Overview

Purpose: Evaluate the effectiveness of writing with the Baccalaureate Core.

Problems Identified

1. Curriculum and Communication
   - Curriculum needs to be more uniform.
   - Information about expectations and results needs to be better communicated.
2. Resources and Management
   - Class sizes need to be better tracked and managed.
   - There are not enough extended writing assignments (i.e. more than 4 pages).
3. Student Support
   - Low-achieving students need more support.
   - Students overall need more practice with writing.

Sources of Information

- National Survey of Student Engagement Consortium for the Study of Writing in College
- Preliminary Findings for the Committee Reviewing Writing in the Baccalaureate Core
- OSU faculty survey and focus group data
- Comparative institutional data

Results of Analysis

Strengths

- Faculty priorities are aligned with national expectations for writing.
- The current writing curriculum within the Bacc Core has several strengths.

Weaknesses

- Undergraduate writing at OSU needs improvement.
- The major areas of complaint about student writing are behavioral issues (e.g. lack of engagement, academic dishonesty, etc).
- Writing assignments with Bacc Core courses are not sufficient.
- Faculty are not taking advantage of tools related to the writing process.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Make sure that curriculum is uniform across sections and give advisors more information.
- Establish clearer expectations for writing in Synthesis courses.
- Introduce a model of Faculty Writing Advocates.
- Offer training on writing pedagogies to departmental units.
- Pilot a “stretch model” 100-level writing class for students with additional needs.
- Add and Information Literacy course to the Baccalaureate Core.

Potential Benefits

- Establish clearer, more uniform curriculum.
- Create means of managing the newly aligned curriculum.
- Maintain ongoing awareness of the importance of writing (i.e. build a culture of writing).
- Improve students’ written communication skills and their success as graduates.