

GENERAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AT DALTON STATE COLLEGE

As part of its institutional effectiveness program, DSC has a mechanism for evaluating its general education program – a critical component of its education mission. Though they have been modified several times over the past ten years, DSC’s general education outcomes have now been cast in language that enables them to be more closely measured. The intended learning outcomes from general education incorporate direct references to the humanities, natural science and mathematics, and the social sciences. A corresponding set of assessment criteria provides both qualitative and quantitative measurement tools. Appropriate general education outcomes are incorporated into each course syllabus within those disciplines, and outcomes information is recorded on an annual basis by the faculty and compiled by the division chairs for faculty review and action.

The Institutional Research and Planning office continues to coordinate activities to improve assessment processes concerning general education. A comprehensive *Dalton State College Handbook of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness* assists with coordinating and documenting all assessment activities on campus. Data to assess institutional effectiveness, including general education is routinely compiled and used to evaluate academic programs. A faculty Institutional Effectiveness Committee assists the Institutional Research and Planning office with the implementation and evaluation of the College’s institutional effectiveness efforts.