

From: [WMU Faculty Senate](#)
To: [WMU Faculty Senate](#)
Subject: Issue 25: WMU Essential Studies Assessment Processes
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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

Senate Snapshot

WMU Essential Studies Assessment Processes

A Continuous Improvement Model

A key feature of the WMU Essential Studies Program is assessment which is monitored through a continuous improvement model and features a three-prong approach.

1. **WMU Essential Studies Administrative Review:** This process ensures that courses within in the program are being offered at least one time per year and that course data on the student learning outcomes is being collected. This is a progress-monitoring component of the program outlined in *MOA-18/02: WMU Essential Studies Course Approval Guidelines*. The WMU Essential Studies Director leads this ongoing review.
2. **WMU Essential Studies Cyclical Course Review:** This process provides insight into execution of the WMU Essential Studies Program with specific focus on ensuring courses: 1) meet the intent of the category they have selected; 2) have syllabi that clearly indicate and communicate the nature of the course as it relates to WMU Essential Studies and; 3) that the course has an effective assessment plan.

This is NOT **curricular** review, but rather a process focused on the continuous improvement of the WMU Essential Studies program through the course lens. The WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee completes the cyclic review process by providing feedback to instructors and providing summary findings of overall course compliance and quality to the WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee. The committees will capture best practices and lessons learned at the course level through this process.

This process is scheduled over a 4-year period:

Y1 (2021-22)	Y2 (2022-23)	Y3 (2023-24)	Y4 (2024-25)
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			Program Review
Writing	Local/National	Global Perspectives	Program review team will include a subcommittee: members of Executive Advisory, Course Review and Approval, and USC
Societies and Culture	Science/Tech with lab	Artistic Theory & Practice	
World Languages/Cultures	Science/Tech	Personal Wellness	
Oral/Digital	Inquiry/Engagement	Quantitative Reasoning	

NOTE: Sustainability and Diversity/Inclusion Student Learning Outcome's reviewed during the regular review

This process begins on November 3 and will be open until December 15, 2021. Each approved course within the following categories will be reviewed this academic year: **Writing, Societies and Culture, World Languages and Cultures, and Oral and Digital Communication.** Only one submission per course will be accepted. All information collected for this process will be collected through [Curriculog](#). For detailed information on this process, please review the WMU Cyclic Course Review [Procedures/Process](#).

3. **WMU Essential Studies Annual Assessment Day:** This event occurs during the spring semester and the intent is to review the aggregated student learning outcomes data collected by category and the SLO's rubric. Everyone who teaches within the WMU Essential Studies program as well others within the university community are invited to participate and share lessons learned. The WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee and the WMU Essential Studies Director will lead this process. More detailed Information for the spring 2022 WMU Essential Studies Annual Assessment Day will be provided in the coming months.

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