The Assessment of General Education is an annual activity occurring with a rotating set of three professional schools, and one area within the College. It involves individual interviews between students and teams of three faculty, to ascertain students’ attainment of the Goals of General Education.

**GOALS OF GENERAL EDUCATION**

1. Enhance the skills and knowledge needed to research, organize, evaluate, and apply new information and develop a spirit of critical inquiry and intellectual integrity.

2. Acquire knowledge in the fine arts, the humanities, and the social, natural, and mathematical sciences and be able to integrate that knowledge across disciplines.

3. Improve the core skills of reading, writing, and numeracy, and enhance communication by clear, effective use of language.

4. Understand and appreciate the development, culture, and diversity of the United States and of other societies and nations.

5. Become aware of contemporary issues in society, technology, and the natural world and appreciate their complexity of cause and consequences.

6. Practice an ethic of self-discipline, social responsibility, and citizenship on a local, national, and international level.

**The 2002 results are based on interviews from students in the Social Sciences, and Engineering (including Architectural Engineering), Journalism, and Social Welfare.**

**ATTAINMENT OF THE GOALS OF GENERAL EDUCATION**

Both faculty and students rated students’ attainment on each of the six Goals of General Education. Students made judgments about their own level of goal attainment based on experience, and faculty based their judgments on answers to interview questions specifically designed to measure each goal.

Ratings were based on a 5-point scale:

- 1 – little or no attainment
- 2 – below average attainment
- 3 – average attainment
- 4 – above average attainment
- 5 – outstanding attainment
Students and faculty judge students’ strengths to be in different areas:

- **Students rated themselves highest on goals pertaining to academic skills:**
  
  - Improve the core skills of reading, writing, and numeracy, and enhance communication by clear, effective use of language (mean rating: 4.02).
  
  - Enhance the skills and knowledge needed to research, organize, evaluate, and apply new information and develop a spirit of critical inquiry and intellectual integrity (mean rating: 3.98).

- **Faculty rated students highest on goals pertaining to cultural awareness and social responsibility:**
  
  - Practice an ethic of self-discipline, social responsibility, and citizenship on a local, national, and international level (mean rating: 3.79).
  
  - Understand and appreciate the development, culture, and diversity of the United States and of other societies and nations (mean rating: 3.68).

- **Faculty and students agree that students are relatively weak in integrating knowledge across disciplines:**
  
  - Acquire knowledge in the fine arts, the humanities, and the social, natural, and mathematical sciences, and be able to integrate that knowledge across disciplines (students ranked it 5th out of 6, faculty ranked it 6th out of 6).

**GOAL ATTAINMENT SURVEY**

Students rated the importance of 35 institutional goals and KU’s success in meeting those goals.

Ratings were based on a 10-point scale:

1 – least important (least successful) through
10 – most important (most successful)

- Students rated the following institutional goals most important:
  
  - To prepare students to succeed in a first job after graduation (mean rating: 9.30)
  
  - To teach students to think critically and to integrate knowledge (mean rating: 9.27)
• Students rated KU most successful in meeting the following institutional goals:
  o To provide students an in-depth understanding of at least one specialized area of knowledge (mean rating: 8.48).
  o To maintain a varied program of extracurricular activities for students (mean rating: 8.26).

• The goal students rated as least important, they also rated KU as least successful in meeting:
  o To teach students about the relationship between the physical environment and society (mean rating: 7.09).

• Students judged the widest gap between rated importance and rated success to be on the goal they also rated to be the most important:
  o To prepare students to succeed in a first job after graduation (mean difference: 2.05).