Appendix G

General Education Committee Report

General Education
Assessment Report

Fall 14-Spring 15
Prepared September 15, 2015

The information reported below is taken from the timeline on page 3 of the General Education Assessment Plan that was most recently revised on February 2013.

The **first** assessment task (**GE Committee reviews catalog's GE philosophy and purpose statement & edits**). This was task was completed and no changes were made in 2013-2014 Academic year. According to Assessment and Improvement plan, this review takes place in academic years beginning with an odd number.

The **second** assessment task-(**GE Committee reviews category outcomes).** Two categories a year have been slated to be reviewed.

Committee Set Schedule for reviewing Outcomes (11-10-14 Meeting)

2014-2015 year Category 4- Social Science/History
2015-2016 year Category 3- Natural Science, Cat. 5- Cultural Diversity, Cat. 7 – Technology
2016-2017 year Category 1- Communication and Category 2- Math
2017-2018 year Category 6- Fine Arts/ Humanities
2018-2019 year Category 4 again
2019-2020 year Categories 3, 5, and 7 again…

Committee invited Social Science/History faculty to a committee meeting but none showed up to discuss the Category 4 outcomes.

Committee Voted to Table Assessment and improvement plan (12-1-14) and spend time assessing General Education to meet the Northwest Accreditation requirements.

The **third** assessment task (**GEC compares GE core requirements with MUS and peer institutions**) was modified to see how peer institutions assessed the GE core Requirements 2014-2015.

Committee member, Norton Pease spoke to MSU-Great Falls, MSU-Billings, and UM-Missoula about how peer institutions measure/assess General Education Assessment. Great Falls uses faculty assessment of general education outcomes and instructors submit paperwork documenting the assessment. Great Falls sent Norton a copy of the form which was modified and used for faculty assessment at MSU-Northern. Billings uses the ETS proficiency exam to measure student competency in General Education Areas. MSU-Northern administered its first ETS Exam to seniors in the Spring of 2015.

The **fourth** assessment task (GE Committee reviews appropriateness availability, and number of GE courses listed in the GE main categories) was done in the prior years. According to Assessment and Improvement plan, this review takes place in academic years beginning with an odd number.

The **fifth** assessment task (**Standardize GE class objectives for GE classes taught by multiple instructors (e.g. WRIT 101**). This task was not completed this year.

The **sixth** assessment task (**Graduate proficiencies measured by graduate exit survey/ETS Exam and when possible with a one year on-line employer follow-up survey**).

The ETS Exam was completed by 15 seniors in the spring of 2015. Results and discussion of the exam are on the following pages.

The **seventh** assessment task (**GE Committee reviews the self-reporting assessment completed by the faculty teaching Gen Ed courses that year**).

The faculty self reported assessment of General Education courses was completed for 18 General Education classes in the spring of 2015. Results and discussion of the exam are on the following pages.

The general Education Committee met with faculty (2/18/15) to present the assessment reporting options and gather feedback from Gen Ed Faculty. The methods of gathering faculty assessment data were from the online assessment website established in 2013-2014 or from paper forms submitted to the college chairs/deans. Faculty indicated a need for both, with the paper forms being used for data entry into the online assessment site.

General Education Assessment

General Education was assessed by three different performance indicators during the 2014-2015 academic year. Assessment Data was collected with the following tools.

1. Instructor Self Evaluations
    a. Goal of 70% of students meeting each outcome in each General Education Category
    b. Increase instructor participation.
2. ETS Proficiency Exam
    a. Goal to score better than National average in Proficiency Ratings for each Category
3. Graduate Survey
    a. Goal 90% of students rate experience as Average or Above

