

Date: May 12, 2010
Subject: Assessment of NJIT Core Competencies: Use of iCritical Thinking and Proficiency Profile

The assessment of educational outcomes at NJIT remains a priority of the university. On May 11, 2010, an enhanced program review model was, with concurrent modification, put into place by President Altenkirch and Provost Gatley. The new program review process is captured, in its present form, in “NJIT Program Review Process: An Enhanced Model,” dated April 8 and May 11, 2010.

Page 8 of that document records the following: “As the program review process continues to develop, attention should be paid to a more robust definition of the term ‘academic program’ to extend the definition beyond degree-granting programs. Assessment of . . . the NJIT General University Requirements should be considered as the program review process emerges.” As part of the on-going effort to assess the NJIT General University Requirements, the following core competencies are presently in place:

1. perception of student engagement;
2. perception of writing environment;
3. writing performance;
4. reading / critical thinking performance;
5. mathematics performance; and
6. information literacy performance.

Perception of student engagement (1) and perception of writing environment (2) are captured by the National Survey of Student Engagement and the Consortium for the Study of Writing in College. These surveys were given to students in 2010, and we have recorded 34.53 response rate.

Writing performance (3), reading / critical thinking performance (4), and mathematics performance (5) are captured by the ETS Proficiency Profile. Information literacy performance (6) is captured by the iCritical Thinking (iCT), an assessment of information literacy and critical thinking developed by ETS and offered through Certiport. NJIT has experience with the iCT. The ETS Proficiency Profile, while new to the community, has been approved by the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) as a gauge of educational outcomes.

Taken together, these NJIT core competencies and their measurement will allow NJIT to participate more fully in the VSA. More robust participation in the VSA will allow NJIT to address calls for accountability from regional agencies (the Middle States Commission on Higher Education) and program accreditation agencies (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, and the National Architectural Accrediting Board).

Field testing of the iCT and Proficiency Profile will be undertaken from the summer of 2010 through the spring of 2011.