

I. Executive Summary

The following excerpts taken from this document provide the reader with a general overview of the evidence to support the case that VSU students are learning and developing mastery of skills in the General Education curriculum.

Outcome	Results from internal data	Results from external data	Overall assessment
1. Students will demonstrate understanding of the society of the United States and its ideals. (Evidence available on pages 20-24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass rates <i>increased or held stable</i>. • Alumni are prepared to appreciate history, social, economic, and political forces. • Seniors' perceptions of VSU core <i>held stable or improved</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSE (7b): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers • NSSE (11o): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers 	Evidence suggests general education requirements are being met.
2. Students will demonstrate cross-cultural perspectives and knowledge of other societies. (Evidence available on pages 24-27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors' perceptions of VSU's core <i>improved</i>. • Pass rates <i>increased or held stable</i>. • Alumni are prepared to appreciate and understand diversity and develop global perspectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSE (11i): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers • NSSE (10c): VSU seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers 	Evidence suggests general education requirements are being met.
3. Students will use computer and information technology when appropriate. (Evidence available on pages 27-30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors' perceptions of VSU's core <i>improved</i>. • Alumni are prepared to use computing in everyday life and in discipline-specific analysis and design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSE (11g): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers • NSSE (11): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>comparable or higher</i> than Carnegie peers • NSSE (1m): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>comparable or higher</i> than Carnegie peers 	Evidence suggests general education requirements are being met.
4. Students will express themselves clearly, logically, and precisely in writing and in speaking, and they will demonstrate competence in reading and listening. (Evidence available on pages 30-35)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regents' Test pass rates <i>decreased</i>. • Seniors' perceptions of VSU <i>improved</i>. • Alumni are prepared to think creatively and to formulate ideas verbally and in writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSE (11c): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers • NSSE (11d): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers 	Mixed results - Needs further investigation.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of scientific and mathematical principles and proficiency in laboratory practices. (Evidence available on pages 35-38)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alumni are prepared to use analytic reasoning and to appreciate the sciences. • Seniors' perceptions of VSU's core <i>improved</i>. • Pass rates <i>increased or held stable</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSE (11f): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers 	Evidence suggests general education requirements are being met.
6. Students will demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultural heritages in the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences. (Evidence available on pages 38-40)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass rates varied: English <i>increased or held stable</i>; Perspectives <i>decreased</i>. • Alumni are prepared to appreciate literature and arts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSE (1e): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers 	Mixed results - Needs further investigation.
7. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, to evaluate, and to make inferences from oral, written, and visual materials. (Evidence available on pages 40-42)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regents' Test pass rates <i>decreased</i>. • Alumni are prepared to organize in formation, make decisions, solve problems creatively, and write effectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSE (11e): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers • NSSE (2d): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers 	Mixed results - Needs further investigation.
8. Students will demonstrate knowledge of principles of ethics and their employment in the analysis and resolution of moral problems. (Evidence available on pages 42-44)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors' perceptions of VSU <i>improved</i>. • Pass rates for Perspectives <i>decreased</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSE (11n): VSU first-year students and seniors <i>higher</i> than Carnegie peers 	Mixed results - Needs further investigation.