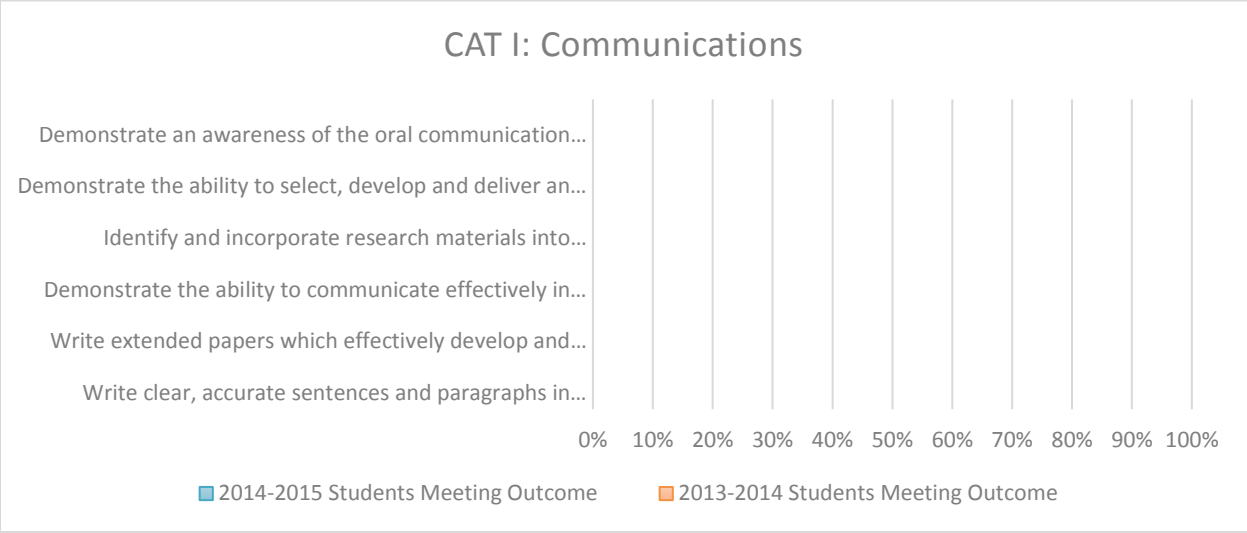
1. **The MSU-Northern instructor assessment.** This assessment method was implemented in the 2013-2014 Academic Year. The assessment plan calls for all instructors teaching General Education Courses to provide data for <u>each outcome</u> within the General Education Category covered by the class. Instructors are asked to provide the following information.
   a. What percentage of students accomplished the outcome?
   b. How was the outcome measured?

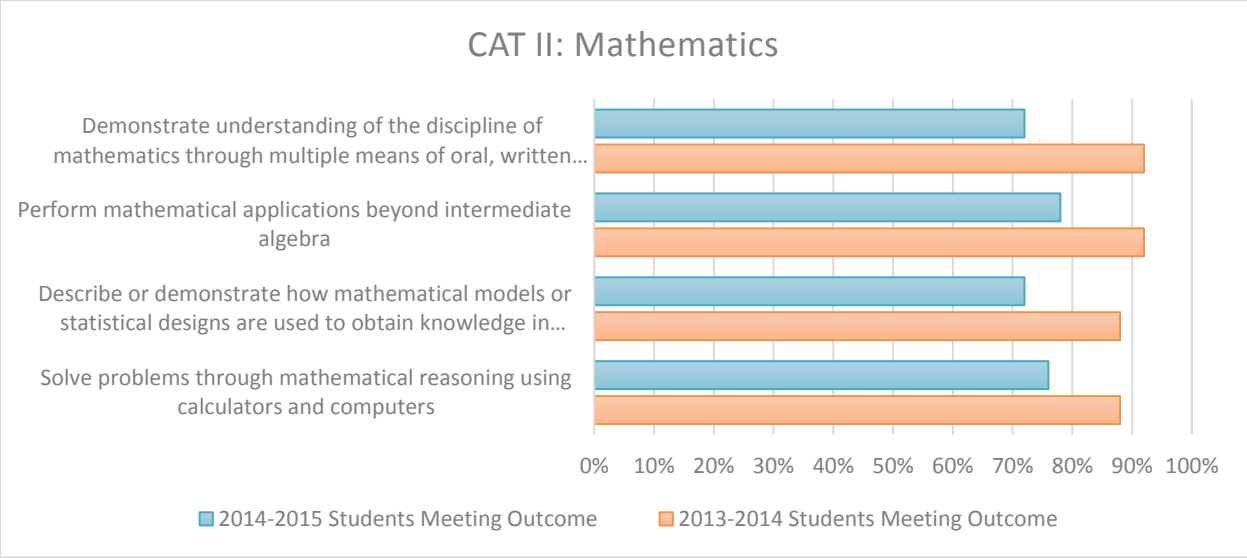
   A goal was established for 70% of students to meet each general education outcome. The results of the instructor self reporting are included in below.

