

Inquiry and Analysis (IA) ESLO Committee Annual Report for Academic Year 2016-2017

Members of the Committee:

- Matthew Sleep (Chair)
- Jeff Pardy
- Ryan Madden
- Dawn LoweWincentzen
- Josh Millard
- HuiYun Li

Responsibilities of the Committee:

During the 2016-2017 academic year the Inquiry and Analysis Committee was charged with revision of criteria for assessment, approval of foundation and essential practicing level courses, review transferability of courses, and review the applicability of the Western Interstate Passport transfer model for Inquiry and Analysis.

Committee Activities:

Fall Term

During fall term the Inquiry and Analysis Committee made significant revisions to the five criteria for assessment of the ESLO. These new criteria were approved by the assessment commission. A summary of the changes with justification is provided here.

Previous Criteria:

Identify: Identify a meaningful question or topic of inquiry.

Investigate: Examine and critically evaluate existing knowledge and views on the topic of inquiry.

Collect: Design and execute a means of collecting evidence

Evaluate: Analyze evidence obtained in their investigation.

Conclude: Draw conclusions based on analysis of evidence; grasp the limitations and implications of their analyses.

Updated Criteria:

Identify: Identify a meaningful question or topic of inquiry.

No change

Investigate: Critically examine existing knowledge and views on the question or topic of inquiry.

Change to support topic OR question. Remove the word 'evaluation' to prevent confusion for criteria 4.

Support: Collect evidence based on the methodology or principles of the discipline.

Designing a method to collect evidence is difficult. In addition, many disciplines that must use this criterion at the practicing or capstone levels specify the method to collect evidence.

Evaluate: Critically analyze and distinguish evidence obtained.

Again, remove a repeated word, 'investigation.' This is to show that evaluation occurs on evidence obtained during the 'support' criterion.

Conclude: Come to a judgement based on evidence and understand the limitations and implications of that judgement.

Use 'judgement' instead of 'conclusion' to help with generalization of criterion.

Winter Term

During winter term, the Inquiry and Analysis Committee focused on approving courses submitted for foundation and essential practicing levels using the new criteria. The committee, with some disagreement, concluded that requiring three criteria of the five should be demonstrated by students at the foundation level, four at the practicing level, and all five for the capstone level.

Spring Term

During the spring term, the Inquiry and Analysis Committee continued to approve courses, reviewed the transfer study conducted by department chairs, and agreed on Interstate Passport criteria related to Inquiry and Analysis criteria. The Interstate Passport transfer was determined by a subcommittee led by Ryan Madden and approved by the Inquiry and Analysis Committee.

Accomplishments

The Inquiry and Analysis Committee made significant changes to the criteria for assessment.

The committee approved **22** foundation level courses.

The committee approved **18** practicing level courses.

The committee, reviewing the work of the Western Interstate Passport subcommittee, agreed on the following for transfer:

Human Cultures: IA-SS-Foundation + DP-Foundation

(Outbound option: 2 IA Foundation)

Creative Expression: IA-H-Foundation

(Outbound option 1: one course meeting all elements, such as the "Design Arts and Aesthetics" course)

(Outbound option 2: one IA-H-Foundation + one "creative" art course)

Human Society and the Individual: IS-SS-Foundation and/or IA-SS-Essential Practice

(Outbound option: Any IA Practice)

Critical Thinking: IA-any-Foundation and/or IA-any-Essential Practice

The committee determined that course to course transfer should be maintained for IA. For example, if HIST201 is an IA foundation course at Oregon Tech, and a student transfers having completed a previously defined HIST201 course at another institution, the student has met the requirements for IA at the foundation level. More work on transferability needs to be completed.

The committee determined that more courses should be submitted for IA approval.