

**EDISON STATE COLLEGE  
ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS REPORTING FORM**

**Name of Course:** Pilot General Education Assessment of Written Communication

**Name of Program Leader (s):** Professor Marty Ambrose

**Date:** March 21, 2010

**Report Completed by:** Professor Marty Ambrose

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**LEARNING OUTCOME(S):** Written Communication (General Education Assessment for the Institutional Portfolio)

**ASSESSMENT PLAN:**

1. At the beginning of the 2009 summer session, the Department of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness (IRPE) completed a random, district-wide selection of courses to participate in the Pilot General Education Assessment of Written Communication. They then notified each faculty member that his or her course was selected and for which general education outcome.
2. Faculty then filled out a form that was sent to IRPE indicating the description of the assignment, the date the assignment was due, and the target submission date of the artifacts to IRPE. Faculty were also instructed to send the artifacts electronically before any grading process took place.
3. IRPE prepared the artifacts for scoring by randomly selecting 50 artifacts from students who have achieved at least 30 hours.
4. A team of English faculty (Prof. Ellie Bunting, Prof. Pam Mangene, Prof. Marty Ambrose, and Prof. Judy Van Gaalen) trained in the holistic scoring of essays were paid to score the artifacts at the end of the summer session. The team scored the essays according to the General Education Rubric in Written Communication. The scored artifacts were then returned to IRPE for analysis of the data.

## DATA ANALYSIS:

### Edison State College Data Analysis for Communication Assessment Summer 2009 Performance

49 students were matched to Banner data on ID

Hours Earned	N	%	Average Score	Comments
45-60	13	26.5%	2.54	The average score increased as students completed more hours.
61-75	23	46.9%	2.63	
76-90	8	16.3%	2.69	
91+	5	10.2%	2.80	
	49	100.0%		

GPA	N	%	Average Score	Comments
2.01-2.50	4	8.2%	2.38	The average score based on GPA was not significant but students maintaining a "B" average or higher performed better.
2.51-3.00	15	30.6%	2.57	
3.01-3.50	21	42.8%	2.74	
3.51-4.00	9	18.4%	2.61	
	49	100.0%		

Degree Program	N	%	Average Score	Comments
AA Degree	26	53.1%	2.71	The average score for students enrolled in the AA program was higher than those in an AS program.
AS Degrees	22	44.9%	2.52	
BAS/BS Degrees	1	2.0%	3.00	
Certificates	0	0.0%	0.00	
	49	100.0%		

### Edison State College Average Scores Above and Below 2.0 Communication Assessment Summer 2009 Performance

<b>Above Cut:</b>	35	71.4%
<b>Below 2.0:</b>	14	28.6%
<b>Total:</b>	49	100.0%

**Edison State College**  
**Reliabilities of Paired Scorers for Communication Assessment**  
**Summer 2009 Performance**

Scorers	Reliability	Number
A & B	0.67 (Reliable)	28 <i>Test Scores</i>
C & D	0.48 (Not Reliable)	21 <i>Test Scores</i>
<b>Number Analyzed for Reliability</b>		<b>49</b>

- The scoring session revealed that the Written Communication rubric worked very well for almost all types of writing assignments across the disciplines. The team found, however, that the research paper artifact was not very successful in revealing relevant data because the scoring team found a high degree of plagiarism in many of the artifacts.
- Over 70% of the students scored above a “2” on the Written Communication rubric; however, one scoring team was deemed “not reliable” in its inter-rater reliability.

**USE OF ASSESSMENT FINDINGS TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING:**

The scoring team had the following recommendations for general education assessment in Written Communication:

- English faculty will conduct workshops/norming sessions on writing assignments for faculty in other disciplines.
- The multidisciplinary scoring team should have more norming sessions to improve inter-rater reliability.
- Student artifacts should be typed in correct MLA or APA format or clearly handwritten (typed is preferable).
- Student artifacts should be at least one fully-developed paragraph that meets the criteria of the Written Communication rubric (preferably at least one typed page).

**OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A larger number of artifacts from upper-level courses need to be randomly chosen by IRPE for the next scoring of Written Communication.
- Written Communication artifacts should not be more than 5-8 pages.
- Feedback will be provided by IRPE for faculty who wish to adjust their assignments.

**DESCRIBE HOW DATA AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE SHARED WITH FACULTY:**

This data will be shared with the SAC committee; the chairs and associate deans will then disseminate to faculty at departmental meetings. The data will also be posted on the Edison State College Assessment Website.