

## General Education—Critical Thinking Improvement Plan, Spring 2024

In 2022-2023, the Learning Assessment Committee and the General Education-Critical Thinking Work Group assessed the general education outcome “use evidence to develop arguments, make decisions, and evaluate outcomes.” While the results of the [Community College Survey of Student Engagement \(CCSSE\)](#) and the [Harper Follow Up Survey](#) revealed a strong perception among students that they engaged successfully in critical thinking in the classroom, results of the assessment showed significant room for improvement with respect to students’ capabilities in all three areas related to the outcome: developing arguments, making decisions, and evaluating outcomes.

After reviewing the assessment results and feedback gathered in fall 2023, the Work Group developed the following Improvement Plan. The plan focuses on communication of effective learning activities and assignments, as well as exploring different ways to conduct assess students’ critical thinking skills. The Learning Assessment Committee, General Education-Critical Thinking Work Group, and Outcomes Assessment Office will work jointly to implement this plan through the 2024-2025 academic year.

### Communication to Faculty, Staff, and Students

- Continue to post actionable information regarding the teaching and learning of critical thinking skills regularly in Academy News.
- Conduct a survey of faculty on how they measure critical thinking in the classroom, asking specifically how they evaluate the three outcomes: develop arguments, evaluate outcomes, and make decisions.
- Develop a student communication piece on how students recognize critical thinking skills in their learning and in the classroom.

### Future Assessment

- Work with the General Education Learning Assessment Advisory Committee, the advice-giving body that assists the College in meeting the needs of students and other stakeholders in a manner consistent with the College Mission, on how to best assess students’ critical thinking skills.
- Investigate developing a different way of assessing the critical thinking outcome.
  - Look at other colleges to see how they assess critical thinking.
  - Consider utilizing student artifacts and developing a rubric.
  - Use results of survey to then engage faculty on developing a new assessment tool.

**Next Steps:** A follow-up General Education assessment of this outcome will be conducted in FY2026.

*Questions? Contact Deann Surdo in the Outcomes Assessment Office at [dsurdo@harpercollege.edu](mailto:dsurdo@harpercollege.edu).*