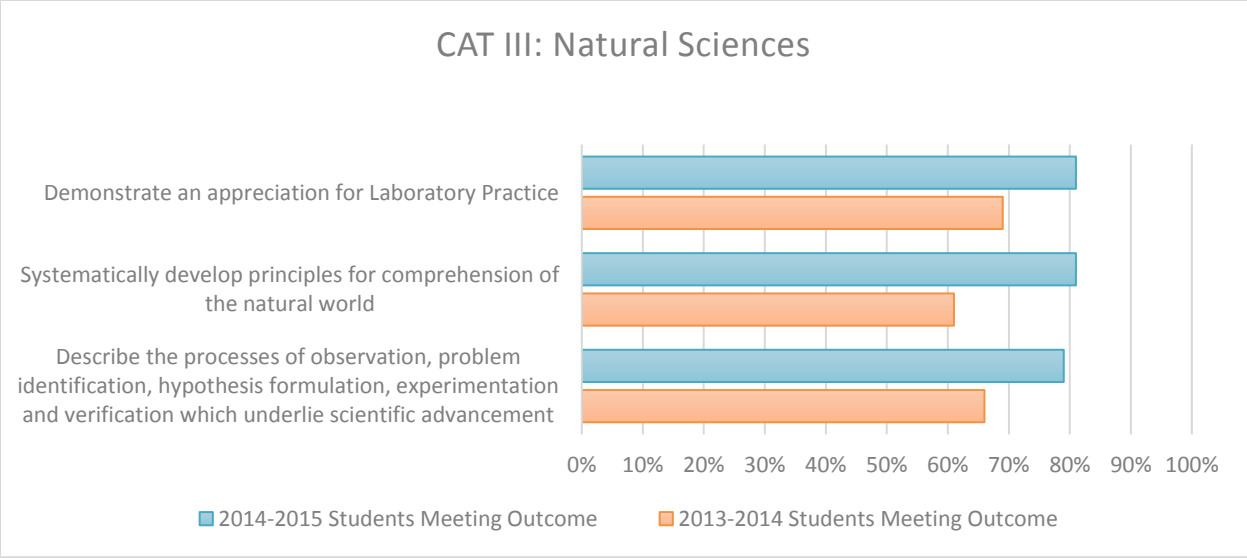
	2013-2014 Data			Percentage of Students meeting Individual Outcomes					
		Responses	**Courses Offered**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
CAT I	Communications	0	5	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
CAT II	Mathematics	1	12	88%	88%	92%	92%	N/A	N/A
CAT III	Natural Sciences	7	25	66%	61%	69%	N/A	N/A	N/A
CAT IV	Social Sciences/History	1	20	50%	50%	50%	0%	N/A	N/A
CAT V	Cultural Diversity	6	18	78%	77%	76%	N/A	N/A	N/A
CAT VI-A	Humanities	0	17	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	N/A	N/A
CAT VI-B	Creative Arts	0	8	No Data	No Data	No Data	N/A	N/A	N/A
CAT VII	Technology	0	5	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	N/A
	Total	15	110						

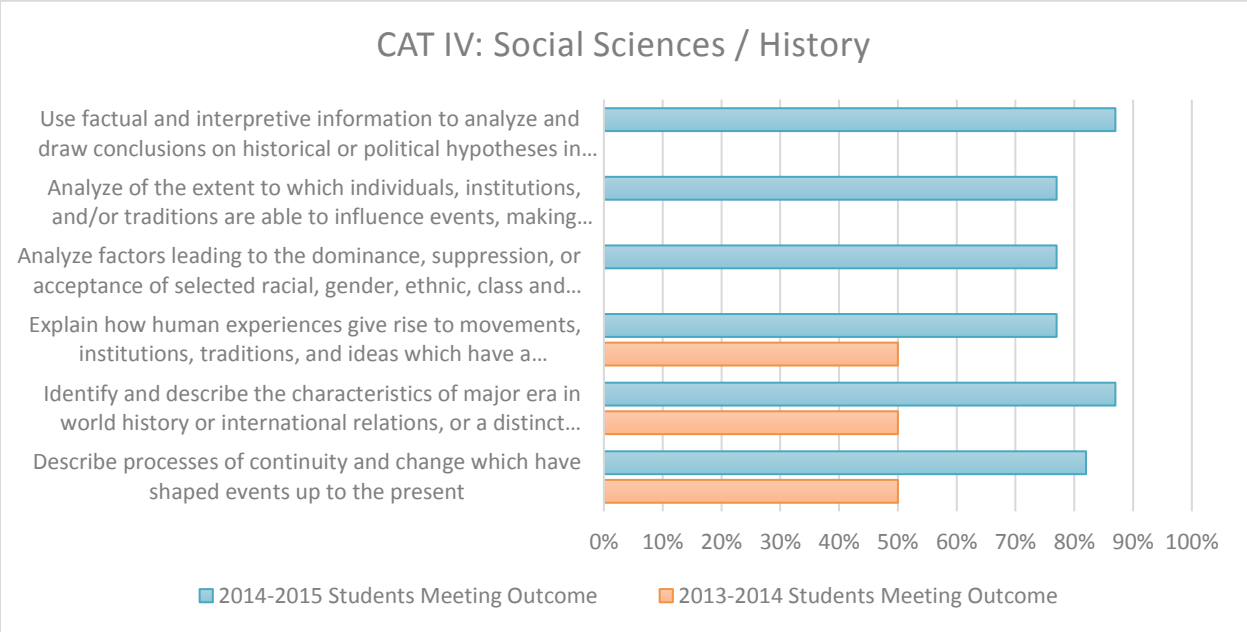
	2014-2015 Data			Percentage of Students meeting Individual Outcomes					
		Responses	**Courses Offered**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
CAT I	Communications	0	5	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
CAT II	Mathematics	7	12	76%	72%	78%	72%	N/A	N/A
CAT III	Natural Sciences	6	25	79%	81%	81%	N/A	N/A	N/A
CAT IV	Social Sciences/History	1	20	82%	87%	77%	0%	N/A	N/A
CAT V	Cultural Diversity	2	18	81%	75%	78%	N/A	N/A	N/A
CAT VI-A	Humanities	0	17	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	N/A	N/A
CAT VI-B	Creative Arts	0	8	No Data	No Data	No Data	N/A	N/A	N/A
CAT VII	Technology	2	5	56%	45%	47%	81%	78%	N/A
	Total	18	110						

