

2014 Core Curriculum Texas Woman's University Core Objective Attainment Plan

"The assessment of the Core Curriculum is an evaluation of the attainment of the Core Objectives."

The process used by Texas Woman's University (TWU) to determine the *appropriate level of attainment* of each Core Objective included the following considerations:

1. **Determination of which students should be assessed on the Core Objectives.** TWU has a high percentage of students that transfer to the institution; some of whom transfer in a large number of semester credit hours (SCHs) from one or more institutions. The institution would like to assess those students who complete most of the Core at TWU. Therefore, the TWU assessment plan will assess the degree to which First-Time-In-College (FTIC) and Freshman Transfer (FT) students who have completed *less than 60 semester credit hours* (SCHs) have successfully achieved the six Core Objectives.
2. **Determination of two target indicators** used to define the appropriate level of attainment on each Core Objective
 - a. **Target Indicator 1: *Criterion for Success Target*** - the *acceptable level* of individual student performance for each selected assessment measure
 - b. **Target Indicator 2: *Realistic Target*** – the percentage of students assessed who achieve the set criterion for success for each selected assessment measureCurrently, both target indicators are used as a part of our degree and certificate program student learning outcomes assessment plans and reports.
3. **Use of the VALUE Rubrics (as designed or TWU modified)** as a common assessment tool (scoring mechanism) to assess authentic student performance specific to each Core Objective across the courses that constitute the Core.

The Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) *Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education* (VALUE) rubrics are designed to assess undergraduate students on the following skill sets: *Intellectual and Practical Skills, Personal and Social Responsibility, and Integrative and Applied Learning*. The rubrics allow for cross-disciplinary assessment of student performance on authentic assessment measures such as papers, projects, performances, presentations, etc. According to AAC&U, the rubrics are valid and reliable for use at the undergraduate level across disciplines (often used in the assessment of general education programs); and therefore, provide an appropriate scoring mechanism for the six Core Objectives. Furthermore, TWU has recently become a member of LEAP-Texas which clearly advocates the same skill set as those represented in the Core Objectives.

Currently, no nationally established benchmarks are available for the VALUE Rubrics. Projects are underway that will establish external benchmarks that can be used by colleges and universities once funding to support the same is established.

TWU Target Indicators

Therefore, TWU has decided to use the following target indicators to judge the institutional level of performance of students on the Core Objectives using the VALUE Rubrics or a TWU modified version of the rubric:

Target Indicator 1 – *Criterion for Success* – a score of 2 on the 4-point VALUE Rubric/TWU modified rubric for each trait/element assessed.

Target Indicator 2 – *Realistic Target* – 65% of students assessed will achieve the set *criterion for success*.

Both target indicators are TWU's "best guesstimates" of where we should expect students to score on assessments specific to the Core Objectives. All Core Objectives will be analyzed and interpreted on the basis of the target indicators as initially established. Until a few rounds of data are available, we will not be able to determine if the target indicators are appropriate as initially developed. Subsequently, we will re-assess our established target indicators and adjust as appropriate after the first three years of implementation. If our initial target indicators reach 90% attainment for two consecutive assessment cycles, we will raise Target Indicator 1, *Criterion for Success*, to a score of 3 on the 4-point VALUE Rubric/TWU modified rubric.