Missouri State University
College of Arts and Letters Assessment Process Summary Report

Introduction

This can be a paragraph that outlines the underlying goal for assessment within your college and a summary of the degrees offered (by program) that will be addressed in the report.

The following degrees are assessed in the College of Arts and Letters:

- Bachelor of Arts: Art & Design; Communication; English; Media, Journalism & Film; Modern & Classical Languages; Music; Theatre & Dance
- Bachelor of Fine Arts: Art & Design; Music; Theatre & Dance
- Bachelor of Music: Music
- Bachelor of Music Education: Music
- Bachelor of Science: Art & Design; Communication; English; Media, Journalism & Film; Modern & Classical Languages
- Bachelor of Science in Education: Art & Design; Communication; English; Modern & Classical Languages; Theatre & Dance
- Master of Arts: Communication; English; Theatre & Dance
- Master of Music: Music
- Master of Science in Education: Art & Design; English; Music; Theatre & Dance

Mission

The College of Arts and Letters promotes learning, scholarship, and service to the broader community in all aspects of human communication — spoken, written, visual, musical, dramatic, and electronically mediated. With support for general education and with discipline-specific degrees, both undergraduate and graduate, we aim to foster intellectual independence, expressive competence, and aesthetic appreciation within the traditional arenas of arts and letters. We also aim to instill the desire and capability for lifelong learning, in keeping with the advancements of our disciplines and their technologies.

Program Goals and Objectives

Each department has articulated at least one student learning outcome that is common to all programs in the department. These are listed below by department. Program-specific outcomes are not included here.

Art & Design Student Learning Outcomes (BA, BFA, BS, BSEd, MSEd)

- Students will be able to demonstrate fluency with formal vocabulary, artistic techniques and procedures of art practice.
- Students will be able to communicate a critical understanding of past and present works of art and visual objects from a diversity of cultures.
- As members of a broader community, students will be able to exhibit ethical leadership, community engagement and cultural competence.
Communication Student Learning Outcomes (BA, BS, BSEd, MA)
- Students will demonstrate the power of human communication in relationships and communities.
- Students will apply appropriate theories to analyze and modify communication.
- Students will construct effective messages for diverse audiences.

English (BA, BS, BSEd, MA)
- Students will understand, analyze, and effectively use the conventions of the English language.
- Students will examine how texts function across a range of genres, contexts, and cultures.
- Students will fulfill Missouri State University’s Public Affairs Mission by analyzing how their writing, reading, and research:
  - respond to existing leadership and help provide new leadership;
  - represent cultures and encounters between, cultures; and
  - answer the needs of existing communities and creative new communities (or how these skills might be meaningfully applied in these areas).

Modern & Classical Languages (BA, BS, BSEd)
Classics
- Demonstrate reading and writing skills in Latin (and, where applicable, Ancient Greek) consistent with standards with those observed in the Classics Assessment process which began in 1992.
- Demonstrate an accurate understanding of linguistic concepts related to Latin (and, where applicable, Ancient Greek), including the fundamentals of phonetics, semantics, and morphology and syntax.
- Demonstrate awareness of key similarities and differences between their own cultural practices and perspectives and those of the ancient Romans and Greeks and the ability to express divergent cultural viewpoints clearly and accurately in speech and writing.
- Articulate knowledge of major literary, artistic, and cultural works and figures associated with ancient Rome and Greece.
- Analyze and interpret authentic texts and other cultural products, both in Latin (and, where applicable, Ancient Greek) and in translation in clearly organized and coherent oral and written presentations which reveal an informed understanding of relevant contextual factors, including socio-historical influences and cultural traditions, perspectives, and behavioral patterns.
- Integrate proficiency in Latin (and, where applicable, Ancient Greek) proficiencies along with critical modes of thinking and expression to effectively perform tasks typical of today’s globalized work environment, including professional communications and project collaboration.

Modern Languages
- Demonstrate speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in the target language consistent with the Advanced levels as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.
- Demonstrate an accurate understanding of linguistic concepts related to the target language, including the fundamentals of phonetics, semantics, and morphology and syntax, as well as basic pragmatic and sociolinguistic aspects.
- Demonstrate awareness of key similarities and differences between their own cultural practices and perspectives and those of target language groups and the ability to express divergent cultural viewpoints clearly and accurately in speech and writing.
• Articulate knowledge of major literary, artistic, and cultural works and figures associated with target language societies.
• Analyze and interpret authentic texts and other cultural products in clearly organized and coherent presentations in speech and writing in ways that reflect informed understanding of relevant contextual factors, including socio-historical influences and cultural traditions, perspectives, and behavioral patterns.
• Integrate target language proficiencies, intercultural competencies, technology skills, and critical modes of thinking and expression to effectively perform tasks typical of today’s globalized work environment, including professional communications, translation, and project collaboration.

