



## First Nations Studies | 2015-2016 Assessment Report

1. Please give a brief overview of the assessment data you collected this year.

*Miin de baa gaang chi gaa deg* or, to measure what or where one is after a course of study, is an important part of the FNS major. As an ongoing evaluation of the FNS program, the faculty employ an embedded assessment, one in which the oral tradition and Elder knowledge are an important part. The objectives for the program are centered on the Four Areas of knowledge (History, Law & Policy, Sovereignty and Indigenous Philosophy and Intellectual Traditions). This past year we chose to assess the first Area (History).

In fall 2015, the FNS faculty moved from meeting once monthly to meeting once weekly. The move to weekly meetings was driven by the need for consistent ongoing discussion among the faculty about program assessment, needs, development, and innovations, etc. Over the past year, faculty discussions centered on two specific learning outcomes:

- a) Students will learn in a tribal community setting.
- b) Students will demonstrate acquisition of a First Nations language.

2. How will you use what you've learned from the data that was collected?

### **UW System Indigenous Language Consortium:**

Over the past year, Poupart worked with UW System OPID and AIS/FNS colleagues at UW Milwaukee, UW Madison, and UW Eau Claire, to create a UW System Indigenous Language Consortium. The Consortium is working to give UW students distant education options on their home campuses. Thus, starting in spring 2016, FNS students were allowed opportunities to learn Ojibwe language via distance education at UW Milwaukee and earn credit toward their FNS major at UWGB. This demonstrates the willingness and ability of the FNS program to expand its course offerings to students by working system wide.

### **FNS Program Changes:**

Based on previous FNS assessments regarding the need to provide all FNS students (majors and minors) with indigenous language learning, in January 2016, FNS initiated program changes requiring all FNS majors and minors to complete 3 credits of Oneida Language (FNS 301) or other indigenous language through the UW System Indigenous Language Consortium. After 6 months, FNS is still awaiting approval of this change. Thus, we are not able to implement the change in fall 2016, as planned.

Similarly, in response to prior FNS assessment the faculty agreed the program needed to provide FNS students with service learning opportunities in the field early in their degree program. Thus, in January 2016, FNS initiated a program change that requires all FNS majors and minors to complete 3 credits of FNS 211: Mentoring First Nations Youth or related experience. FNS 211 is a service learning course loosely modeled on the UWGB Phuture Phoenix program by pairing FNS students with First Nations 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders in the Green Bay Public School Title VII Indian Education Program. After 6 months, FNS is still awaiting approval of this change. Thus, we are not able to implement the change in fall 2016, as planned.