

19-20.25: Motion to Develop Direct and Indirect Assessment Measures for REAL Studies Minors

Referred by: Curriculum Committee

Motion: Faculty Senate recommends the development of the following direct and indirect assessment measures mandated REAL Studies minors and optional for majors, minors, and certificates claiming REAL areas.

Departments must devise assessment plans for REAL areas claimed by majors, minors and certificates. The REAL annual assessment plans must include at least two measures of each student learning outcome; there are two learning outcomes for each REAL area. One of these measures must be a direct measure. (Measures may come from the same assessment or instrument.) A two-prong assessment strategy housed within the D2L learning management system is proposed to assess the REAL Studies minors and programs whose departments choose to adopt them.

Assessment Administration

All undergraduate students enrolled at Radford University who need to complete general education requirements must complete these assessments to assist in identifying needs and potential areas of support for academic development. Undergraduate students must complete the pre-test or baseline assessments upon entry to the university. Near the end of their academic programs of study, every student will again take the same assessment to identify areas of growth in learning in the REAL areas. The change in scores will help identify the effectiveness of the REAL Curriculum approach to general education. Departments choosing to adopt these measures to assess their majors, minors, and concentrations. Departments would then be required to report their programs' disaggregated REAL data in their annual assessment report.

Direct Measure of Student Learning in R, E, A, or L

General items assessing the four REAL areas of curriculum will be developed to assess student learning within each of the REAL areas. Questions will be non-discipline specific or include sufficient background information to enable students to answer. Students will receive a random selection of questions from the question library.

Indirect Measure of Student Learning in R, E, A, or L

In addition to the direct measure, students will also be asked a series of Likert-scale items to assess their perception and/or growth of learning of content and skills related to each of the REAL areas. This student perception survey will serve as an indirect assessment that could potentially enrich the data from the direct assessment. The student survey will be assessed prior to the direct measure in D2L.

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