

Essential Skills PD Q&A

Who should attend?

Kickoff Session:

The intended audience includes Deans, Associate Deans, Chairs, and Program Coordinators. Even if a program, department, or college does not host General Education courses, this session will provide a useful overview of the implementation of the new Essential Education model in advance of the Council for Post-Secondary Education (CPE)'s anticipated call for the expansion of Essential Skills beyond General Education courses.

Subsequent Sessions:

The intended audience for these additional sessions includes faculty who teach General Education courses, as well as Program Coordinators responsible for overseeing General Education assessment and Assessment Coordinators for General Education Courses. Other faculty interested in incorporating Essential Skills into their courses are welcome and encouraged to attend.

When will the Essential Skills and the new Essential Education model be implemented?

The new Essential Education model and the incorporation of the Essential Skills will take effect in Fall 2026.

What does implementation in General Education entail? (How many essential skills, etc.)?

To meet CPE guidelines, each Element under the new Essential Education curriculum will teach and assess two Essential Skills. All Elements will incorporate [Skill 10](#). Each Element will also incorporate an Element-specific skill. Courses listed in two Elements (excluding Flex) will need to incorporate Skill 10, as well as both of their Element-specific skills.

Resources:

What if I missed a session I wanted to attend?

Past session slides, recordings & resources (links added as sessions occur):

Kickoff:

- [Slides](#)
- [Session Recording \(2/10\)](#)

Backward Design:

- [Slides](#)
- [Session Recording \(2/17\)](#)
- Faculty Reflection Prompts / bit.ly/4fcJxUg
- Backward Design Worksheet: bit.ly/45kAQTx
- Backward Design Planner: bit.ly/44VmTfM
- Aligning Outcomes Worksheet: bit.ly/4fI2ODd
- Backward Design Planning Tool: bit.ly/4ISG0Nn
- [CPE Webinar on Backward Design \(2/18\)](#)

Skill Alignment (2/24):	Skill Alignment: Rubrics (2/25):
• Slides • Session Recording • Aligning Skill 10 Worksheet • Other resources	• Slides • Session Recording • Aligning Skill 10 Worksheet • Aligning Element Skill Worksheet • Rubric Language by Element

Introduction to TILT (3/3):	Using TILT for Rubrics (3/4):
• Slides • Session Recording • Example TILTed assignment • TILT template and resources	• Slides • Session Recording • Example TILTed assignment • TILT template and resources

Incorporating Essential Skill 10 into Teaching and Learning:

- [Slides](#)
- [Incorporating Skill 10 Worksheet](#)
- [Skill 10 Examples for Elements 1-4](#)
- [Session Recording \(3/24\)](#)

Integrating Essential Skill 1 into Your Course Design (4/22)	Integrating Essential Skill 4 into Your Course Design (4/22)
• Slides • Session Recording • Skill 1 Examples for Elements 1A and 4A • Assignment Remix Worksheet	• Slides • Session Recording • Assignment Remix Worksheet

Integrating Essential Skill 3 into Your Course Design (4/23)	Integrating Essential Skill 8 into Your Course Design (4/28)
• Slides • Session Recording • Assignment Remix Worksheet	• Slides • Session Recording • Assignment Remix Worksheet

Integrating Essential Skill 2 into Your Course Design (4/29)	Integrating Essential Skill 7 into Your Course Design (4/29)
• Slides • Session Recording • Assignment Remix Worksheet	• Slides • Session Recording • Assignment Remix Worksheet

Can I add something to my course syllabus about the Essential Skills?

A syllabus statement on the Essential Skills in our Essential Education courses can be found [here](#).

Where can I find a cross-listing of Elements and Essential Skills?

A complete list of the Essential Education Elements with Essential Skills cross-listed can be found [here](#).

Where can I find a list of Essential Education Elements?

Please find a full list of the Essential Education Element structure below:

Element	Focus	Credits
Element 1A	Written Communication 1	3
Element 1B	Written Communication 2	3
Element 1C	Oral Communication	3
Element 2A	Quantitative Reasoning	3
Element 2B	Natural Sciences	3
Element 3A	Arts	3
Element 3B	Humanities	3
Element 4A	Global and Historical Perspectives	3
Element 4B	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
Flex/Elective	Students may choose any 3 credits from this area.	3

I think I've aligned my assignments to Essential Skill 10 and my Element-specific Essential Skill(s), but I still have questions. Is there a way for me to ensure my assessment meets the requirements or receive feedback on it?

Programs or individual faculty may use this [checklist](#) to support their assessment revision or development. We are also providing a self-evaluation or [backward design tool](#) to support the development of AY 26-27 assessment instruments. Those seeking additional feedback on the assignments they will use to assess Essential Skill 10 and their Element-specific Skill(s) may also submit their assignment through this [form](#). Members of the Graduate Profile Team and/or the Essential Education Operational Committees will provide detailed comments on submissions, targeted to the type of feedback requested.

Assessment:

Does teaching and assessing Essential Skills replace the current assessment of Competencies in General Education courses?

The requirement to incorporate and assess the Essential Skills in General Education courses comes from CPE, the coordinating body overseeing public higher education in Kentucky. The requirement to assess Competencies in General Education courses comes from SACSCOC, our accrediting body. We are accountable to both bodies and must assess both sets of requirements.

Then does each General Education course need four different assignments to assess these two Essential Skills and two Competencies?

While no two skills or two competencies should be assessed with a single assignment, competencies and skills may be stacked, meaning one competency and one skill may be assessed in a single assignment.

For General Education courses that occupy a single Element (or a single Element and Flex), programs may choose to assess the Essential Skills and Competencies using between two and four assignments.

Courses that reside in two Elements (excluding Flex) will need a minimum of four assignments that assess all four Competencies and all three Essential Skills required by both Elements.

Do all sections of a given General Education course need to use the same assignments to assess the Essential Skills and Competencies for that course?

Programs may choose to have common assessments or to allow individual instructors to create assignments that assess the Skills and Competencies.

Does this mean we need to create all-new assignments to assess the Essential Skills?

While faculty are welcome to develop new assignments, our recommendation is for faculty and programs to bring an existing assignment (particularly one already used to assess their SACSCOC Competencies) to the PD sessions and work on incorporating Skill 10 into that assignment. For the Element-specific PD sessions in April, we encourage faculty to bring a second assignment that could be used to assess their Element Skill. Our goal is for the implementation of the Essential Skills into General Education courses to be as easy as possible.