



Democracy & Justice Studies | 2016-2017 Assessment Plan

1. Please review your program's Learning Outcomes. Do any of them need to be updated or clarified? Which outcome will you assess this year (2016-2017)?

The DJS assessment plan states that Democracy and Justice Studies will prepare our students for successful professional careers and will be able to demonstrate several accomplishments we have identified as our learning outcomes, shared in the table below:

Learning Outcome #1: Students will demonstrate knowledge about and describe diverse ideals and practices of democracy and justice in the United States and the world.

Learning Outcome #2: Students will demonstrate information literacy using materials, theories and methods used to explore democracy and justice.

Learning Outcome #3: Students will be able to analyze the means by which peoples past and present have sought in various ways to sustain and change political, economic, cultural, social orders.

Learning Outcome #4: Students will be able to speak and write as an engaged citizen on questions of democracy, justice, freedom, and equality, and connect them to the issues of the day.

Learning Outcome #5: Students will understand and recognize the value of the diverse cultures that have shaped the United States and the World.

After several assessment cycles in which DJS selected one of the learning outcomes for evaluation only to discover that we had collected enough data to evaluate all of them, this thanks to the comprehensive assessment devices our faculty developed to gather and organize the evidence, it was decided that this cycle we would make evaluating all outcomes intentional at the outset.

2. Which technique will you use to assess this outcome?

Essay testing in DJS 101 and DJS 349 uses assigned essays to gauge student abilities to meet program learning outcomes. Essay testing occurs in DJS 101 in both fall and spring semesters and in DJS 349 in the fall and spring (when appropriate) semester. Instructors of record and site supervisors who are part of the Internship Program evaluate students' ability to meet DJS student learning outcomes. This occurs in both fall and spring semesters. In the unit's capstone course component, DJS 470 (Senior Seminar), the instructor uses essays, discussions, and classroom activities to gauge how well DJS majors have accomplished the student learning outcomes. This course occurs in the fall and spring semesters. Finally, the university alumni and graduating senior surveys ask students about their experiences in the program and their perceptions of how well the program prepared them for their careers and life-long learning.

3. Which course or group of students will you assess on the outcome chosen above and when?

Inventory of Targets and Relevant Courses

Method	Description/Target	Timeline	Person Responsible	Objectives Assessed
Essay Testing	In DJS 101 and DJS 349 instructors will use assigned essays to gauge how students have improved their abilities to meet all program learning outcomes, particularly number 4.	Fall and Spring Semesters in DJS 101; and Fall Semester in DJS 349 (and Spring when appropriate)	Instructor of Record	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Internship Performance	Instructors of record and site supervisors will evaluate students' ability to meet DJS student learning outcomes.	Fall and Spring Semesters	Internship Coordinator	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Capstone Course	In DJS 470, the instructor will use essays, discussions, and classroom activities to gauge how well DJS majors have accomplished the student learning outcomes.	Fall and Spring Semesters in DJS 470	Instructor of Record	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Alumni and Graduating Seniors Survey	The University Alumni and Graduating Senior Surveys asks students about their experiences in the program and their perceptions of how well the program prepared them for their careers and life-long learning.	Spring, One, Five, and Ten years after Graduation	Program Chair	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Outcomes-by-Methods

	Essay Testing	Internship	Capstone Course	Alumni Survey
1. Describe diverse ideals and practices of democracy and justice in the United States and the world.	X	X	X	X
2. Demonstrate information literacy using materials, theories and methods used to explore democracy and justice.	X	X	X	X
3. Analyze the means by which peoples past and present have sought in various ways to sustain and change political, economic, cultural, and social orders.	X	X	X	X
4. Speak and write as an engaged citizen on questions of democracy, justice, freedom, and equality, and connect them to the issues of the day.	X	X	X	X
5. Understand and recognize the value of the diverse cultures that have shaped the United States and the World.	X	X	X	X