Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy

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IC @ GHC: Assessing Information Literacy Skills across the Curriculum and on a Budget

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IC @ GHC: Assessing Information Literacy Skills Across the Curriculum and On a Budget

Presenters:
- Cindy Wheeler, Assistant Professor of English
- Teresa Hutchins, Assistant Professor of Political Science
Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for Georgia Highlands College

• Concern: Small budget

• A five year plan which fulfills a need among students

• Part of SACS process
Survey taken during the 2005-2006 academic year to assess perceived student needs.

The perceived academic needs from survey were the basis for the discussion of a QEP topic.

There were ten potential QEP topics, including writing skills, information literacy, and learning communities.
Faculty felt that:

- 16% students have adequate IC skills
- 47% students need help determining nature and extent of information needed (SLO #1)
- 57% - students cannot accurately evaluate credibility (SLO #3)
- 50% - students understand importance of citation (SLO #4)
- 18% - students use citations when needed (SLO #4)
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN (QEP)

Increase the Information Competency (IC) skills of students at Georgia Highlands College (GHC)

Mission Statement:

The mission of the GHC Information Competency Program is to create a curriculum-wide culture of information competency among students, demonstrated through writing or other modes of communication.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

• determine the nature and extent of information needed

• access the needed information effectively and efficiently

• evaluate information and its sources critically

• demonstrate IC through writing or other modes of communication

*Adopted from the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries Standards
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Two Year College

- Tight Budget Restrictions
- Multiple Campuses
- Rapidly Increasing Enrollment

Student Population

- Traditional and Non-traditional students
- High attrition rate
- Substantial Learning Support Contingent
AVOID BUDGET BUSTERS

• Encourage intrinsic versus extrinsic rewards
• Take advantage of school-sponsored events
• Find small ways to get everyone involved with minimal cost
• Select promotional items that can be distributed on a wide scale for minimum cost
### FIRST YEAR BUDGET:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library Resources</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books, hard copy materials</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Software</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC Consultants/trainers</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment/in-Service speakers</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training materials</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional development</td>
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<tr>
<td>SACS QEP conference, July 07</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Conference on Information Literacy, October 07</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies &amp; support materials</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development new Instructional materials</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment forms printing</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies &amp; printed materials</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QEP Assessment coordinator reassigned time</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total QEP budget</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional QEP Leadership Support from redirected funds:**

- QEP Committee Chair 2 course reassigned time: $4,000

**GRAND TOTAL**: $14,000
ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

• Create Assessment Tools which assess the four SLOs

• Create Assessment Tools which allow flexibility in IC instruction

• Assess value added in both IC application and knowledge

• Create Assessment Tools which are easy to administer and analyze
IC @ GHC ASSESSMENT PLAN

- College-wide Assessment
  - Created own instrument (Handout 1)
  - Saved money
  - Tailored to GHC needs

- Course Specific Assessment
  - Faculty buy-in is vital
  - Implemented across the core on a year by year basis (Handout 2)
COLLEGE-WIDE ASSESSMENT

- IC assessment completed on incoming first-year students
- IC assessment completed on students in a structured sample of second year classes
- Goal is to achieve a 5% increase annually in IC assessment scores of second year students over the five year period
- Data is collected college-wide, by individual campus, and by individual academic division
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Area A
Essential Skills:
English, Math

Area B
GHC options:
COMM; FCCS

Area C
Humanities & Fine
Arts

Area D
Science & Math

Area E
Social Science

Area F
Program of Study
Courses
COURSE SPECIFIC WAYS TO ASSESS IC

• Getting faculty of all disciplines to buy into IC
  • Encouraging creativity
  • Tailoring current assignments/projects to fit IC
  • Ending up with unique ways of assessing IC
BIOLOGY

• IC Project
• Grading Rubrics
• Results
CHEMISTRY

- IC Project
- Grading Rubrics
Communication

- Pre-/Post-tests
- Rubric
- Results
INSTITUTIONAL DATA RESULTS

- Handout 3
Brand Recognition = “this must be important!”

• Logo use on syllabi, assignments
• Posters placed strategically on campuses
• Pencils and bookmarks distributed and continually used for in-class assignments
• Website
To Learn More About IC @ GHC

Visit our Website at www.highlands.edu/ic
PROMOTIONAL STRATEGIES

• Games/Booths at campus events
• Video
• Logo Contest
• Song Contest
• Library Scavenger Hunt
• Faculty support
FACULTY TRAINING

● Area Coordinator Training - October
  – Area coordinators lead creation of assessment instruments for the next year’s implementation
  – stipend

● Faculty Workshops - January
  – guest speakers
  – refreshments
LESSONS LEARNED: ASSESSMENT

- Pre/Post Test Modifications
  - Analyze results per question
  - High pre-test scores

- Rubric
  - Possibly greater breakdown into additional sub-categories for more precise evaluation of each SLO

- Data Collection:
  - Reduce paperwork
  - Use electronic transfer of assessment
FUTURE PLANS AND CHALLENGES

• Looking beyond the five-year plan

• Keeping the program fresh

• Managing the increased amount of assessment data

• Adjusting budget for increased costs and incentives
AUDIENCE DISCUSSION

What kinds of IC projects could you create?

Questions?