

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY FORM

English Department--Graduate Program
June 30, 2007

Submitted by: Brian Conniff, Chair

OUTCOMES/MEASURES USED	RESULTS
<p><i>Outcome One</i> -- Measures used</p> <p>Students completing the Master's program in English will be able to read literary and/or rhetorical texts both discerningly and with a degree of analytical/critical sophistication appropriate to graduate studies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Measurement 1A</u></p> <p>100% of M.A. candidates will graduate with a minimum GPA of 3.0 in Master's courses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Measurement 1B</u></p> <p>Faculty review of portfolios from 50% of graduating students will indicate that 90% can read literary and/or rhetorical texts discerningly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Measurement 1C</u></p> <p>For those students who write theses, two readers, the advisor and second reader, will verify that work is of at least B quality.</p>	<p>All twelve of this year's graduating students (100%) had GPAs above 3.0. Sixteen had GPAs of 3.519 or higher. The graduating students' average GPA was 3.763.</p> <p>100% of the portfolios reviewed showed the ability to read literary and/or rhetorical texts discerningly.</p> <p>All four of the graduating students who choose the thesis option received grades of A (3) or B (1).</p>
<p><i>Outcome Two</i> -- Measures Used</p> <p>Students completing the Master's program in English will be able to write about literary and/or rhetorical texts with cogency, persuasiveness, and demonstration of knowledge of previous and current scholarship on the texts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Measurement 2A</u></p> <p>80% of graduate students in English will earn a grade of B or better in courses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Measurement 2B</u></p> <p>Before they complete the program, 10% of graduate students in English will deliver papers on literary and/or rhetorical texts at professional conferences.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Measurement 2C</u></p> <p>Faculty review of portfolios from 50% of graduating students will indicate that 90% write about texts with cogency, persuasiveness, and demonstration of knowledge of scholarship.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Measurement 2D</u></p> <p>50% of students taking the Diagnostic Examinations (Literature or Writing) will score "Above Average" or "Superior."</p>	<p>All twelve of this year's graduating students (100%) had GPAs above 3.0. Sixteen had GPAs of 3.519 or higher. The graduating students' average GPA was 3.763.</p> <p>16.7% of the graduating student presented papers at professional conferences.</p> <p>100% of the portfolios reviewed showed the ability to write about texts with cogency, persuasiveness, and knowledge of scholarship.</p> <p>75% of the graduating students received scores of "Above Average" or "Superior" on their diagnostic examinations.</p>

OUTCOMES/MEASURES USED	RESULTS
<p><i>Outcome Three -- Measures Used</i></p> <p>Students completing the Master's degree in English will be able to understand the place of literary and/or rhetorical works in the context of the Humanities, and to apply analytical and critical skills to integration within the Humanities.</p> <p><u>Measurement 3A</u></p> <p>80% of students will receive a grade of B or better in ENG 588: Studies in Criticism and/or ENG 596: Composition theory.</p> <p><u>Measurement 3B</u></p> <p>A review of syllabi, assignments, and class performance by the Director of TA training will indicate that Graduate Teaching Assistants have demonstrated integrative skills while teaching the Humanities Base course and texts.</p>	<p>92.9% of the graduating students received grades of "B" or better in ENG 588 and/or ENG 596.</p> <p>The Director of TA training has so indicated.</p>
<p><i>Outcome Four -- Measures Used</i></p> <p>Students completing the Master's program in English will be able to produce effective prose in a variety of situations.</p> <p><u>Measurement 4 A</u></p> <p>A review of portfolios from 50% of graduating students will indicate that 90% produce effective prose in a variety of situations.</p> <p><u>Measurement 4B</u></p> <p>A survey of past graduates of the Master's Program in English will indicate that 80% agree/strongly agree that the Program aided them in Law, Education, or professional fields.</p>	<p>100% of the portfolios reviewed showed the ability to produce effective prose in a variety of situations.</p> <p>79% agreed/strongly agreed that they had been prepared for their professional fields.</p>
<p><i>Outcome Five -- Measures Used</i></p> <p>Students completing the Master's program in English will be prepared to pursue successfully doctoral work; careers in primary, secondary, or community college education; careers in professional writing; or attain degrees in other professional fields.</p> <p><u>Measurement 5A</u></p> <p>A survey of past graduates will indicate that 80% agree/strongly agree that the program prepared them to pursue successfully doctoral work or careers in various other fields.</p> <p><u>Measurement 5B</u></p> <p>70% of those graduates of the program who elect to do post-M.A. work will be successful in gaining admittance to an appropriate school of choice.</p>	<p>86% agreed/strongly agreed that they had been well prepared for work towards a second Master's degree or Ph.D.</p> <p>The one graduate who applied to a Ph.D. program this year was accepted (100%).</p>

Brief analysis:

This year's outcomes are consistent with those of previous years, meeting or surpassing the stated goals on all available measures. Student performance as indicated by grades remains especially high, though not as high as in the past—an average GPA of 3.763 as opposed to 3.924 last year. This decline probably reflects slightly more rigorous grading rather than a lower level of performance. This year's graduates did not continue the recent trend of M.A. students presenting papers at scholarly conferences: only 16.7% as opposed to more than 50% in each of the past two years. Considering the University's priority for upgrading student research, higher goals and more sustained efforts would seem to be required in this area.

Actions Taken:

In the past year, the Graduate Committee continued its work to implementing the recommendations of the Department's M.A. program self-study of 2003-04. The focus this year was the continued development of promotional materials, a revision of the diagnostic exam process which will now include the collection of student portfolios that should help in assessment, and the development of a tentative two-year course sequence.