

**Assessment Plan  
General Education Outcome C9**

**Commit to living as an engaged and informed citizen.**

Team leaders

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Focus for 2002-2003

Civic engagement and citizenship

Others involved in the planning

Dr. Jean Fallis, Volunteer Coordinator, University Commons  
Dr. Joseph McDonald, Director of Service Learning, University Commons

Assessment measures

- (1) National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) – Select Items  
Freshmen and seniors report on the extent to which they engage in (a) community service or volunteer work, (b) practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment, (c) study abroad, and (d) voting in local, state, or national elections.
  
- (2) Alumni Survey of Undergraduate Programs – Select Items  
Alums report on how much their educational experience at Mercer contributed to their development of (a) a commitment of community service, (b) their ability to relate well to people of different races and religions, and (c) a socially useful and self-fulfilling vocation. They also, indicate specific campus activities and programs in which they were engaged as a Mercer student.

[Note: Assessment measures #1 will only assess day students on the Macon campus. University Commons will develop a survey that addresses actual civic engagement and can be used with the entire undergraduate population. This measure will be available for use not later than Fall 2003.]

Students who will be subject to the assessment

NSSE

First-year and senior students are randomly selected from electronic data files provided by Mercer to the NSSE administrators. NSSE sampling procedures call for an equal number of first-year and senior students to be sent the survey with the standard sample size is determined by the number of undergraduate students enrolled at Mercer.

Alumni Survey

Mercer alumni who graduated in 2001 (one year out) and 1997 (five years out) were administered the survey. Surveys were mailed to approximately 1800 alumni.

#### Where and when the assessment will take place

##### NSSE

The NSSE was administered in Spring 2002. Students had the option of responding either via a traditional paper questionnaire or via the Web.

##### Alumni Survey 2002-2003

The survey was mailed to alumni during the third week of December 2002. Compilation and review of data will begin February 1, 2003.

#### Collection of data

The Provost Office will organize, order, distribute and collect materials needed for the NSSE and the Alumni Survey.

#### Desired level of performance that demonstrates appropriate achievement of the outcome

Indicators of civic engagement and citizenship in the Mercer community can include:

- < Service and community-based learning
- < Residence life initiatives
- < Campus ministry initiatives
- < Student Affairs initiatives
- < Student organizations
- < Study Abroad activities
- < Multi-cultural student programs
- < Social concerns issues/lectures

##### NSSE

Mercer freshmen and seniors will score at least .50 on each of the dimensions of (a) community service or volunteer work, (b) practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment, and (c) study abroad. On the dimension of “voting in local, state, or national elections” Mercer freshmen and seniors will score at least 1.50.

Mercer students will score higher than students at other Master’s level institutions and higher than the national NSSE 2002 group.

##### Alumni Survey

70% of the alumni will indicate that their educational experience at Mercer “very much” or “somewhat” contributed to their personal growth in (a) the development of a commitment to community service, (b) relating well to people of different races and religions, and (c) pursuing a socially useful and self-fulfilling vocation.

#### Organization, reporting and dissemination of the results

The Provost Office will organize and report the results to the 7 undergraduate Deans and

Associate Deans. The Deans will report results to the faculty members in their respective Colleges/Schools.

Responsibility for analyzing and using the data to effect changes

The Deans, Associate Deans, faculty members, University Commons, and Student Affairs will use the data to effect changes. The primary faculty groups are the First Year Seminar instructors, Senior Capstone (and other culminating courses) instructors, Service Learning Course instructors, and curriculum committees.

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