

## Key Assignment FAQs

1. What are key assignments? Assignments which are embedded for a course grade and subsequently used for program or general education assessment are considered a key assignment. Key assignments align the course student learning outcomes to the program and general education learning outcomes. Key assignments are typically designed through collaboration among faculty.
2. Why are we developing key assignments? A number of faculty have expressed concern with the difficulty of creating assignments for general education assessment which address all the criteria associated with the core objective rubrics. Key assignments offer faculty an opportunity to collaborate to design an assignment which addresses the course student learning outcomes and the criteria associated with the core objective rubrics. Also, faculty have question the value general education assessment brings to the classroom. Since general education assessment was not designed to bring results directly back to the classroom, key assignments offer faculty an opportunity to design common assignments which can be used for program or course-level assessment.
3. Must I have one key assignment that addresses all the core curriculum objectives my course is responsible for? While some faculty may creatively design one assignment that addresses each of the criteria associated with the core curriculum objectives the course is responsible for, it might be unrealistic for all faculty to develop one. Faculty may consider designing one key assignment which addresses each core curriculum objective the course is responsible for. Faculty may find designing a key assignment to address both critical thinking and communication easier than one addressing personal responsibility and teamwork.
4. How often do I have to administer my key assignment? Faculty are expected to administer the key assignment aligned to the core objective rubric each year in which the core objective is being assessed. As an example, the key assignment the course uses for critical thinking must be used in all sections of that course in which the faculty teaches the course and administered to all students.
5. Must I develop a rubric for the key assignment? If I never received a driving manual, I would have had a challenging time passing my driving exam. The same is true for students. Educational research suggests students perform better when being providing the rubrics in advance. Faculty may also consider providing the rubric to students in order to provide a self-assessment of their work or a peer assessment of a student.