



Senate Snapshot

WMU Essential Studies Launch – Fall 2020

After multiple years of planning, research, design, redesign, and testing, the Faculty Senate is proud to announce the official launch of the WMU Essential Studies program! WMU Essential Studies was made possible through the work of course designers and reviewers but was pushed past the finish line by the collective efforts of our entire campus community. We should all take pride in how far we have come in such a relatively short time! As we step into the implementation phase, we bid a very fond but sorrowful farewell to WMU Essential Studies Director Mervin Elliot, who guided each step of the process. This is the first of what will be a series of periodic check-ins and reminders. Please read the following carefully and [email](#) questions, comments, and/or concerns.

Those of you teaching a WMU Essential Studies section this fall semester should be familiar with the embedded course assessments—recall that each WMU Essential Studies course was built around specific Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and faculty developed SLO rubrics. WMU Essential Studies Elearning course shells have been created and pre-loaded with SLO rubrics. **Please do not delete these rubrics** from your gradebook as they will be necessary for completing the campus-wide WMU Essential Studies assessments. Course-specific WMU Essential Studies assessments will be due at the end of the fall semester, and a separate email will detail the submission process. For now, we offer the following WMU Essential Studies Assessment guidelines:

1. Each WMU Essential Studies course has an approved assessment plan on file.

Please consult your approved plan when structuring your fall course. Instructions on how to access your approved plan are below.

2. WMU Essential Studies assessments are not final grades; they are individual assessments (or portions of assessments) collected over the course of the semester.
3. Embedded WMU Essential Studies assessments should be simple and straightforward; the more complex the process, the more arduous the collection. Again, be sure to refer to the assessment plan specific to your course.

Although we have made great strides in bringing WMU Essential Studies to this point, know that it is still a work in progress. In practical terms, this means we will continue to modify and adjust as we go. At the end of the semester, aggregated assessment data will be reviewed by WMU Essential Studies course instructors, and this information will be disseminated across academic units.

To access your approved WMU Essential Studies course assessment plan:

For Course Prefix, Course Number (example: ENG 4090);

1. Go to GoWMU
2. Click on Banner Workflow
3. Click on Workflow Status Search under Home in the upper left-hand corner
4. Enter %ENGL%4090% in the box labeled Workflow Specific Name and click Search
5. Click on the proposal in the top portion of the screen; if you see more than one proposal, click on the one that has completed status
6. Click on the Workflow Details tab
7. Scroll down to attachments and open the assessment plan and syllabus.

Instructions on how to assess the student learning outcomes are available at [this link](#).