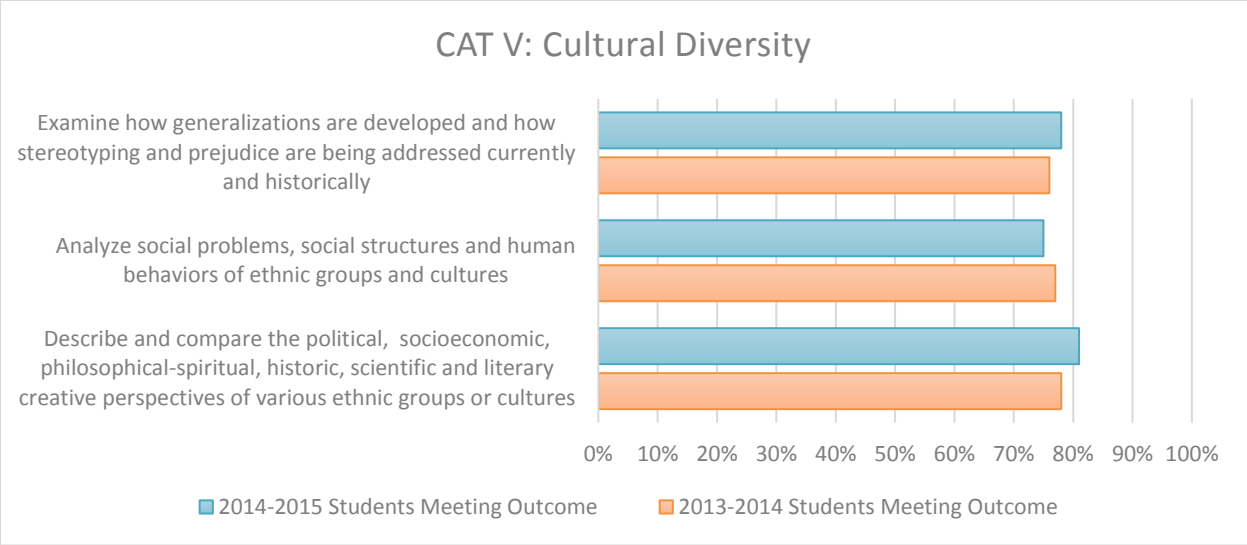
Individual categories were also analyzed and compared to previous years' data. The data is shown in graphs below.

