

Student Learning Assessment Policy Implementation

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**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA**

Where We've Been

Code of Virginia § 23.1-203

“[The Council shall...] in cooperation with public institutions of higher education, develop guidelines for the assessment of student achievement. Each such institution shall use an approved program that complies with the guidelines of the Council and is consistent with the institution’s mission and educational objectives in the development of such assessment. The Council shall report each institution’s assessment of student achievement in the revisions to the Commonwealth’s statewide strategic plan for higher education.”

The Virginia Plan

Goal #2: Optimize Student Success for Work & Life

“Strengthen curricular options to ensure that graduates are prepared with the competencies necessary for employment and civic engagement.”

Priority initiative #4:

“Collaborate with institutions to measure the quality of undergraduate education, including civic engagement of graduates and relevance to demand occupations across regions of the state.”



Policy overview

A college education in Virginia—regardless of major or specialized field of study—ideally should emphasize

- **Broad learning**
- **Intellectual and practical skills**
- **Integrative and adaptive learning**
- **Personal and social responsibility**

Assess student achievement in 6 areas:

- **Critical Thinking**
- **Written Communication**
- **Quantitative Reasoning**
- **Civic Engagement**
- **Institution-specific competencies (2 or more)**



Timeline

March 2016 - June 2017:

- Task Force on Quality & Assessment developed policy

July 2017:

- Policy approved by Council

June 2018:

- Plans submitted by 4-year institutions
- Peer-review of plans

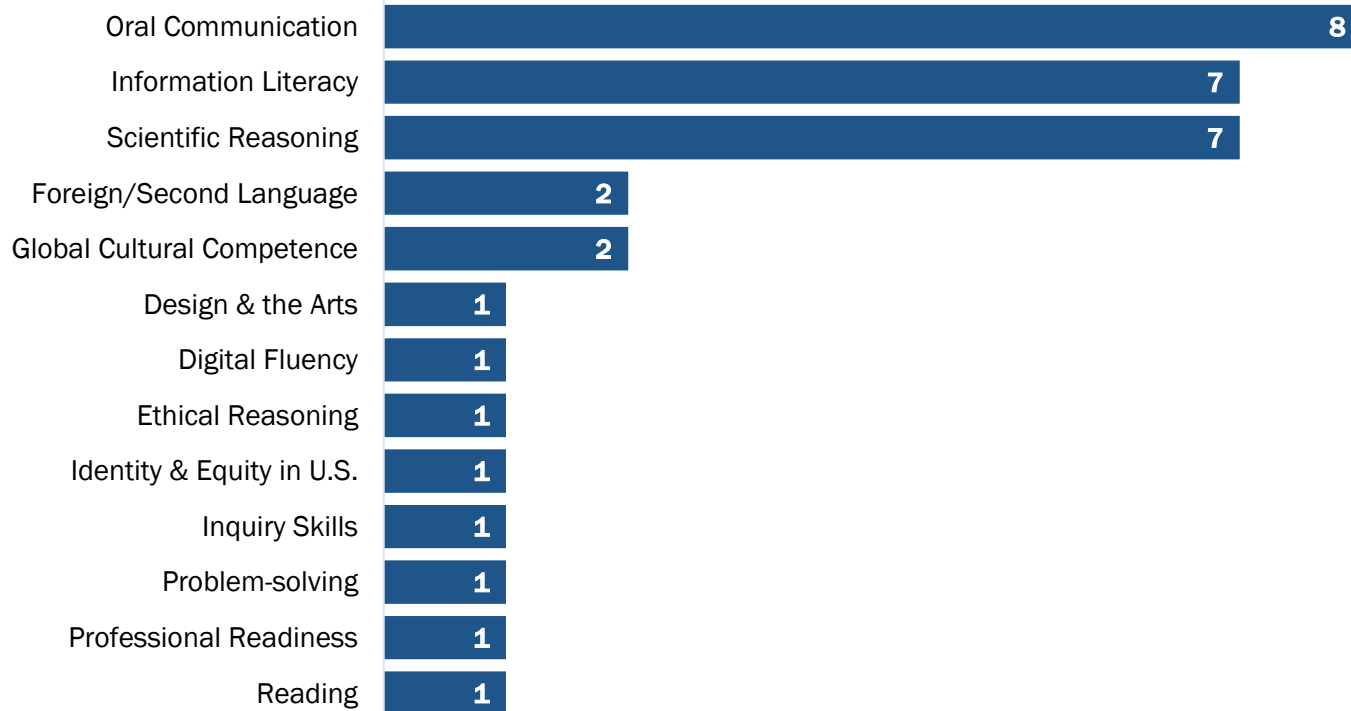
March 2019:

- Plans submitted by 2-year institutions
- Peer-review of plans

Summer 2019:

- First reports posted

Institution-specific competencies by frequency





Strong focus on high-quality education & assessment

Out of 38 institutions...

86% use actual coursework to assess critical thinking and written communication

76% take a curricular approach to civic engagement



Civic engagement is an area of great interest.

Virginia is seen as a leader.



Ongoing focus on quality

- **State-wide gatherings**
 - Civic engagement (2017)
 - Core competencies (2018)
 - High-quality teaching (2019)
- **Assignment design workshops**
 - ~275 faculty participants
- **Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs)**
 - 37 faculty participants (2018-19)

The view from an institution

Chris Wikstrom

Patrick Henry Community College

Questions/Discussion