensive plan for the assessment of student learning that is linked to the overall assessment of institutional effectiveness and to the institution's strategic planning process" (Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 2005).

Penn State has responded by forming a Coordinating Committee on University Assessment. The committee's initial charge was to develop and implement a university-wide assessment plan that prioritizes the University needs. The committee then formed four task teams to examine the following spheres of assessment: course, program, General Education, and cocurricular. The Cocurricular Task Team began their efforts by defining the "cocurriculum" and drafting learning outcomes. The following is the latest draft.

The "[cocurriculum](#)" at Penn State includes both formal and informal out-of-class learning opportunities. These include involvement with clubs and organizations, workshops, lectures, internships, co-ops, living-learning communities, intramural and recreation programs, undergraduate research opportunities, interactions with faculty and other students, service learning, academic and career advising, cultural events and study abroad.

Approved by the Pennsylvania State University Coordinating Committee on University Assessment, May 2006.

Knowledge Acquisition/Application	Cognitive Competency	Life Skills & Self-Knowledge	Personal Integrity and Value	Intercultural Development	Leadership and Active Citizenship
<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an understanding of knowledge from a range of disciplines/areas Demonstrate the ability to integrate and apply ideas and themes across the curriculum and cocurriculum. 	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire learning skills to assist in their academic success Develop critical and reflective thinking abilities Apply effective reasoning skills 	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine their career interests Acquire career management skills Develop the ability to manage and resolve interpersonal conflicts Cultivate a propensity for lifelong learning Develop personal health, fitness, wellness and leisure habits and identify health risks Improve self-understanding and awareness by developing an integrated personal identity (including sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, culture and spiritual) Exhibit responsible decision-making and personal accountability 	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire ethical reasoning skills Improve their ability to manage their emotions effectively Develop a sense of personal integrity and clarify their personal values Appreciate creative expression and aesthetics Demonstrate compassion and empathy for others 	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possess multicultural awareness and knowledge Develop sensitivity to and appreciation of human differences Exhibit the ability to work effectively with those different from themselves Demonstrate a commitment to social justice 	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate effectively with others both verbally and in writing Demonstrate an understanding of group dynamics and effective teamwork Understand leadership theory and styles Identify their own leadership style when working with others Develop a range of leadership skills and abilities such as effectively leading change, resolving conflict, and motivating others Develop a deep understanding of sustainability (locally, nationally, globally) and be prepared to lead others in the implementation of strategies for sustainable resource use on campus and in their communities Assume a sense of civic responsibility and a commitment to public life

Penn State First Year Learning Outcomes & Competencies

In addition to achieving Penn State's General Education Learning Outcomes, at the end of the first year of academic study, the student will:

- (1) Understand and meet academic expectations; engage in active learning and use effective time management to balance academic work with extra-curricular activities.
- (2) Learn about the value of higher education to both society and to individuals; appreciate the value of the general education curriculum and the worth of lifelong learning and scholarship.
- (3) Be familiar with student services and academic resources on campus; actively use those resources and interact with staff.
- (4) Engage with faculty in and outside of the classroom.
- (5) Interact effectively with peers in social settings, and through educationally purposeful student activities.
- (6) Refine short-term and long-term academic goals; learn about career management; establish more specific career goals.
- (7) Achieve a higher competency in writing, note-taking, active reading, critical thinking and quantitative reasoning to be able to master college-level work.
- (8) Expand knowledge of human diversity and cultural competence; effectively interact with others.
- (9) Engage in activities leading to improved personal health and fitness; learn about making responsible decisions in a college environment.
- (10) Be a positive and contributing member of the Penn State community; engage in community service activities; develop an understanding of sustainability and how to incorporate sustainable behaviors in daily activities.

Approved by The Pennsylvania State University First Year Experience Committee, April, 2005.