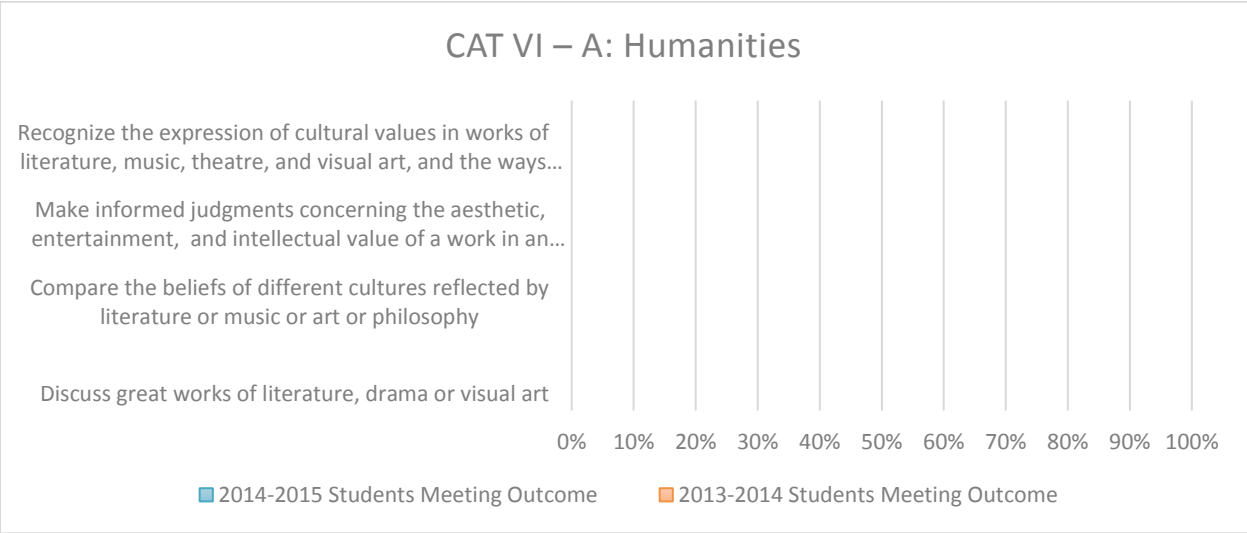


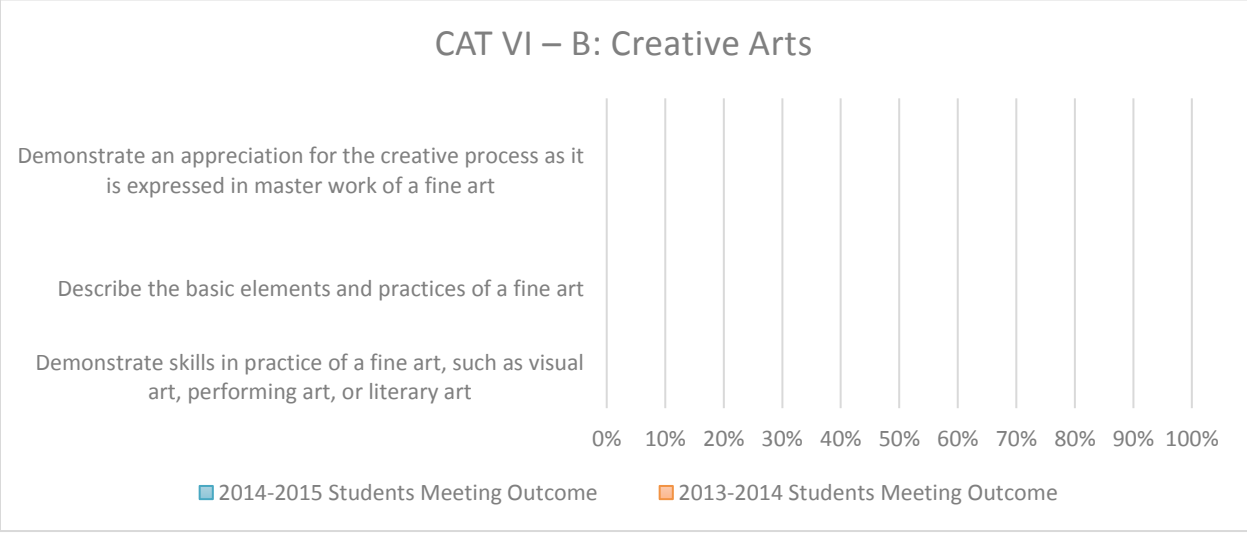


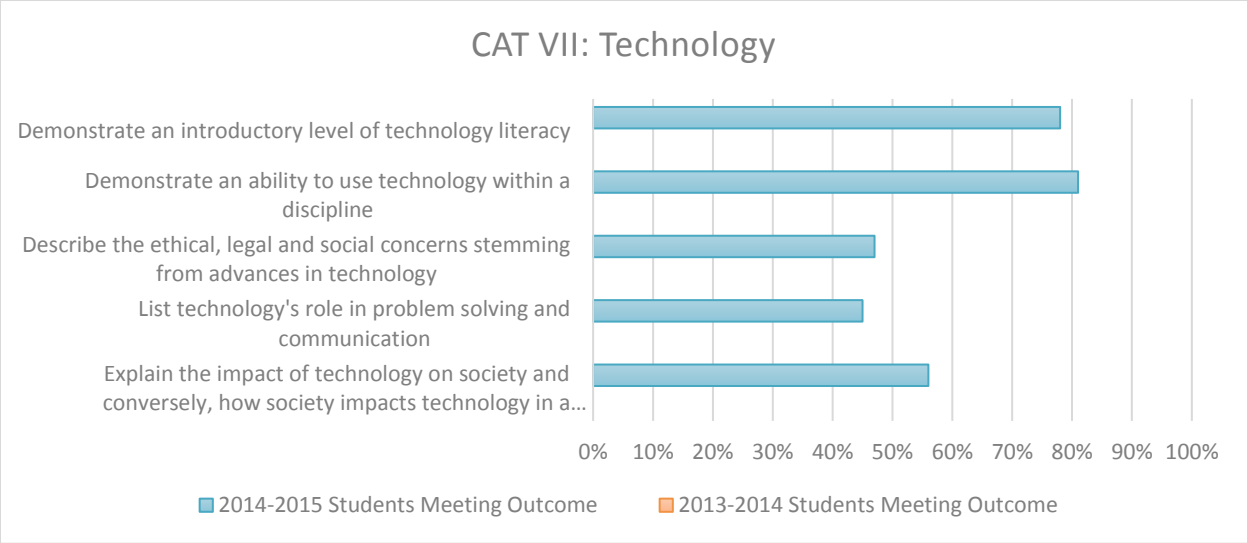

CAT III: Natural Sciences
Demonstrate an appreciation for Laboratory Practice
Systematically develop principles for comprehension of the natural world
Describe the processes of observation, problem identification, hypothesis formulation, experimentation and verification which underlie scientific advancement
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
2014-2015 Students Meeting Outcome
2013-2014 Students Meeting Outcome


CAT IV: Social Sciences / History
Use factual and interpretive information to analyze and draw conclusions on historical or political hypotheses in…
Analyze of the extent to which individuals, institutions, and/or traditions are able to influence events, making…
Analyze factors leading to the dominance, suppression, or acceptance of selected racial, gender, ethnic, class and…
Explain how human experiences give rise to movements, institutions, traditions, and ideas which have a…
Identify and describe the characteristics of major era in world history or international relations, or a distinct…
Describe processes of continuity and change which have shaped events up to the present
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
2014-2015 Students Meeting Outcome
2013-2014 Students Meeting Outcome


CAT V: Cultural Diversity
Examine how generalizations are developed and how stereotyping and prejudice are being addressed currently and historically
Analyze social problems, social structures and human behaviors of ethnic groups and cultures
Describe and compare the political, socioeconomic, philosophical-spiritual, historic, scientific and literary creative perspectives of various ethnic groups or cultures
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
2014-2015 Students Meeting Outcome
2013-2014 Students Meeting Outcome


CAT VI – A: Humanities
Recognize the expression of cultural values in works of literature, music, theatre, and visual art, and the ways…
Make informed judgments concerning the aesthetic, entertainment, and intellectual value of a work in an…
Compare the beliefs of different cultures reflected by literature or music or art or philosophy
Discuss great works of literature, drama or visual art
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
2014-2015 Students Meeting Outcome
2013-2014 Students Meeting Outcome

