

CHSS Academic Assessment, 2007-2008

I. Progress Report on W-Course Assessment Project, 2/29/2008

Project Description

The purpose of this assessment project is to ensure that for every degree program in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences learning outcomes for the W-course requirement have been embedded in courses, with outcomes defined and assessed.

The project is designed to employ a systematic process to assess this learning outcome,

- Applying a rubric to a set of papers identified for the project
- Collecting and tabulating data
- analyzing the data collected, and
- determining how to use those results to improve how we address students' needs in writing in every degree program.

Work Completed

As of February 29, 2008, the project is on schedule. To date, these steps have been taken:

1. Each degree program has
 - a. Identified at least one course to assess as part of the project and
 - b. Agreed on a grading rubric to use in assessing a set of papers. (Copies of rubrics and minutes of meeting discussions are set to be posted in the W-initiative folder on the CHSS shared drive.)

These are the courses identified:

- Arts and Humanities
 - B.A. in Humanities – HUM 3301
 - B.A. in Communication Studies – COMM 3315
 - B.A. in Spanish – SPAN 4390, SPAN 3324
- English
 - B.A. in English – ENG 3311, ENG 3312, and ENG 3313
 - B.S. in Professional Writing – ENG 3316/ENG3317
- Social Sciences
 - B.A. in History – HIST 3390
 - B.A. in Philosophy – PHIL 3317
 - B.S. in Sociology – SOC 4315
 - B.S. in Political Science – POLS 3310 or 4315
 - B.S. in Psychology – PSY 3302
 - B.S./B.A. in Social Sciences – ENG 3302
- CHSS
 - B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies – ENG 3302

2. Paper assessment is underway (and in some disciplines, completed), with a March 14 scheduled date for completion.

- a. Faculty members from each discipline-based degree (as ad hoc committee or committee of the whole) have met to confirm shared agreement about the grading rubric (usually by holding “anchoring” sessions on applying the rubric) and are assessing papers written in the designated W-classes.
- b. Tabulation of results by criterion on the rubric is completed in some programs and underway in the remainder.

Work Remaining

As agreed to when the W-course initiative was undertaken, for each bachelor’s degree in the college, the degree- or assessment- coordinator, along with faculty in the discipline (or an ad hoc committee of faculty as previously identified) will

1. Complete assessment of writing in W-course and tabulate results. (March 14, 2008)
2. Analyze the results and formulate recommendations of steps to be taken in response. (April 14, 2008)

II. Discipline-Level Assessments, current work in progress

- Arts and Humanities
 - B.A. in Humanities
 - B.A. in Communication Studies
 - B.A. in Spanish