



Erie Community College (ECC) was asked by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) to revise its General Education assessment approach. ECC needed to incorporate a single, consistent way of measuring key institutional learning outcomes such as Information Literacy, Critical Reasoning, and Technological Competence across Gen Ed.

Previous common assessment efforts using a stand-alone 3rd party instrument had yielded just a few dozen student responses and did not constitute a valid data sample. Using NimblyWise course-embedded common assessment to support a Gen Ed wide common exam to test student proficiency in its institutional competencies, ECC was able to generate a valid sample size for its MSCHE reporting and also build an instructional feedback loop into Gen Ed.

CHALLENGES:

- ✓ Create a common assessment strategy to measure information literacy, critical reasoning & analysis, and technological competence across Gen Ed
- ✓ Increase common assessment response rate from dozens to hundreds in order to support robustness and validity of results
- ✓ Gather insights and learnings from the pilot to develop a long-term mechanism to link skills measurement to same- and next-term instructional strategy adjustments

RESULTS:

- ✓ Achieved nearly 300 student completions, a response rate increase of 400% from the previous common assessment
- ✓ Deployed and ran a common foundational skills assessment across Gen Ed course that was mapped to ECC institutional outcomes and sub-skills
- ✓ Gathered discrete data for 19 sub-skills related to information literacy, critical reasoning & analysis, and technological competence in order to support instructional strategy adjustments needed to build students' skills
- ✓ Used data to meet MSCHE reporting requirements for consistent Gen Ed measurement and an instructional feedback loop

400%

Increase in Student Participation in Common Assessment

19

Sub-Skills Measured to Support Instructional Improvement

“ Our work with NimblyWise on common assessment has helped us secure the student response we needed to support our MSCHE reporting. In fact, we used the results from the NimblyWise common assessment immediately to support our Middle States reporting requirement. The NimblyWise work has also given us much deeper insight into 19 specific, teachable skills around information literacy, critical reasoning, and technological competency and we can use this data to adjust our instructional strategy. ”

— Fabio Escobar, Vice Provost of Institutional Research, Assessment, Accreditation, and Planning

Erie Community College is a two-year community college that is part of the 64-campus State University of New York (SUNY) system, and serves Erie County and the surrounding communities of western New York with more than 100 associate degree, certificate, joint, and online programs.