Detailed Assessment Report for
2006-2007 Core Curriculum Program

Mission

The University Core Curriculum Programs develop, implement and evaluate undergraduate academic and academic-support programs that establish a foundation for general education, provide lifelong learning skills and support the attainment of academic and career goals. The First-Year Learning Communities Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi immerses students in an active learning environment, providing a context to integrate curricular content, to develop skills, and to develop a sense of academic community.

Student Learning Outcomes, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Achievement Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

O 1: Writing

Writing

Associations:

General Education or Core Curriculum:

2 Writing

Institutional Priorities:

1.1 Recruiting, retaining, and supporting a diverse, highly qualified student body, faculty and staff
1.3 Fostering free and open intellectual inquiry, accomplishment and expression

Strategic Plans:

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

1.1 Excellence
2.2 Engagement
4.4 Effectiveness

Related Measures:

M 1: FYLCP fall and spring surveys

FYLCP fall and spring surveys

Achievement Target:

80% of respondents will agree that the FYLCP helped them improve

Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met

1. Writing: Fall 2006 - 72% (81% for students in composition); Spring 2007 - 75% (81% for students in composition)
Active learning: Fall 2006 - First-Year Seminar 95%, large lecture professor 88%; Spring 2007 - First-Year Seminar 95%, large lecture professor 85% 9.
Collaborative learning: Fall 2006 - 81%; Spring 2007 - 76% 10. Integrate course material: Fall 2006 - First-Year Seminar 93%, large lecture professor
88%; Spring 2007 - First-Year Seminar 93%, large lecture professor 85%

**Related Action Plans:**

**Writing performance clarification**
Will clarify the expected performance level for students in linked composition courses and those not in linked composition courses. For more information, see the *Action Plan Details* section of this report.

**Clarify expected performance level**
Will clarify the expected performance level for students in linked composition courses.
For more information, see the *Action Plan Details* section of this report.

**M 2: 45 Hour Core Curriculum fall and spring surveys**
45 Hour Core Curriculum fall and spring surveys

**Achievement Target:**
80% of respondents will agree that the 45 hour Core helped them improve

**Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met**
1. Writing: Fall 2006 - 83%; Spring 2007 - 80%
2. Critical thinking: Fall 2006 - 87%; Spring 2007 - 91%
3. Making connections: Fall 2006 - 78%; Spring 2007 - 76%
4. Multiple perspectives: Fall 2006 - 93%; Spring 2007 - 92%

**O 2: Critical Thinking**
Critical Thinking

**Associations:**

**General Education or Core Curriculum:**
5 Critical Thinking

**Institutional Priorities:**
1. Recruiting, retaining, and supporting a diverse, highly qualified student body, faculty and staff
2. Establishing a culture of professionalism and responsibility
3. Fostering free and open intellectual inquiry, accomplishment and expression
4. Providing an active campus life that extends teaching and learning beyond the classroom

**Strategic Plans:**

*Texas A&M-Corpus Christi*
1. Excellence
2. Engagement
4. Effectiveness

**Related Measures:**

**M 2: 45 Hour Core Curriculum fall and spring surveys**
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80% of respondents will agree that the 45 hour Core helped them improve

**Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met**
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2. Critical thinking: Fall 2006 - 87%; Spring 2007 - 91%
3. Making connections: Fall 2006 - 78%; Spring 2007 - 76%
4. Multiple perspectives: Fall 2006 - 93%; Spring 2007 - 92%

**O 3: Making connections between disciplines**
Making connections between disciplines

**Associations:**
**General Education or Core Curriculum:**

14 Understand the interrelationships of disciplines

**Institutional Priorities:**

1.1 Recruiting, retaining, and supporting a diverse, highly qualified student body, faculty and staff
1.2 Establishing a culture of professionalism and responsibility
1.3 Fostering free and open intellectual inquiry, accomplishment and expression
1.7 Providing an active campus life that extends teaching and learning beyond the classroom

**Strategic Plans:**

*Texas A&M-Corpus Christi*

1.1 Excellence
2.2 Engagement
4.4 Effectiveness

**Related Measures:**

**M 1: FYLCP fall and spring surveys**
FYLCP fall and spring surveys

**Achievement Target:**
80% of respondents will agree that the FYLCP helped them improve

**Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met**

**M 2: 45 Hour Core Curriculum fall and spring surveys**
45 Hour Core Curriculum fall and spring surveys

**Achievement Target:**
80% of respondents will agree that the 45 hour Core helped them improve

**Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met**

**Related Action Plans:**

**Making Connections**
Will work with the UCCP Resource Group on developing common themes across the core curriculum courses.
For more information, see the *Action Plan Details* section of this report.