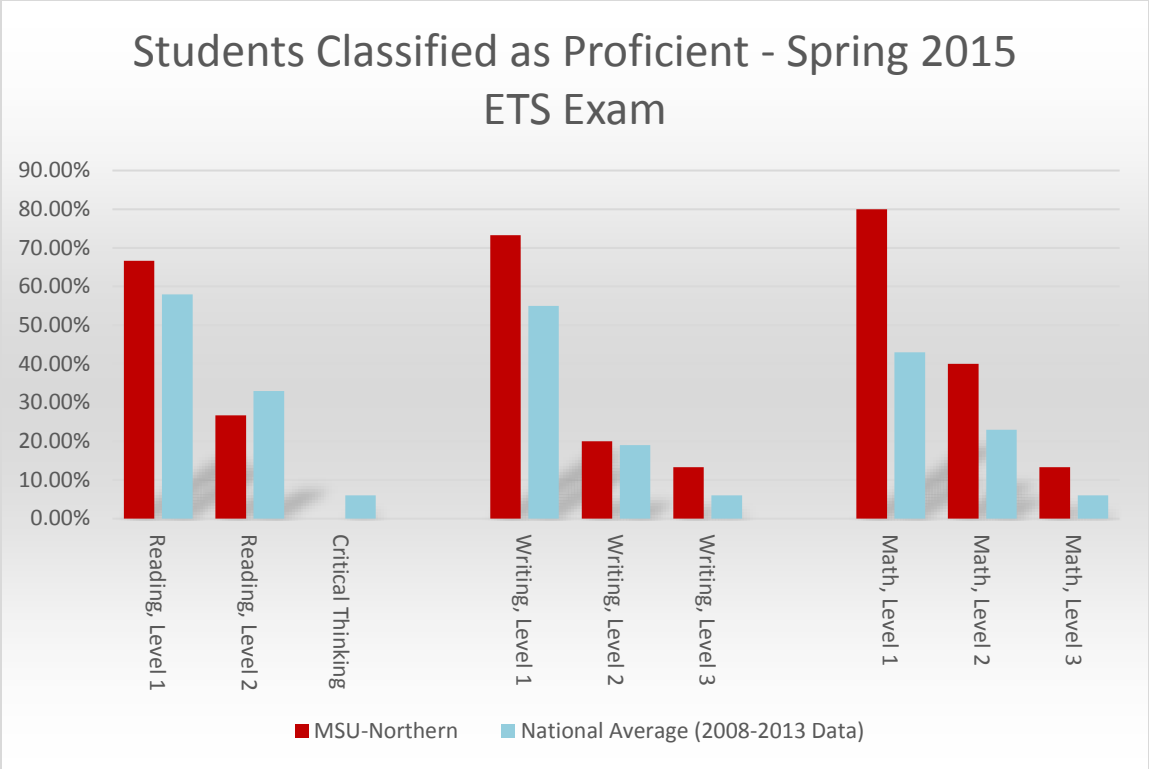

CAT VI – B: Creative Arts
Demonstrate an appreciation for the creative process as it is expressed in master work of a fine art
Describe the basic elements and practices of a fine art
Demonstrate skills in practice of a fine art, such as visual art, performing art, or literary art
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
2014-2015 Students Meeting Outcome
2013-2014 Students Meeting Outcome

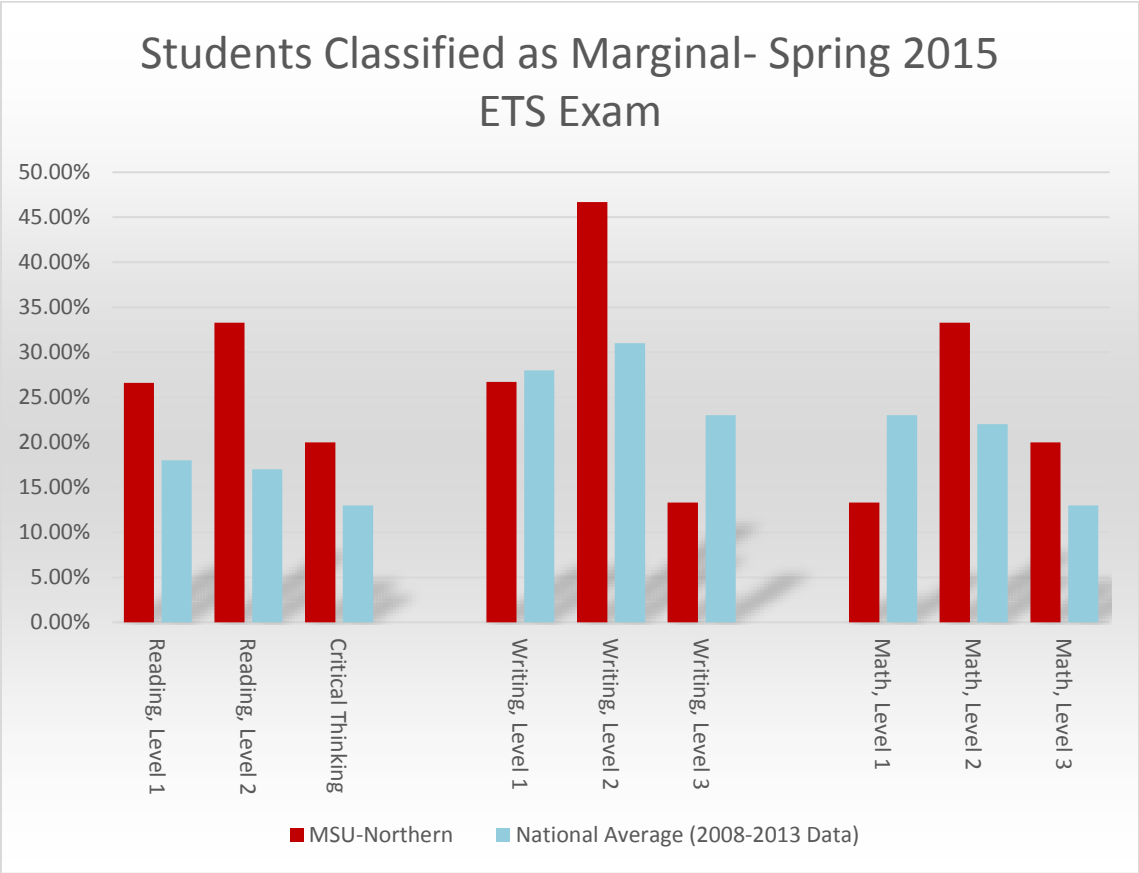

CAT VII: Technology
Demonstrate an introductory level of technology literacy
Demonstrate an ability to use technology within a discipline
Describe the ethical, legal and social concerns stemming from advances in technology
List technology's role in problem solving and communication
Explain the impact of technology on society and conversely, how society impacts technology in a...
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
2014-2015 Students Meeting Outcome
2013-2014 Students Meeting Outcome

2. **An ETS Proficiency Profile Exam** was administered to Senior Students in Capstone Courses. The 2014-2015 Academic Year was the first year the exam was given. Fifteen students completed the exam and results were compared to the National Data for Senior Students enrolled in four year colleges (2008-2013).
   a. Results and Comparisons to National Averages are shown below.

