

Assessment of General Education Goal 4.1
 Results of the rating of artifacts from December 2010
 Josh Welker, Director of Institutional Effectiveness
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General Education Goal 4: Use critical thinking.

Outcome 1: Students will be able to make rational decisions and solve problems.

A total of 369 artifacts were collected from SOC 101 and PSY 101 courses. Of the total artifacts collected, 231 artifacts were scored on the December Assessment Day, and 206 of these had attached demographic sheets.

The artifacts were scored by teams consisting of two faculty members each. Each artifact was scored three times. The artifacts were first scored independently by both members of the team, and then the team members conferred to score each artifact together. The artifacts were scored on four different components: *Valid reasons to legalize marijuana*, *Valid reasons for it to remain illegal*, *Consequences of legalizing marijuana*, and *Should marijuana be legalized*. Each component was given a score of one (poor), two (acceptable), or three (excellent).

The table below (Table 1) displays the scores of the artifacts – the percentage represents the percentage of artifacts that received that score. The scores for all components were just below the ‘Acceptable’ rating. The ‘Consequences of legalizing marijuana’ component had the high mean score of 1.98 and the ‘Should marijuana be legalized’ component received the lowest rating of 1.85.

The inter-rater reliability was measured by comparing the individual ratings each team member gave to the same artifact. The inter-rater reliability for all components was considerably low, ranging from 50% agreement in Component 3, to 57% agreement in Component 1. This indicates that the rubric and/or the training of the faculty readers need improvement, and the artifact ratings may not be reliable.

Table 1: Artifact Scores

	<i>Valid reasons to legalize marijuana</i>	<i>Valid reasons for it to remain illegal</i>	<i>Consequences of legalizing marijuana</i>	<i>Should marijuana be legalized</i>
1 (Poor)	28%	32%	29%	31%
2 (Acceptable)	49%	46%	43%	53%
3 (Excellent)	23%	23%	27%	16%
Mean	1.96	1.91	1.98	1.85

Table 2: Inter-rater Reliability

	<i>Valid reasons to legalize marijuana</i>	<i>Valid reasons for it to remain illegal</i>	<i>Consequences of legalizing marijuana</i>	<i>Should marijuana be legalized</i>
Agree	57%	54%	50%	55%
Differ by 1	40%	42%	46%	42%
Differ by 2	3%	4%	5%	3%

Of the 231 artifacts, 181 were collected from structured classes, 9 from dual enrollment, 9 from the OLC, and 32 from online. The demographic sheets also show that 80% of the students were 24 years of age or younger, and 20% were older than 24; 63% were female, and 37% were male; 82% of students had earned less than 30 credit hours, and 18% had earned 30 or more credit hours; and 8% of students had transferred from another institution as compared to 92% that had not.

An analysis was done to examine scoring differences among the different categories of the variables listed in Table 3 (significant differences are noted). The results show that students who were older than 24 scored higher on Component 4. There were no significant differences in the artifact scores among any of the remaining variables.

Table 3: Demographics

Variable	Category	Percent	n	C1 Mean	C2 Mean	C3 Mean	C4 Mean
Age	24 and Younger	80%	165	1.93	1.88	1.94	1.82*
	Older than 24	20%	41	2.12	2.02	2.15	2.07*
Gender	Female	63%	130	2.02	1.93	2.02	1.92
	Male	37%	75	1.87	1.87	1.89	1.80
Delivery Mode	Structured	78%	181	1.94	1.90	1.94	1.84
	Other	22%	50	2.00	1.98	2.12	1.88
Earned Hours	Less than 30	82%	169	1.96	1.90	1.98	1.86
	30 or more	18%	36	1.97	1.94	1.97	1.94
Transfer Student	Yes	8%	16	2.13	2.25	1.88	2.00
	No	92%	184	1.96	1.88	1.98	1.86

*p < .05