

University of Cincinnati

<http://www.uc.edu/gened/default.html>

Laura Gayle Green, 17 November 2009 report

- Basics of the program:
 - Identified four undergraduate core competencies plus information literacy as an “essential skill that supports each of the baccalaureate competencies and must permeate every component of the General Education Core”
 - Core competencies:
 - Critical Thinking
 - Effective Communication
 - Knowledge Integration
 - Social Responsibility
 - Identifies process as:
 - First Year Great Beginnings
 - Mid-Collegiate
 - Senior Year Experience
 - But also:
 - Foundation Skills (e.g. English Composition)
 - Contemporary Topics (e.g., Diversity and Culture, Social and Ethical Issues, and Quantitative Reasoning)
 - Breadth of Knowledge Courses (sometimes listed as Breadth too! ?!?) to “ensure exposure to the traditional disciplines that are the hallmark of a liberally educated person, students choose eight 3 hour courses from a minimum of 5 distribution areas:
 - Fine Arts
 - Historical Perspectives
 - Humanities
 - Literature (moved into Humanities as of ?? -- conflict b/w docs)
 - Natural Sciences
 - Social Sciences
 - Program/Major requirements
 - Capstone course or experience
 - Look for the rubrics -- not all disciplines are represented, but we can draw from those that are.
- Insights about the strengths of the program
 - Annual student learning assessment reports
 - Good website with information for students, faculty, and staff
- How is it related to AAC&U LEAP principles, etc.
 - Not defined as relating, but certainly aligns with LEAP’s Essential Learning Outcomes,
- Any unique features

- No penalties in General Education assessment. (see Faculty FAQs, item 8). I wonder if this is related to program assessment rather than student grades.
- Also, if they have information about the development process they used that would be useful information to share
 - Website includes “The Core Story” outlining program (basic).
 - Under “For Faculty and Staff” has syllabus information, which includes recommendations from Faculty Senate for what must be in all syllabi.
 - Also linked, “Facilitating Assessment of Student Learning: Insights from HLC Team Mentors.” Worth reading.
 - Would like to have seen much more on the development process.
- Observations:
 - Looked at booklet for College-Conservatory of Music -- nothing mentioned about Core program that I could find.
 - Looked at College of Business, which did mention the Core Curriculum under General Education.