**O 4: Developing multiple perspectives**
Developing multiple perspectives

**Associations:**

**General Education or Core Curriculum:**

7 Establish broad & multiple perspectives

**Institutional Priorities:**
1.1 Recruiting, retaining, and supporting a diverse, highly qualified student body, faculty and staff
1.2 Establishing a culture of professionalism and responsibility
1.3 Fostering free and open intellectual inquiry, accomplishment and expression
1.7 Providing an active campus life that extends teaching and learning beyond the classroom

Strategic Plans:

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
1.1 Excellence
2.2 Engagement
4.4 Effectiveness

Related Measures:

M 1: FYLCP fall and spring surveys
FYLCP fall and spring surveys

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Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met
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3. Connections: Fall 2006 91%; Spring 2007 - 85%
4. Multiple perspectives: Fall 2006 88%; Spring 2007 - 87%
8. Active learning: Fall 2006 - First-Year Seminar 95%, large lecture professor 88%; Spring 2007 - First-Year Seminar 95%, large lecture professor 85%
9. Collaborative learning: Fall 2006 - 81%; Spring 2007 - 76%
10. Integrate course material: Fall 2006 - First-Year Seminar 93%, large lecture professor 88%; Spring 2007 - First-Year Seminar 93%, large lecture professor 85%

M 2: 45 Hour Core Curriculum fall and spring surveys
45 Hour Core Curriculum fall and spring surveys

Achievement Target:
80% of respondents will agree that the 45 hour Core helped them improve

Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met
1. Writing: Fall 2006 - 83%; Spring 2007 - 80%
2. Critical thinking: Fall 2006 - 87%; Spring 2007 - 91%
3. Making connections: Fall 2006 - 78%; Spring 2007 - 76%
4. Multiple perspectives: Fall 2006 - 93%; Spring 2007 - 92%

Other Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Achievement Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

O 5: Faculty Scholarly Activity
Promote and maintain the state and national reputation of the First-Year Learning Communities Program through conference participation and scholarly activities.

Associations:

Institutional Priorities:
1.1 Recruiting, retaining, and supporting a diverse, highly qualified student body, faculty and staff
1.2 Establishing a culture of professionalism and responsibility
1.3 Fostering free and open intellectual inquiry, accomplishment and expression
1.9 Involving the university community and other publics in the TAMU-CC mission and vision

Strategic Plans:
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

1.1 Excellence
2.2 Engagement
3.3 Expansion
4.4 Effectiveness

Related Measures:

M 3: Conference participation
Documentation of conference participation and scholarly activity related to the FYLCP.

Achievement Target:
Documentation will demonstrate that at least 5 FYLCP faculty/instructors will present at a conference related to the FYLCP.

Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met
16 FYLCP faculty/instructors made presentations at conferences related to the FYLCP.

O 6: Provide support for research
Provide support for Faculty/Instructor scholarship of teaching and learning research in the core curriculum, learning community, and first year experience areas.

Associations:

Institutional Priorities:
1.1 Recruiting, retaining, and supporting a diverse, highly qualified student body, faculty and staff
1.2 Establishing a culture of professionalism and responsibility
1.3 Fostering free and open intellectual inquiry, accomplishment and expression
1.6 Promoting efficient and effective use of time, resources and technology
1.9 Involving the university community and other publics in the TAMU-CC mission and vision

Strategic Plans:

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
1.1 Excellence
2.2 Engagement
4.4 Effectiveness

Related Measures:

M 4: Funding for trips to conferences.
Funding for trips to conferences.

Achievement Target:
At least $1,000 will be spent to support faculty trips to conferences.

Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met
$10,907.54 spent to support faculty trips to conferences

O 7: Promote faculty development
Promote faculty development for teaching and student learning in the core curriculum, learning community, and first-year experience areas.

Associations:

Institutional Priorities:
1.1 Recruiting, retaining, and supporting a diverse, highly qualified student body, faculty and staff
1.2 Establishing a culture of professionalism and responsibility
1.3  Fostering free and open intellectual inquiry, accomplishment and expression
1.6  Promoting efficient and effective use of time, resources and technology

Strategic Plans:

*Texas A&M-Corpus Christi*

1.1 Excellence
2.2 Engagement
4.4 Effectiveness

Related Measures:

**M 5: Faculty development**
Sponsorship of faculty development opportunities will be documented.

**Achievement Target:**
At least 4 faculty development events/workshops were be held each academic year.

**Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met**
Nine events were held in the 2006-07 AY.

**O 8: Provide active learning environment**
Provide First Year Learning Community Program students with an active learning environment.

