

**Fall 2017**  
**Core Curriculum Assessment Report**

of

**Skills 1 – Communication**

from the

**Science**

Core Curricular Area



submitted by

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on behalf of the

**Science**

**Core Area Assessment Committee**

## Methods

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### **How was student work (artifacts) collected for assessment?**

Within each modality of each course, one section was randomly selected for assessment. The artifacts vary from course to course. As a whole, they were submitted as part of regular class exams, lab work, or homework. The instructors of the selected sections chose which artifacts best assessed skills 1.

### **What type of artifacts were collected?**

The artifacts are exam questions, homework questions, or portions of lab reports.

### **How were the artifacts sampled for assessment?**

For smaller sections (less than 25 students), artifacts were collected from all students. Some larger sections chose to randomly sample approximately 25 artifacts for assessment.

### **How were the artifacts scored?**

Due to the need for specific knowledge in many cases to accurately assess student work, the courses were scored within each discipline/department. When possible, two instructors within the same discipline scored each set of artifacts using a 0-4 rubric authored by the selected section's instructor.

### **How was reliability in scoring determined and ensured?**

When multiple scorers assessed a set of artifacts, the scores from each scorer were compared and any discrepancies were addressed by having both scorers reassess the artifacts in question.

Many of the artifacts collected could be scored objectively by one scorer (i.e., how many of X multiple choice questions related to this topic did a student get correct?)

## Reflection

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### What was learned from the assessment results?

Excluding absent results, 80.9% percent of students in science core courses in the spring 2017 semester performed at novice or higher for skills 1. 61.1% scored at proficient or higher.

## Continuous Improvement

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### **What changes will be made based upon the assessment results?**

We feel that the science core as a whole is doing a sufficient job at teaching skills 1 to science core students. We see no need to make significant changes to our instructional methods or curricula at this time.

One possible area of improvement is better coordination between the concurrent instructors and UA Little Rock faculty who are teaching the same course to insure that the concurrent sections are covering the same content. The concurrent instructors need to be made more aware of the assessment process earlier in the semester so they can be sure to collect appropriate artifacts.

## Feedback

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### **What changes are recommended for Core assessment?**

We would like further clarification on how long we should retain artifacts and how to do so. Are physical copies necessary or will digital formats suffice? Having a common repository (digital or physical) for the artifacts would be helpful.

## **Comments**

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**Other comments?**

**END OF REPORT**