

ConnectED News

connected.vcu.edu
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What is ConnectED?

ConnectED, VCU's General Education Program, provides robust and innovative learning experiences for all VCU undergraduate students. General education courses serve as bridges connecting students to new subjects, passions, and interests. They help students develop valuable skills that will contribute to their success in college and beyond. ConnectED is a faculty-driven program; curriculum and assessment committees communicate recommendations to the ConnectED faculty directors. Faculty directors collaborate with departments, faculty teaching ConnectED courses, and transformational learning experience partners, including QEP and VIP, to ensure student learning goals are met, to update course offerings in response to student needs, and to drive innovation. They cultivate stakeholder relationships and represent VCU ConnectED to key state and national stakeholder groups that are focused on general education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

connected.vcu.edu/events

Annual ConnectED Symposium

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

[Register Online](#)

[Event Flyer](#)

ConnectED Learning Collaborative Scoring Event

Thursday - Friday, May 16-17, 2024

[Register Online](#)

[Read Faculty Participant Testimonials](#)

In this newsletter you can expect:

What is ConnectED?

Upcoming Events

Faculty Spotlight

NACE Competencies

Summary: Problem Solving Critical and Creative

Assessment Process



Faculty Spotlight:

Nicholas Wong, Ph.D.
Director of Introductory Mathematics

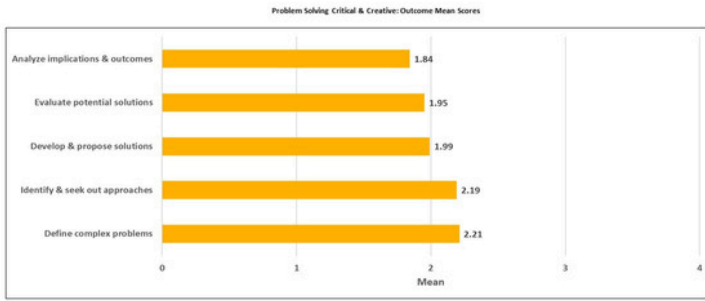
“Serving on the General Education Assessment Committee has allowed me to collaborate with faculty members outside of my department and other university units to work towards a common goal of ensuring that our ConnectEd curriculum serves its purpose. Serving on this committee also gives me an opportunity to see how other academic units nurture and develop industrious individuals who are aware of what is happening in our society and possess the critical thinking skills to identify an issue, examine various points of view, and work towards a reasonable outcome. This in turn makes me critically examine what is happening in my own department so we can continue to evolve as well.”

Learn more about how Dr. Wong developed foundational experiences for his students in his MATH 200 course that dovetail with ConnectED’s quantitative literacy learning goal.

NACE Competencies And ConnectED



General Education, aka ConnectED, is neither superfluous, nor antiquated at VCU. In fact, it serves as the foundation for student success both during their university journey, and beyond. NACE, the National Association of Colleges and Employers, has worked systematically to develop a set of career readiness competencies that employers are looking for when hiring recent college graduates. Notice how the skill sets that we seed and develop in our general education curriculum serve as important building blocks for the kinds of competencies that are relevant, and highly sought after in today’s workforce.

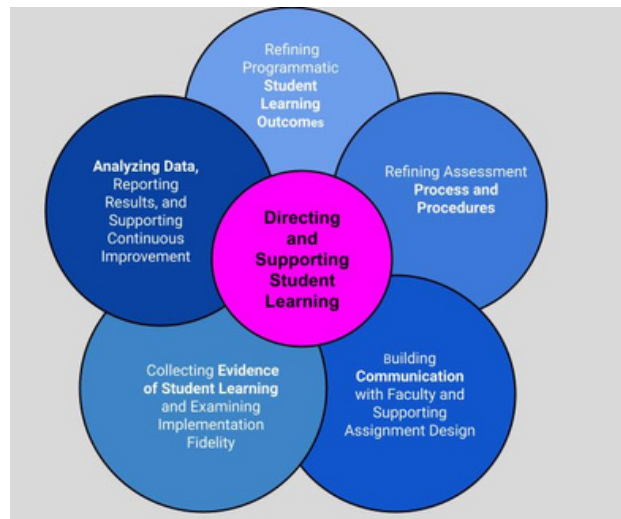


Summary: Problem Solving Critical and Creative

During the 2022-23 academic year, a stratified sample of 663 student artifacts were scored. The majority of students (52%) met or exceeded the performance target (i.e., a score of 2.0 or higher) on the problem solving critical and creative (PSCC) rubric. The mean score across all criteria was 2.04 out of 4.0. A closer look at the data revealed the following strengths and areas for improvement. For criterion 1, “define complex problems, issues, or questions,” the mean score was 2.21, which slightly exceeded the target. For criterion 2, “identify and seek out approaches, information, skills and relevant resources,” the mean score was 2.19, which slightly exceeded the target. For criteria 3 “develop and propose multiple solutions,” criteria 4 “evaluate potential solutions,” and criteria 5 “analyze the implications, consequences, and outcomes of solutions,” mean scores were slightly below the target at 1.99, 1.95, and 1.84, respectively.

ConnectED Assessment Process

As we complete this inaugural 3-year cycle of ConnectED assessment, it is important to highlight both what has been accomplished and what lies ahead. Thank you for your participation in our assessment efforts and we hope you will consider a more active role as we refine our learning outcomes and process. Come find out more information by attending our [annual Symposium](#) on Wednesday, May 1st, 2024.



Paid Learning Opportunity for Faculty!

ConnectED Learning Collaborative Scoring Event, May 16-17, 9:30am - 5:00pm
Learn more from two of last year’s faculty participants!



Amy Pridemore
 VACU Executive
 Director of Financial
 Wellness at VCU
 Instructor, FIRE



Kurt Stenhagen, Ph.D.
 Professor, Foundations of
 Education

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