Associations:

Institutional Priorities:

1.1 Recruiting, retaining, and supporting a diverse, highly qualified student body, faculty and staff
1.2 Establishing a culture of professionalism and responsibility

Strategic Plans:

*Texas A&M-Corpus Christi*

1.1 Excellence
2.2 Engagement
4.4 Effectiveness

Related Measures:

**M 1: FYLCP fall and spring surveys**
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**Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met**
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**O 9: Provide for collaborative learning**
Provide First Year Learning Community Program students with an environment for collaborative learning.

Associations:

Institutional Priorities:
1.1 Recruiting, retaining, and supporting a diverse, highly qualified student body, faculty and staff
1.2 Establishing a culture of professionalism and responsibility

Strategic Plans:

*Texas A&M-Corpus Christi*

1.1 Excellence
2.2 Engagement
4.4 Effectiveness

Related Measures:

**M 1: FYLCP fall and spring surveys**

FYLCP fall and spring surveys

**Achievement Target:**

80% of respondents will agree that the FYLCP helped them improve

**Findings (2006-2007) - Achievement Target Met**

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9. Collaborative learning: Fall 2006 - First-Year Seminar 95%, large lecture professor 88%; Spring 2007 - First-Year Seminar 93%, large lecture professor 85%

**Related Action Plans:**

**Collaborative Learning**

Will consider revising survey question to get at one that more specifically asks students about collaborative learning.

For more information, see the Action Plan Details section of this report.

**Consider revision of survey-collaborative learning**

Will consider revising survey question to get at one that more specifically asks students about collaborative learning

For more information, see the Action Plan Details section of this report.

**O 10: Integrate course material**

Integrate course material in First Year Learning Community Program courses.

**Associations:**

**Institutional Priorities:**

1.1 Recruiting, retaining, and supporting a diverse, highly qualified student body, faculty and staff
1.2 Establishing a culture of professionalism and responsibility

**Strategic Plans:**

*Texas A&M-Corpus Christi*

1.1 Excellence
2.2 Engagement
4.4 Effectiveness

**Related Measures:**

**M 1: FYLCP fall and spring surveys**

FYLCP fall and spring surveys

**Achievement Target:**
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4. Active learning: Fall 2006 - First-Year Seminar 95%, large lecture professor 88%; Spring 2007 - First-Year Seminar 95%, large lecture professor 85%
5. Collaborative learning: Fall 2006 - First-Year Seminar 93%, large lecture professor 88%; Spring 2007 - First-Year Seminar 93%, large lecture professor 85%

**Details for Action Plans Established This Cycle**

**Writing performance clarification**
Will clarify the expected performance level for students in linked composition courses and those not in linked composition courses.

- **Priority:** Low
- **Responsible Person/Group:** Co-Directors, UCCP

**Making Connections**
Will work with the UCCP Resource Group on developing common themes across the core curriculum courses.

- **Priority:** Medium
- **Responsible Person/Group:** Co-Directors, UCCP; UCCP Resource Group

**Collaborative Learning**
Will consider revising survey question to get at one that more specifically asks students about collaborative learning.

- **Priority:** Low
- **Responsible Person/Group:** Co-Directors, UCCP

**Analysis Answers**

**What specifically did your assessments show regarding proven strengths or progress you made on outcomes/objectives?**
The UCCP is meeting the student learning goals. Also, the UCCP is also active in promoting scholarly/creative activities.

**What specifically did your assessments show regarding any outcomes/objectives that will require continued attention?**
The 45-hour is not making connections across the discipline as well as we expect. Also, we need to decide how to treat students in the learning communities who are not enrolled in a linked composition course.

**Annual Reports**

**Executive Summary**
The UCCP is meeting the expected performance levels for student learning. Also, the UCCP is active in promoting scholarly activities and faculty development.

**Contributions to the Institution**
Academic excellence Promoting scholarly activity Promoting and maintaining the First-Year Learning Community Program's state and national reputation.
**Highlights**
Provided funding for 16 faculty and instructor presentations at conferences related to the First Year Learning Communities Program.

**Teaching Activities**
Student learning goals were either achieved or very close to being achieved. First Year Learning Communities Program students reported very high levels of active learning opportunities.

**Research and Scholarly Activities**
Provided funding for 16 faculty and instructor presentations at conferences related to the First Year Learning Communities Program. $10,907.54 spent to support faculty trips to conferences.

**Anticipated Challenges**
Maintaining the quality of the First Year Learning Communities Program given the low pay for First Year Seminar Leaders. Making connections between disciplines in the 45-hour core curriculum. More rigorously measuring student learning outcomes in the 45-hour core curriculum. Assessing all the core curriculum student learning outcomes.