

Department of Hispanic Studies

Do you believe General Education in its current form at the College is effective in meeting the AAC&U's Learning Outcomes? If not, please identify ways in which you think General Education could meet these outcomes more effectively.

We believe that what is in place, theoretically, meets the AAC&U's Learning Outcomes. Essential to all programs is a capstone experience during the senior year, whether a senior thesis, service learning, or an exit exam measuring existing skills. Hispanic Studies has implemented all three of these experiences in some form and continues to do so.

We believe that is essential that all programs foster the ability to transfer skills and knowledge from one setting to another. This can only be achieved by linking disciplines and creating interdisciplinary opportunities for students to make use of their skills in one area to another.

In Languages, for example, the ability to transfer language skills to the study of other disciplines is an important goal. We provide some of those opportunities in our own department through our curriculum, but would welcome other departments' providing instruction and instructional opportunities in Spanish (or languages other than English).

We strongly recommend and support an interdisciplinary capstone experience of some sort in all departments for the purpose of linking disciplines across the curriculum.

· Do you believe General Education in its current form helps students to succeed in coursework in your department's major or minor? Are there ways a Gen Ed curriculum could enhance your students' work in the major so that they meet these AAC&U Learning Outcomes more effectively?

The missing link is a relationship to other disciplines outside of Hispanic Studies and our curriculum. We encourage colleagues to motivate students to use their cultural and linguistic knowledge in Spanish about the Spanish-speaking world in other departments/disciplines.

It is suggested that reading knowledge of a foreign language be a requirement at the College and that that requirement be implemented via foreign language readings in specific disciplines.

· In light of these Learning Outcomes, we ask that you revisit the "Goals and Objectives for Disciplinary Requirements in Current General Education Curriculum" and describe any changes or revisions you think would improve/enhance General Education at the College. We invite your department to give particular attention to the goals and objectives for any Gen Ed courses you currently provide.

Spanish (and other foreign language) courses from 101-202 form an important part of students' General Education at the College of Charleston. With the new school (currently devoid of a set name) in the works, ideally emphasizing language(s) and their role in world cultures and affairs, the link with other disciplines should be made apparent. This link should reinforce the five key outcomes as summarized under the aims of AAC&U.