

Ph.D. in French Studies
Plan for Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes
The University of New Mexico

A. College, Department and Date

1. College: Arts and Sciences
2. Department: Foreign Languages and Literatures
3. Date: January 15, 2009

B. Academic Program of Study

Ph.D. in French Studies

C. Contact Person(s) for the Assessment Plan

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D. Broad Program Goals & Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

1. Broad Program Learning Goals for this Degree/Certificate Program

- A. Students will provide nuanced and sophisticated discussions of literary and cultural works in French and in English.
- B. Students will conduct independent research in their field.
- C. Students will be knowledgeable about the literary and cultural productions of French-speaking communities in the past and present.
- D. Students will be familiar with several major tendencies in critical and theoretical analysis.
- E. Students will find and evaluate career and post-graduate opportunities that their degree makes possible.

2. List of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for this Degree/Certificate Program

- A.1. Students can analyze literary and cultural texts through the lens of multiple theoretical paradigms.
- A.2. Students can communicate in conversation and in writing on an advanced level in French.
- B.1. Students can develop and delimit a research question and conduct a systematic investigation of the question.
- B.2. Students are able to write a sustained piece of scholarly work that incorporates an argument informed by theoretical concepts.
- C.1. Students can provide complex accounts of the significant literary and cultural productions of several French and Francophone communities in the past and present.
- C.2. Students demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the authors, works and movement of ideas in their chosen period of study.

D.1. Students can demonstrate familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identify their principle theorists.

E.1. Students know how to search and apply for jobs in professions related to the Ph.D. in French Studies.

E.2. Students participate in professional activities such as colloquia, conferences and meetings.

E. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan

All programs are expected to measure some outcomes annually and to measure all priority program outcomes at least once over two consecutive three-year review cycles. Describe below the plan for the next three years of assessment of program-level student learning outcomes.

1. Student Learning Outcomes

Relationship to UNM Student Learning Goals (insert the program SLOs and check all that apply):

University of New Mexico Student Learning Goals				
Program SLOs	Knowledge	Skills	Responsibility	Program SLO is conceptually different from university goals.
A.1. Students can analyze literary and cultural texts through the lens of multiple theoretical paradigms.	XX			
A.2. Students can communicate in conversation and in writing on an advanced level in French.	XX	XX		
B.1. Students can develop and delimit a research question and conduct a systematic investigation of the question.	XX	XX		
B.2. Students are able to write a sustained piece of scholarly work that incorporates an argument informed by theoretical concepts.	XX	XX		
C.1. Students can provide complex accounts of the significant literary and cultural productions of several French and Francophone communities in the past and present.	XX			
C.2. Students demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the authors, works and movement of ideas in their chosen period of study.	XX			
D.1. Students can demonstrate familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identify their principle theorists.	XX			
E.2. Students participate in professional activities such as colloquia, conferences and meetings.		XX	XX	

2. How will learning outcomes be assessed?

A. What:

- i. *For each SLO, briefly describe the means of assessment.*

In their qualifying exams, Ph.D. students complete an oral exam and a written exam and present a colloquium on the proposed dissertation project. They subsequently complete the dissertation and present an oral defense. The oral and written qualifying exams will provide the opportunity for assessment of A.1, A.2, C.1, and D.1. The Faculty will assess oral and written performance using evaluative questionnaires focused on these skills and ranking performance on a 1-5 scale where 5 corresponds to excellence (see addendum 1-2 for questionnaires with qualitative comments). The dissertation defense will provide the opportunity for assessment (based on the student's dissertation and their oral defense) of B.1, B.2, C.2 (see addendum 3 for questionnaire with qualitative comments).

Assessment of E.2 will occur through collection and evaluation of student curriculum vitae at the time of graduation. In addition, graduates will be asked to respond to a questionnaire about their current professional status every five years.

ii. *Indicate whether each measure is **direct** or **indirect**.*

A.1, A.2, B.1, B.2, C.1, C.2, D.1: Direct measurement through evaluation of oral exam, written exam, dissertation and dissertation defense.