Co-Curricular Activities by Semester
FYE topics discussed as part of ENGL 004, ENGL 015 PHIL 083S

4/13/2015

		Knowledge Acquisition/Application	Cognitive Competency	Life Skills and Self-Knowledge	Personal Integrity and Value	Intercultural Development	Leadership and Active Citizenship
Understanding	Y1 Fall	Attend IT Orientation Complete Library Skills Link UP Attend the club fair Participate in clubs aligned with major Library Day	Set goals with academic advisor Complete Library Skills Attend Transition Fair Attend Advising Week Join a study group	<i>Complete PS Safe & PS Aware</i> Complete <i>career</i> assessment Attend wellness classes, participate in Red Cross Attend Suicide Prevention program Healthy Eating Program	Attend financial literacy workshop Attend scholarship reception Toys for Tots	Attend Diversity Event Interdependence Day Honor veterans at the Flag pole ceremony on veterans day	Leadership Lunch & Learn Attend Club Rush Attend student government meetings
	Y1-Spring	Attend undergraduate research fair Attend Career Fair Expo / Futures Fair Complete MyPlan career assessment Speak to faculty regarding research options	Review goals with academic advisor Utilize Student Success Center Attend study skills and other academic support programs	Speed mentoring / alumni services Attend yoga or Pilates, workshops on health and prevention Participate in intramurals Career Services/ Get Connected Stay connected	Financial Aid budget planning Attend Art Exhibit Participate in Campus Chorale Stress Management	Learn about the Study abroad program Participate in Holi Festival Learn about the multicultural club	Leadership Lunch and Learn Participate in clubs Attend State Civil Service Presentation Get involved with recycling and conservation initiatives
Applying	Y2- Fall	Attend transition workshop Attend honors club Get involved in course research Participate in clubs aligned with major	Meet with academic advisor Become a member of the SAF committee, IT Fee committee, SFF committee or other committee	Career – Major Exploration Health and Wellness Program Suicide Prevention Great American Smokeout Mocktails Speed Mentoring	Review potential Scholarship opportunities Attend the Scholarship reception Participate in Toys for Tots or other community service	Become member of a multi-cultural club Attend All U day Participate in Latin Dance Coming Out Day Event	Leadership Lunch & Learn Join a club or committee Get involved in student government Be an orientation leader Attend Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
	Y2-Spring	Entrance to Major Become member of honors program Learning center tutor Attend interview workshop Get involved in faculty research	Review goals with academic advisor Link UP – change of location Become a tutor in the Learning Center	Career shadowing / internships Health and wellness – Maternal Family Health STD testing Project Able Rotten Egg Hunt	Review potential Scholarship opportunities Volunteer for campus cleanup Utilize Counseling Services	Global Learning –Participate in Study Abroad Martin Luther King regional day-on Event	Leadership Lunch & Learn Become a club officer or become involved with the SGA Executive board Be a camp counselor
Evaluating/Analyzing	Y3- Fall	Continued research involvement Honors member Interview Stream	Meet with academic advisor Attend NACA/APCA conference to decide on campus entertainment Lead a committee	Career – on-line self-marketing skills Career shadowing / internships Health matters for students WRP Workforce Recruitment Program	Review potential Scholarship opportunities Run for an SGA Office	Attend UNICO program Assist in planning diversity events Apply for CWC Student Travel Grant	Linde Mentor program Marcos IST Scholars Walsh Lecture series Club officer positions Attend regional leadership programs
	Y3-Spring	Participate in undergrad research fair Honors member Attend Graduate school workshop	Review goals academic advisor Learn about event management/ planning	Career – undergraduate exhibition Career shadowing/internships Health & Wellness cold & flu prevention cancer awareness Pat Rose Award/Walker Award/ Pride of the Lions Award	Lead a club or organization Lead a community service project Attend speaker programs sponsored by clubs and programs	Global Learning – Participate in Study Abroad Attend Women's Day Breakfast at UP Attend local diversity programming Pat Rose Award /Walker Award/ Pride of the Lions Award	Linde Mentor program Marcos IST Scholars Walsh Lecture series Attend Capital Day Club officer positions
Creating	Y4- Fall	National research conference Attend Resume/Cover letter workshop Participate in Mock Interview	Meet with academic advisor Complete online competency workshops	Prepare for job fair/interviews Complete academic internship Stress management workshop MBT Bank Career & Lifeskills Transition to the Workforce	Help organize speakers and events that promote personal integrity and value	Participate in Global engagement programs at UP Mentor someone in planning diversity events Membership in a professional organization promoting diversity	Linde Mentor program Marcos IST Scholars Walsh Lecture series Mentor a club officer Mentor underclassmen in sustainability
	Y4-Spring	Undergraduate national / regional conference presenter Sanofi Research award	Mentor underclassmen	Attend job fair & Etiquette Dinner Complete academic internship Health &Wellness program	Mentor an underclassmen leading a community service project	Demonstrate Global citizenship LBGTQ Awards	Linde Mentor program Marcos IST Scholars Walsh Lecture series Mentor a club officer

