The Global Learning Qualifications Framework

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The Global Learning Qualifications Framework (GLQF) is designed to assess university-level learning regardless of where, when or how it was acquired. The GLQF is the result of extensive research and builds upon the progress of qualification frameworks from over 90 countries, the Lumina Degree Qualifications Profile, the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Essential Learning Outcomes and VALUE Rubrics, and other emerging work in the field. As colleges/universities and students continue to search for and use nontraditional modes of education, learning has become increasingly untethered to time, place and modality. While this work is tied to a history of face-to-face instruction and classroom assessments, it also provides a structure for assessing nontraditional modes: online learning, open education resources (OER), massive open online courses (MOOCs) and experiential/prior learning.

The Global Learning Qualifications Framework is part of Open SUNY (State University of New York), under the SUNY REAL (Recognition of Experiential and Academic Learning) initiative. This project has been funded through two grants provided by the Lumina Foundation and the University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) to develop a comprehensive framework to assess university-level learning, and to pilot the framework by assessing six OER courses from the Saylor Foundation. The project also will assess additional learning modalities, such as experiential learning and classroom experiences, outside of the funding requirements.

In 2012-2013, an academic team of faculty and academics with expertise in open education, prior learning assessment and outcomes assessment was formed to study the core components of student knowledge and the learning process, and to conduct a meta-analysis of qualification frameworks from around the world to create a holistic framework to assess university-level learning. The resulting GLQF has been designed to be content area agnostic, as courses and open learning range from liberal arts and sciences, to technologies, to applied studies. An additional panel of national experts reviewed the framework prior to entering the pilot phase of the project.

The second phase of the project (2013-2014) will pilot the GLQF using a range of open courses, prior learning experiences, and some on-line and face-to-face courses. The initial assessments will focus on the OER courses identified in the grants. Throughout the pilot process, additional tethered and untethered learning will also be assessed. All pilot results will be used to refine the GLQF.

In the summer of 2014, an institute will gather key global leaders in OER, prior learning and learning assessments to learn about the GLQF, provide more feedback and discuss ways to distribute the framework internationally. The research background and summary, final results and the Global Learning Qualifications Framework will be licensed through open resources by Creative Commons and available for everyone online after the 2014 Summer Institute.

Over the next year or so, many presentations at major conferences will introduce the GLQF. These presentations will include discussions of the research process, the resulting framework, the pilot assessments of OER

courses and other learning modalities, and future implications in assessment, course development, nontraditional student learning and open educational resources. Participants in these workshops will discuss how they could use the framework at their college/university, with a particular focus on how the GLQF can be used to assess all learning deliveries provided by their institution. Full group discussions will expand the ways in which the framework can be used to assess all forms of university-level learning, whether it is tethered or untethered, predetermined or emergent, or academic or experiential. The participants at these workshops will be provided with a copy of the framework with feedback forms to contribute to the refinement of the framework. We hope to see you at one of these conferences and look forward to your feedback.