



Humanistic Studies | 2015-2016 Assessment Plan

1. Please review last year's assessment results (2014-2015) with the faculty in your program. How does your program plan to take these results into consideration in future programmatic planning?

Though our assessment subcommittee will continue our discussion of last year's report in the spring 2016 semester, we have outlined potential recommendations to instructors:

- We will recommend that faculty consider clarifying their expectations of student writing in assignments
- We will recommend creating rubrics, or making clearer rubrics, and we will share examples
- We will recommend that faculty consider placing greater weight on writing in assessments
- We will recommend that instructors consider spending more time developing writing skills in our courses
 - One example is Vince Lowery, who cancels a section of class to meet one-on-one with students to discuss drafts of essays
- We also intend to reassess this outcome following our recommendations in either 2016-17 or 2017-18, and to include other forms of expression beyond paper essays, such as blog posts or podcasts, since our LO is not limited to writing
- We will recommend using a larger pool of student work

Please note that we will send an addendum to this plan in May 2016 along with our assessment report for this year.

2. Which outcome will you assess this year (2015-2016)?

We will assess outcome #3:

Students will be transformed and given greater self-awareness by understanding the historical and cultural context for human values through the study of literature, philosophy, language, and history.

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

1. We intend to assess this outcome using a customized student survey in upper division Humanistic Studies courses.
 - a) In May 2016, we will assess the surveys using a rubric with "explicit criteria drawn from program goals for student learning."

2. In December 2015 our assessment subcommittee will conduct a preliminary assessment of the surveys from our senior seminar. If we are not satisfied by this preliminary report, we will decide whether or not we believe a second assessment measure will be required in the spring. If we find this to be necessary, we will also assess a reflective assignment in two upper-division courses in Spring 2016.
 - a) Should we decide to assess this reflective assignment in addition to the survey, we will use the same rubric with “explicit criteria drawn from program goals for student learning” in our assessment.

4. Which course or group of students will you assess on the outcome chosen above and when?
 - SURVEY: We will assess a group of our majors from three upper-level Humanistic Studies courses (HUM STUD 480, HUM STUD 335, and HUM STUD 337) to ensure large data pool for assessment. We will ask students not to take the survey twice rather than ask for any identifying label that may influence student responses. The survey will ask students to name his/her/their major, minor, and class so that we may use this data in our assessment.
 - REFLECTIVE ASSIGNMENT (optional): Should we decide to assess this assignment, we will use two upper-level Humanistic Studies courses (HUM STUD 335 and HUM STUD 337) in our assessment.