E.2: Indirect measure through student reporting on curriculum vitae of professional activity. The periodic questionnaire on current professional status is an indirect measure as well.

iii. *Briefly describe the **criteria for success**.*

In overall averaging of scores on all SLOs (in a range of 1-5), 90% of graduating Ph.D. students will receive an average of "4" or above.

E.2. 90% of students will have participated in professional activities.

B. Who:

The French Ph.D. program typically has no more than one graduate a year. All graduating Ph.D. students will undergo assessment at the time of their oral and written exams and of the dissertation defense. All faculty on French Ph.D. committees on studies will participate in scoring A.1, B.1, B.2, C.1, C.2, D.1. The French program graduate director will assess collected curriculum vitae for E.2.

3. When will learning outcomes be assessed? When and in what forum will the results of the assessment be discussed?

Assessment will be conducted on every graduating Ph.D. student at the time of oral and written exams and of the dissertation defense. These assessments will be kept with one copy in the student's file and one copy in a general French graduate program file. Evaluation of assessments will be conducted at the beginning of alternate Fall semesters, relying on the data from the prior four semesters, and beginning in Fall 2010. Collation of results and initial analysis is the responsibility of the French program graduate director. This timeline will ensure that enough student performances will have been evaluated for the outcomes assessment to be meaningful (data on approximately 1-4 students will accrue over the period described).

Results will be discussed in a meeting of the French faculty immediately after collation and initial analysis. The French faculty will formulate a response to findings focused on adjustment of course offerings and coverage of knowledge and skill areas in the program as a whole. It will also consider adjustment of assessment plan, when necessary.

4. What is the unit's process to analyze/interpret assessment data and use results to improve student learning?

1. Members of a student's committee on studies will score performance of SLOs. The French graduate director will be responsible for collating and analyzing data resulting from scoring. The French faculty will meet as a whole to interpret results and formulate curricular, course content and professional training modifications to the program, as well as to evaluate the outcomes assessment tools.

2. A report will be submitted by the French faculty to the departmental Committee on Graduate Studies, composed of faculty representing each of the graduate programs in the department. The report will contain the raw data of results for SLOs, discussion of areas of achievement and areas of weakness, and a plan for modifications of the program or assessment tools, where needed. The Committee on Graduate Studies will consider the report in connection with the reports of the other graduate programs in the department (M.A. in French Studies, M.A. in German, M.A. in Comparative Literature/Cultural Studies) and provide an overall evaluation of graduate learning outcomes to the FLL faculty in a regularly scheduled faculty meeting.

Addendum 1: Outcomes Assessment Scoring Sheet for French Ph.D. Oral Examination

Name of Ph.D. candidate _____ Date of assessment _____

Semester/Year _____

Circle an evaluation of student's performance of designated skill, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent.

(A.1.) Student analyzes literary and cultural texts through the lens of multiple theoretical paradigms:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

(A.2) Student communicates orally on an advanced level in French:

1 2 3 4 5

(C.1.) Student provides complex accounts of the significant literary and cultural productions of several French and Francophone communities in the past and present:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

(D.1.) Student demonstrates familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identifies their principle theorists:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

Addendum 2: Outcomes Assessment Scoring Sheet for French Ph.D. Written Examination

Name of Ph.D. candidate _____ Date of assessment _____

Semester/Year _____

Circle an evaluation of student's performance of designated skill, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent.

(A.1.) Student analyzes literary and cultural texts through the lens of multiple theoretical paradigms:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

(A.2) Student communicates in writing on an advanced level in French:

1 2 3 4 5

(C.1.) Student provides complex accounts of the significant literary and cultural productions of several French and Francophone communities in the past and present:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

(D.1.) Student demonstrates familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identifies their principle theorists:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

Addendum 3: Outcomes Assessment Scoring Sheet for Dissertation and Dissertation Defense

Name of Ph.D. candidate _____ Date of assessment _____

Semester/Year _____

Circle an evaluation of student's performance of designated skill, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent.

(B.1). Student has developed and delimited a research question and conducted a systematic investigation of the question:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

(B.2). Student has completed a sustained piece of scholarly work that incorporates an argument informed by theoretical concepts:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

(C.2). Student demonstrates an in-depth knowledge of the authors, works and movement of ideas in chosen period of study:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

