

AY 2014-15 Summary of Key Evidence for UCORE: Focus on First-Year Students Roots of Contemporary Issues Final Papers Assessment Project

Background

Roots of Contemporary Issues [ROOT] courses are foundational first-year experience courses for UCORE. The courses introduce students to five of WSU's Seven Learning Goals of the Baccalaureate (Critical & Creative Thinking, Information Literacy, Communication, Diversity, and Depth, Breadth & Integration of Learning) by asking students to explore and understand the historical and global roots of various issues facing the world today.

Final Papers Assessment

The Roots of Contemporary Issues Final Papers Assessment Project is intended to provide [ROOT] faculty with information for program improvement, as well as gauge student learning on the WSU Learning Goals. Each academic year, beginning in AY 2012-13, [ROOT] faculty evaluate a random sample of students' final research papers from all campuses using a faculty-developed rubric. In AY 2014-15, the rubric was revised to include Diversity, in addition to the Critical & Creative Thinking and Information Literacy learning goals. The Roots of Contemporary Issues program, in collaboration with the WSU Libraries and Office of Assessment of Teaching and Learning (ATL), coordinates the assessment, reporting and data analysis for the Roots of Contemporary Issues Final Papers Assessment Project.

Results – First-Year Students

Learning Goal Achievement: Results from the AY 2014-15 Roots of Contemporary Issues Final Papers Assessment Project indicated that **97%** of first-year students exceeded, met, or partially met expectations at the first-year undergraduate level at the end of their UCORE first-year experience [ROOT] course on rubric outcomes related to Critical & Creative Thinking. Additionally, **96%** exceeded, met, or partially met expectations for outcomes related to Information Literacy and **85%** for Diversity.