In addition to the above-stated learning outcomes, graduates of the Department’s Teacher Education programs (BSED degrees) will be able to
• Demonstrate a thorough understanding of pedagogical theories, foreign language teaching methods, best practices, and standards (institutional, state, and national) and the ability to apply them in ways that increase the language proficiency and cultural competence of their students.

Media, Journalism & Film (BA, BS)
• Students will be able to identify and demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical foundations of media.
• Students will be able to analyze and critique a variety of media products, case studies and issues.
• Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues related to the media.

Music (BA, BM, BME, MM)
• Public Affairs: Students will demonstrate the understanding and use of public performance as a means for engaging communities, creating cultural awareness, and providing ethical leadership.
• Performance: Music students will be able to perform as soloists, ensemble members, and chamber musicians at appropriate levels for entering graduate music study and for public school and studio teaching.
• Theory and Musicianship: Students will be able to create, analyze, and synthesize music as a means of supporting developing careers in music teaching and/or performance.
• Repertoire: Students will be able to recognize, classify, and interpret a common body of western literature and individual repertory by written and oral means.
• Pedagogy: Students will be able to demonstrate teaching skills for individual studio and group settings for teaching and audience education purposes.

Theatre & Dance (BA, BFA, BSED, MA, MSED)
• All graduates from the Department of Theatre and Dance will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the process of production, including ethical collaboration.
• All graduates from the Department of Theatre and Dance will be able to analyze artistic endeavors through a cultural lens and demonstrate awareness of how cultural and historical context affects artistic choices.
• All graduates from the Department of Theatre and Dance will be able to engage with various groups outside the department to enrich the life of the community.

In all departments, course syllabi will include applicable student learning outcomes.
Assessment Process

Art & Design
Data is collected at a variety of points, including capstone senior exhibition, senior level research classes, candidacy review portfolios, each semester. A department assessment committee coordinates data collection, application of rubrics, and dissemination of assessment results within the department.

Communication
A senior portfolio is required of all undergraduate students in their graduating semester which includes work samples, a self-assessment, an exit survey, and other assessment materials. A department assessment committee coordinates data collection, application of rubrics, and dissemination of assessment results within the department.

English
A combination of standardized tests and internal data are used for assessment, including the Major Field Test (MFT) in English, best critical essays by graduating students, BSED assessments, senior projects, and comparison of entry and exit level essays. A department assessment committee coordinates data collection, application of rubrics, and dissemination of assessment results within the department.

Media, Journalism & Film
Assessment data include written and creative work presented in production portfolios, including self-reviews of collaborative experiences; external indicators such as awards, placement, and alumni surveys. A department assessment committee coordinates data collection, application of rubrics, and dissemination of assessment results within the department.

Modern & Classical Languages
Modern Languages students take the PRAXIS II World Languages exams and the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Exams. Data is collected at three points: (1) completion of 12 hours; (2) completion of 24 hours; and (3) degree completion (33 hours). All program assessments are administered as part of MCL 499 (Program Assessment), a zero-credit course required for graduation. The assessment plan for Classics is still being developed. A department assessment committee coordinates data collection, application of rubrics, and dissemination of assessment results within the department.

Music
All Music students must do the following:
- Perform a graded “juried” public performance for a panel of faculty in their area every semester.
- Pass a keyboard/theory proficiency exam prior to their senior year.
- Pass MUS 298, a qualifying performance jury exam, to be admitted to upper division study.
- Present a public performance of varied repertoire or of original compositions as a senior recital.
- Take a nationally-normed Music Exit Exam in the semester prior to graduation.
A department assessment committee coordinates data collection, application of rubrics, and dissemination of assessment results within the department.

Theatre & Dance
BFA programs are assessed through a combination of BFA reviews, public performances, adjudication by outside evaluators, coursework, and post-graduation placement. The BSED program is assessed using the C-BASE test, PRAXIS II test, three portfolio checkpoints, and the Unit Plan articulated through the
methods courses. Currently, assessment of the BA program does not extend past individual course evaluation; discussions are underway for the development of a portfolio and final project for assessment purposes.

**Timeline**

In general, assessment data is collected throughout the academic year, compiled following the spring semester, then analyzed and discussed by the department in the next fall semester. At present, all departments except Media, Journalism & Film intend to assess all programs and learning outcomes annually. MJF will assess one department SLO and one degree program every year on a three year rotation beginning in Fall 2012.