

General Education Communications Follow-Up Assessment, Spring 2022

In spring 2022, the General Education Communications Work Group conducted a follow-up assessment to the 2019 large-scale assessment. The outcome states “Communicate information and concepts in oral and written formats.” For the 2022 follow-up assessment, faculty teaching courses that were part of the large-scale assessment were asked to participate. The same assessment method and tool were used: instructors identified the most intensive communication work in the class, which included papers, exams, journal entries, and presentations and submitted student work to the Outcomes Assessment Office. Each assignment was then mapped to the rubric to ensure students were assessed only on the categories that were expected as part of the given course assignment.

Faculty volunteers attended norming sessions and scored the assessments in six learning outcomes categories. Scoring was based on a 4-point scale (4=excellent, 3=good, 2=fair, and 1=poor). In all, 788 assessments were scored, and each assessment was read by two faculty members (with a third reading for scores that were more than one point apart). The tables below show the high-level results of the 2019 full-scale assessment and the 2022 follow-up assessment.

Table 1. Overall Communications Results in 2019 and 2022 by Learning Outcome Category

2019 Assessment		2022 Follow Up	
Learning Outcome Category	Percent of students scoring 3 or higher	Percent of students scoring 3 or higher	Learning Outcome Category
Organization (N=331)	65.0	65.4	Organization (N=503)
Paragraphs/Transition (N=339)	73.7	69.9	Paragraphs/Transition (N=408)
Control (N=389)	68.9	75.3	Control (N=522)
Support/Evidence (N=615)	73.5	69.3	Support/Evidence (N=345)
Word Choice/Grammar (N=617)	64.2	76.3	Word Choice/Grammar (N=771)
Mechanics (N=636)	78.8	79.8	Mechanics (N=777)
Overall (N=891)	63.4	64.8	Overall (N=788)

In looking at the results from 2019 compared to 2022, students scored higher in both years on mechanics when compared to other categories. In 2022, students improved in the categories of control (6.4% increase in 2022) and word choice/grammar (12.1% increase in 2022), but scores were lower for paragraphs/transitions (3.8% decrease in 2022) and support/evidence (4.2% decrease in 2022).

Table 2. Overall Communications Results in 2022 Results by Credit Hours Earned

Percent of students scoring 3 or higher

Learning Outcome Category	1-15 (N=124)*	16-30 (N=190)*	31-44 (N=174)*	45+ (N=299)*
Organization	60.8	66.7	68.4	64.6
Paragraphs/Transition	67.3	75.8	67.6	68.6
Control	76.6	81.5	72.8	72.4
Support/Evidence	52.9	70.9	71.8	73.1
Word Choice/Grammar	77.7	75.7	76.6	75.9
Mechanics	81.1	79.7	80.9	78.6
Overall	56.7	63.8	66.7	66.7

**Not all artifacts were assessed on all six criteria*

Next Steps: The next full-scale General Education Communication Assessment will occur in FY2024. More information on Communications assessment and improvement resources can be found on the [Communications General Education HIP page](#).