

The Story of ASK

Why Did ASK Begin?

The beginnings of NVC in 1998 coincided with statewide efforts to strengthen the core curricula of Texas colleges. A group of faculty members worked to identify the aims of the general education program: the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that students should manifest after their experience in completing the core curriculum at Northwest Vista college. It is noteworthy that the values of the college and ASK efforts both focus on the whole person; not just intellect, but the emotional well-being of each student. ASK has expanded over into the assessment efforts of Corporate and Community Development and Occ-Tech.

What does ASK mean?

Attitudes –

- Behave with integrity and practice personal and social responsibility
- Value lifelong learning and wellness
- An acceptance of change, nuance, and uncertainty
- Value diversity and differences in people

Skills –

- Communicate effectively (visual, verbal, written and listening)
- Cooperate and collaborate effectively
- Think critically and creatively
- Use technology appropriately and effectively
- Set goals and assess progress

Knowledge

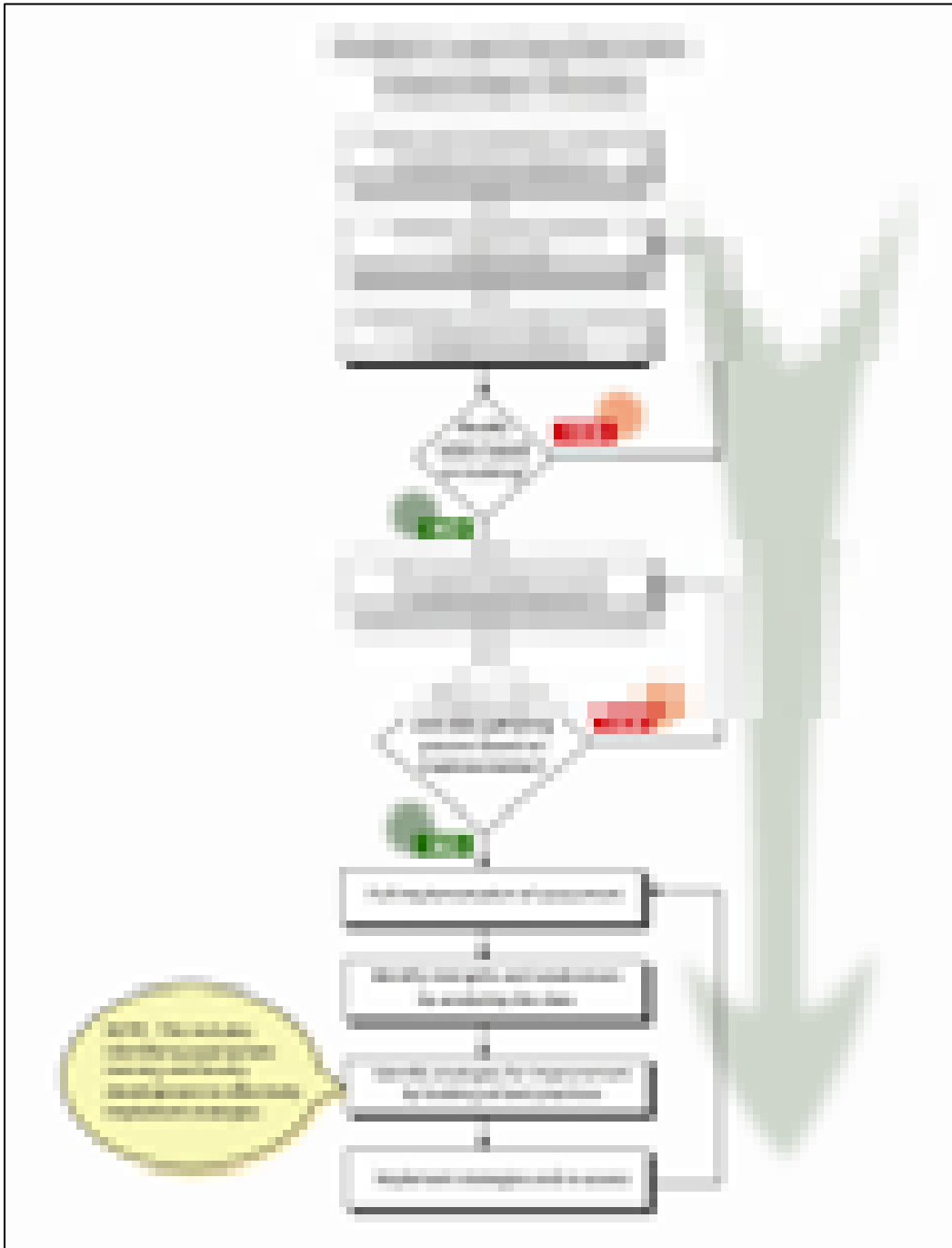
- Understand various ways of knowing and how individual disciplines investigate and interpret the world
- Know sufficient mathematical and statistical operations for effective living
- Understand the American Experience and its place in an interdependent world

Why is ASK important to our college as a public institution in Texas?

These outcomes support Northwest Vista's institutional effectiveness program, serve as the basis for the core curriculum evaluation for Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and provide the foundation for the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for reaffirmation of accreditation with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). They support student learning in a way that has been designed by the NVC faculty. They come from within.

How will the college really apply ASK to student learning?

Each discipline in the core is charged with creating an assessment process, tool, and measures; implementing the assessment; analyzing results as well as critiquing the tool and measures; reporting back; and refining the process for the next cycle of assessment.



What does ASK look like?

This chart summarizes the ASK efforts that are happening in each discipline. Since most disciplines elected to address and assess Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking, it made sense to focus on those areas for the quality enhancement plan.

