

Do ENG Graduate Comprehensive Exams Demonstrate SLOs?

Short Answer: Perhaps

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Michael Czyzniejewski, Heidi Hadley, Etta Madden, Linda Trinh Moser, John R. Turner, and Shannon Wooden

Thursday, May 21, 2020



Learning Outcomes Review

WHAT? WE HAVE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR OUR GRADUATE PROGRAMS!?

Confession:

We didn't know that ENG SLOs are posted for 3 graduate degrees: MA in English, MA in Writing, and MSEd in English.

Observations:

- Current SLOs do not represent all “track” areas.
- SLOs common to all ENG disciplines and those specific to track areas would be helpful.
- Identifying SLOs should be the work of the entire department.



Data Discussed

WE NEED TO LOOK AT ADDITIONAL STUDENT WORK

- Comprehensive Exam Pass Rates.
- Additional Information: anecdotal information about exam essays, sample questions, rubrics, and descriptions of the exam structure and evaluation process.



Conclusions Reached

CLOSE THE FEEDBACK LOOP

- ENG Comp Exam essays and pass rates provide some insight about ENG Grad SLOs. Evaluation rubrics for some areas reflect SLOs.
- SLOs do not represent all disciplines/tracks.
- Feedback loop is not closed. ENG faculty do not discuss/analyze exam results with students or with each other.



Item(s) Chosen for Action

SHORT-TERM PLANS AND LONG-TERM PLANS

Short Term

- Value Work: What do we value as a department? What should our comprehensive exams measure? Canon? Equity? Critical thinking? Research?
- Student Learning Outcomes Revision: To reflect our values

Long Term

- Identify Form/Mode of Assessment: Portfolios, written papers, oral defenses, etc.
- Rubrics Development: Training of Rubric Use (use student samples to establish the difference between high pass, pass, low pass, fail and train grad faculty periodically using student samples)
- Closing the Feedback Loop: What structural supports do we create for students to increase rigor, encourage independent learning, and allow for a corrective discussion or educative opportunity as part of the comprehensive exam process?



Follow-up Plans & Next Steps

LET'S ALL PARTICIPATE IN ASSESSMENT

Organize/Facilitate:

- Department Graduate Assessment Workshop: to focus on "value work" and evaluating existing SLOs.
- Fall and Spring workshops: to "close the loop" by reviewing and discussing exam essays (which "outcomes" are demonstrated?) and to evaluate the exam as an assessment tool.