		2013 Comparative Data Guide				
Summary of Proficiency Classifications— Seniors (More than 90 semester hours or more than 145 quarter hours), Four-year Colleges and Universities						
		July 2008 through June 2013.				
	MSUN	National	MSUN	National	MSUN	National
Skill Dimension	Proficient	Average	Marginal	Average	Not Proficient	Average
Reading, Level 1	66.70%	58.00%	26.60%	18.00%	6.70%	24.00%
Reading, Level 2	26.70%	33.00%	33.30%	17.00%	40.00%	50.00%
Critical Thinking	0.00%	6.00%	20.00%	13.00%	80.00%	80.00%
Writing, Level 1	73.30%	55.00%	26.70%	28.00%	0.00%	17.00%
Writing, Level 2	20.00%	19.00%	46.70%	31.00%	33.30%	50.00%
Writing, Level 3	13.30%	6.00%	13.30%	23.00%	73.40%	70.00%
Math, Level 1	80.00%	43.00%	13.30%	23.00%	6.70%	33.00%
Math, Level 2	40.00%	23.00%	33.30%	22.00%	26.70%	55.00%
Math, Level 3	13.30%	6.00%	20.00%	13.00%	66.70%	80.00%

   b. Results and Comparisons to National Averages are shown in graphs on the following page.


Students Classified as Proficient - Spring 2015 ETS Exam
90.00%
80.00%
70.00%
60.00%
50.00%
40.00%
30.00%
20.00%
10.00%
0.00%
Reading, Level 1
Reading, Level 2
Critical Thinking
Writing, Level 1
Writing, Level 2
Writing, Level 3
Math, Level 1
Math, Level 2
Math, Level 3
MSU-Northern
National Average (2008-2013 Data)


Students Classified as Marginal- Spring 2015 ETS Exam
50.00%
45.00%
40.00%
35.00%
30.00%
25.00%
20.00%
15.00%
10.00%
5.00%
0.00%
Reading, Level 1
Reading, Level 2
Critical Thinking
Writing, Level 1
Writing, Level 2
Writing, Level 3
Math, Level 1
Math, Level 2
Math, Level 3
MSU-Northern
National Average (2008-2013 Data)

3. **MSU-Northern Graduates were surveyed** by the Career Center and asked about their overall general education experience while attending MSU-Northern. A summary of the results are below, while the raw data from the survey can be found in **Appendix B.**

Rating of General Education Core	2010 Grad Survey	2011 Grad Survey	2012 Grad Survey	2013 Grad Survey	2014 Grad Survey
	N = 69	N = 146	N = 197	N=60	N = 82
Very Well	20.3%	23.3%	7.6%	23.3%	16.9%
Well	37.7%	34.9%	58.9%	50.0%	51.8%
Average	33.3%	36.3%	32.5%	23.3%	30.1%
Poor	1.4%	2.7%	0.5%	3.3%	0.0%
Very Poor	5.8%	2.7%	0.5%	0.0%	1.2%
No Response	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Observations.

1. **Instructor Self Evaluations – Goal of 70% of Students meeting Outcomes**
    a. Areas with no Data Response
        i. Category I Communications
        ii. Category VI Humanities/Fine Arts
    b. Areas with low Data Response
        i. Category IV Social Sciences
        ii. Category V Cultural Diversity
    c. Areas with performance below 70%
        i. Category VII Technology
            1. 3 outcomes below 70%
2. **ETS Proficiency Exam – Goal to Score better than National average in Proficiency Ratings**
    a. Areas were Northern scored below National Average
        i. Proficiency in
            1. Reading Level II
            2. Critical Thinking
3. **Graduate Survey – Goal 90% of students rate experience as Average or Above**
    a. More students are rating their experience as "Well" rather than "Very Well".
    b. A majority of students (98%) rate there experience as Very Well, Well, or Average.

Recommendations:

1. Improve response rates of Instructor Self Evaluations. Incentives for participation may be required.
    a. Improve by inviting instructors to a meeting where we help them evaluate their courses
2. Increase number of students taking ETS Proficiency Exam. Initial data indicates need for improvement in Reading Level II and Critical Thinking.
    a. Improve by adding more capstone courses.
    b. Get the ETS to the instructors earlier so that it can be added as an assignment.
3. Continue gathering Graduate Survey Data. Self evaluations by MSUN graduates indicate students feel that they are meeting general education requirements.