

**Communication and Theatre
Core Competencies
2018-2019**

Learning Outcome:

Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions.

Outcome Measure:

ETS Proficiency Profile Exam

Criteria for Success (how do you judge if the students have met your standards):

70% of the students will be marginal or proficient at Level 2 Reading/Critical Thinking

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

	Percentage of Students Marginal or Proficient						
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
ETS Proficiency Profile Level 2 Critical Thinking	N/A	81.8%	62.5%	63.0%	66.7%	67.9%	56.4%

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

This year's graduating senior cohort missed the 70% target benchmark by about 2%, a negligible increase of approximately 1% from last year. The largest percentage decrease (19%) occurred between 2013-14 to 2014-15. In the future, it could be useful to see whether this is an actual pattern of decline – or whether these near-misses will plateau - for the critical thinking competency measured near graduation.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

As our department rebuilds its assessment infrastructure and culture of evidence, it would be useful to pay attention to whether this shortfall below targeted goals continues, including what potential factors may've contributed to the percentage decrease between 2013-14 and 2014-15. Additionally, with the availability of further longitudinal analysis, our department will be more readily prepared to identify areas needing improvement, then design and implement appropriate curricular or other changes as necessary.

If such is the case, a decline may be partly attributable to a high turnover of full-time faculty in the last three years, in distinct contrast to a relatively low turnover rate in the prior decade. The resulting stop gap measure was to rely on less experienced adjunct instructors

while the department searched for several full-time replacements.

The department recently hired two quality full-time professors at the doctorate level, plus two new instructors who are in the part-time or super-adjunct level (teaching close to a full time load). These hires contribute more experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to the department. Additionally, the visiting professor (also holding a doctorate), who replaced two other full-timers, was upgraded to full-time status last year.

Rubric Used: No rubric. We use the ETS Proficiency Profile test results.

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Learning Outcome:

Written: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication.

Outcome Measure:

ETS Proficiency Profile Exam

Criteria for Success (how do you judge if the students have met your standards):

70% of the students will be marginal or proficient at Level 2 Writing

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

	Percentage of Students Marginal or Proficient						
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
ETS Proficiency Profile Level 2 Writing	N/A	81.8%	75.0%	67.4%	80.0%	71.4%	56.4%

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

For academic year 2017-18 the Departments ETS Proficiency Profile Level 2 Writing continued to exceed the success criteria, but only by 1.4% in contrast to prior year, which exceeded the target by 80.0%. In the future, it will be helpful to pay careful attention to fluctuations in outcomes, even if they meet or exceed the success criteria.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

As the department rebuilds its assessment infrastructure and culture of evidence, it will be useful to ascertain the impact of contributing factors to this apparent decline then improvement in writing skills, including the effects of faculty turnover and other department changes, as discussed with regard to the prior outcome.

It might also be useful to triangulate ETS PP data with PLO evidence related to writing skills to ascertain whether missing the 70% benchmark is consistent across the department's senior cohorts in various majors, and/or whether the type of measure (examination vs. research paper, for instance) might affect the demonstration of proficiency with regard to this outcome. But the good news is that the Department has shown significant improvement in this area, and exceeds the 70% target threshold that had been missed in prior years.

Rubric Used: No rubric. We use the ETS Proficiency Profile test results.

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Learning Outcome:

Quantitative Reasoning: Students will be able to solve problems that are quantitative in nature.

Outcome Measure:

ETS Proficiency Profile Exam

Criteria for Success (how do you judge if the students have met your standards):

70% of the students will be marginal or proficient at Level 2 Mathematics

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

	Percentage of Students Marginal or Proficient						
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
ETS Proficiency Profile Level 2 Math	N/A	63.6%	75.5%	63.0%	66.7%	60.7%	48.7%

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

This year's senior cohort missed the target benchmark by about 10%. Over the past several years, however, an obvious pattern of either improvement or decline is not evident: an increase of 11% occurred between 2013-14 and 2014-15, whereas a decrease of 11% occurred between 2014-15 to 2014-16. And most recently an increase of approximately 4% occurred for 2016-17, falling just short of the targeted goal of 70% proficiency. It is also hard to pinpoint a significant cause effect relationship to mathematical skills development in a department largely devoid of instruction in math properties or relationships.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

Most of the courses offered in our department are of a qualitative nature and do not deal with quantitative matters, except for those few courses offering coverage in statistical research methods and measures, many of which are not required of all departmental students since the skills discussed are not viewed as essential for the proper mastery of targeted learning objectives. Because the curriculum in the department is particularly strong in the applied humanities rather than quantitative skills, one might expect weaker outcomes for this particular competency, in contrast to the written and oral communication competencies, for instance.

However, the senior cohort exceeded the 70% benchmark by 5% in 2014-15, then dropped to 64% in 2015-16, improving to nearly 67% in 2016-17. As the department rebuilds its

assessment infrastructure and culture of evidence, it will be useful to ascertain whether the quantitative reasoning competency improves. Additionally, the department's quantitative courses are being taught by newly hired full time employees, who show much promise and strong instruction assessments by students, peers and the Chair. Given a chance to master their new teaching assignments and redesign their courses, there will hopefully be improved results in this content mastery area as well.

Overall, to enhance quantitative reasoning outcomes in Communication seniors, one potential change mentioned to rely upon a course in statistics for non-math majors offered by the Math Department, as we understand that some other departments are planning to do so. Of course, this is all preliminary to departmental analysis, and it should be noted that our department does not incorporate quantitative course work as part of its program learning outcomes, so these findings are considered less urgent in the context of our programming than in other academic units.

Rubric Used

No rubric. We use the ETS Proficiency Profile test results.

**Communication and Theatre
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Spring 2019**

Learning Outcome:

Oral Communication: Student will be able to speak about their work with precision, clarity and organization.

Outcome Measure: COM 485 Oral Exam

The WSCUC Core Competencies are assessed in COM 485 Communications, Value, and Society. Instructor of record: Professor Wally Williams.

Criteria for Success (if applicable): 70% of students will score 80% or above on exam

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

	Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Success Criteria				
	SP 17	SU 17	SP 18	SU 18	SP 19
	N = 16	N = 6	N = 15	N/A	N = 33
Com 485 Oral Exam	93.8%	66.7%	80.0%	N/A	72.7%

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

This year's percentage of students exceeds the 70% threshold based on the Oral Exam for COM 485, a senior capstone course covering values and communication in society populated primarily by the department's seniors.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

No changes. Continue to collect data.

Rubric Used: No rubric used.

**Communication and Theatre
Core Competencies
Spring 2019**

Learning Outcome:

Information Literacy: Student will be able to identify, locate, evaluate and effectively and responsibly use and cite information for the task at hand.

Outcome Measure: COM 485 poster session with a research component

Note: Data for WSCUC Core Competencies will be collected in COM 485 Communications, Value, and Society. Instructor of record: Professor Wally Williams.

Criteria for Success (if applicable): 70% of students will score 80% or above on their poster session

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

	Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding Success Criteria				
	SP 17	SU 17	SP 18	SU 18	SP 19
	N = 16	N = 6	N = 15	N/A	N = 33
Com 485 Poster Session	100%	100%	100%	N/A	100%

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

The 70% targeted learning threshold has been significantly exceeded as evidenced in this particular assignment.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

No changes. Continue to collect data.

Rubric Used: No rubric currently used.