

August 10, 2009

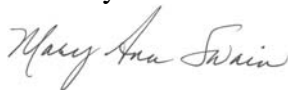
Faculty regularly evaluate students' achievements within the courses they teach. Evaluation of students' learning in General Education courses also carries a campus-wide component that derives from a Faculty Senate resolution adopting an assessment plan for General Education in 2002. Thus, teaching General Education courses carries with it the obligation to participate in this process for assessing those courses. This plan passed by the Faculty Senate has my full support.

Under this plan, all General Education courses are eligible to be assessed across a three-year cycle. Selection of the courses that will be looked at is actually done at random. Assessment of courses is carried out by faculty committees, called Assessment Category Teams (ACTs), in each of the General Education areas.

If you are contacted when you teach a General Education course and are asked to participate in the assessment effort, it is part of your teaching assignment to prepare a course portfolio and to provide materials as requested. The Senate legislation specifically states, among other things, that "Courses to be assessed in a given category will be chosen randomly from the pool of courses being offered in that category, though a course-instructor combination cannot be chosen more than once in a three-year cycle." This assessment methodology thus allows neither for pre-arrangement nor for opting-out.

More information on Binghamton's plan for assessment is available at the following website: <http://assessment.binghamton.edu>. I thank you in advance for your cooperation with this process. I appreciate all that you do to promote our students' learning.

Sincerely



Mary Ann Swain
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs