

Missions and Majors: A Teagle-funded project from Beloit, Knox, Monmouth and Ripon Colleges <http://bioquest.org/teagle/index.php>

Departmental assessment comparison by college and goals

	CRITICAL THINKING	CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	QUANTITATIVE
HUMANITIES			
Knox English	Foundation of all courses- "To assess a text for value and for meaning requires marshalling evidence from the text itself, employing logical reasoning, being attentive to the emotional and psychological charges of the text, and considering relevant connections between the text and the larger world in which it is produced." Indirect measures- student survey	"how to respect the opinions and emotions, the thoughts and articulations of others, thus preparing students for broader engagement at the civic and moral level." Engage with artists and scholars beyond the classroom, participate in community of scholars in journals, readings, etc.	Promoting "habits of mind" that promote quantitative analysis- in curriculum course Prosody, other systematic analyses of grammar, structure- Student survey finds that students do not yet appreciate quantitative analysis skills
Beloit Philosophy	In portfolio evaluation: 1)Intelligibility. 2) critical distance 3) sophistication 4) judiciousness Also senior survey	Preparation to act through applied ethics courses	Logic course Mostly advising
Beloit Religion	helping students to question and probe; to take a stand, mindful of the grounds upon which one stands, and to make and support compelling arguments Review of student course evals	Address directly questions of how communal values are shaped, communicated, and contested. Helping students to cultivate a sense of responsibility as developing global citizens, and a sense of wonder about religious experiences and frames of reference. Evaluate by course evals	Systematic analysis of data about practices (but leave the math to other depts.)
ARTS			
Monmouth Art	3 Yearly Portfolio reviews - prompts specify description and justification and analysis and can be compared over time	Civic engagement student survey given as part of review process, including voting and art-related events on campus	Quantitative activities to shape basic artist survival math- both costs of production and costs of living
SOCIAL SCI			
Ripon Sociology	1) differentiate between various research methods used in the discipline and understand how and when they are used), 2) understand and apply theories used in the discipline and some of its	Not systematically assessed- will do in Fall 20008 All students reported 2 to 4 activities.	Research Methods course. Develop skills, such as learning to read quantitative tables, interpret the data in these tables, and as well as perform statistical analysis using a

	subfields), and 3) complete an in-depth research project related to the discipline). (critical thinking embedded assessment)		software program (SPSS). Will assess in Fall 2008. Few students take extra math or natural science courses.
Ripon Anthropology	Used embedded assessments and identified places for improvement	Used embedded assessments ethical perspectives on anthro in community- Need to be more explicit in curriculum	Not part of departmental learning goals- transcript review and student survey indicate that students stay away
Beloit Anthropology	"Learning cultural anthropology is inherently about critical thinking." Discussed all courses to identify critical thinking content Reviewed courses taken outside department to see if students took critical thinking there. No direct measures	Couldn't agree on definition- Exposed to tools and ethical considerations in classes, faculty model engagement, students study abroad, Nicaragua class, "pragmatic solidarity"	Understand tables and charts, use descriptive stats. 75% of majors take stats. Other departments
SCIENCES			
Ripon Physics	Critical investigation of physical systems. Assess skills involved with the development of laboratory experiments and laboratory reports: 1) error analysis 2) explanation of underlying principles and assumptions through derivations, and 3) development of experiments	Part of departmental mission, including Learning about and sharing information about the applications of physics to issues in society (e.g. energy conservation) and Community service in the form of sharing physics activities with others, especially school children and their teachers.	Lots of math- embedded assessment of vector math as theme through introductory and advanced classes
Knox Mathematics	CLA definition and plans to review curriculum and survey students Our next step was to look at our curriculum to find particular places where epiphanies were reached.	Outlined civic engagement, through requirement and will verify with NSSE	Focus of project- MAA report- Quantitative Reasoning for College Graduates and test of student achievement for majors and non-majors
Monmouth Biology	Identified need to completely revise introductory sequence to include critical thinking and civic engagement rather than just memorization	Through investigative case-based learning . Will assess when implemented.	Take required quantitative courses in other depts..

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