

****APPROVED BY DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE FACULTY SENATE COUNCIL
May 7, 2002****

April 18, 2002

Information Competency Report/Action Item

The Information Competency Task Force recommends to the Faculty Senate Council that the following implementation process for GE Area VII be approved and that the requirement becomes effective fall 2003.

Implementation of Area VII includes the following:

1. Catalog description of Area VII requirement
2. A description of learner outcomes for the graduation requirement.
3. At least one course approved by the Instruction Committee to meet the requirement.
4. A method by which students may satisfy the requirement with an exam for credit demonstrating they have the skills, knowledge, and abilities expected in learning outcomes.

The implementation includes the following guidelines and procedures.

1. The requirement text will go into the catalog as it was worded and voted on by faculty in May 2000.

GE Area VII. Information Competency

Information Competency is the ability to both recognize when information is needed, and to locate, evaluate, synthesize, use and communicate information in various formats.

The faculty believes that DVC graduates should be able to:

1. recognize when information is necessary;
 2. develop effective research strategies;
 3. locate, retrieve, and use information in a variety of formats;
 4. critically evaluate and synthesize information;
 5. effectively create, present and communicate information;
 6. competently use computers and other information technology tools;
 7. understand the social, legal and ethical issues relating to information and its use.
2. The general student learning outcomes expected of Area VII are described in the document, GE Area VII – Information Competency Student Learning Outcomes (Attached). This paper will guide curriculum development and approval processes. Authority over this document will continue to reside with the Information Competency

Task Force. The document is supported by two other papers, Information Literacy Standards, Performance Indicators and Outcomes (Association of College and Research Libraries. Available at: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/ilcomstan.html>), and the Bay Area Regional Library Faculty Assessment Group information competency learning standards paper.

3. The requirement is understood to be a credit unit's worth of instruction and student effort in scope and time commitment to achieving learning objectives. The one-credit unit may be earned in various ways including, but not limited to:
 - a) A one-unit stand alone course
 - b) A one-unit course co-required with another course as a learning community or other linking arrangement
 - c) An existing course adding a unit to include information competency curriculum (i.e. a 3-unit course becoming a 4-unit course)
 - d) As a unit's worth of instruction integrated into an existing course without adding units to that course or program
 - e) A combination of credit and non-credit learning activities (i.e. first-year experience, orientations, tutorials)

The Library Department has submitted the course LS121--Information Competency and Research Skills to the Instruction Committee for GE Area VII approval. The Instruction Committee will consider this request on May 13, 2002. If approved, LS121 will be the first course to satisfy the new requirement. Additional methods may be proposed in subsequent years.

4. A challenge mechanism will be available for students who seek to earn the credit by exam. The instrument and process will be managed by the Library Department. A Bay Area group of community college library faculty has developed a two-part assessment instrument. It is currently being piloted at four colleges and will be developed further. Copies of these drafts will be distributed.
5. The Information Competency Task Force recommends that work continue on establishment of further procedures for additional methods to meet the GE requirement. This new requirement will impact the college curriculum and the Information Competency Task Force should continue coordinating the implementation efforts. The task force should keep its general composition with the addition of two more Instruction Committee members from divisions not represented and a member of the vocational education faculty.