Department: Communication Studies

Assessment Coordinator: Michael Karlberg

Departmental Mission: We teach communication studies that nurture inclusive civil discourse, critical thinking, and cooperative solutions in a diverse global community. We offer opportunities to develop strong communication skills within a challenging liberal arts program.

Department Student Learning Outcomes: Upon graduation, (Department or Program) majors will be able to:

1. *Speech:* Students are able to speak proficiently in context
2. *Writing:* Students are able to write proficiently at college level
3. *Concepts:* Students are able to apply communication concepts
4. *Methodology:* Students are able to understand methods for generating knowledge
5. *Critical Thinking:* Students are able to employ critical thinking skills
6. *Team Work:* Students are able to work cooperatively in small groups
7. *Ethics:* Students are able to reflect on the ethical dimensions of actions

Student Learning Outcomes Assessed This Year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
<th>SLOs Assessed</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student exit portfolios were implemented this year. Student exit portfolio writing samples were examined by all TT faculty (direct measure). Student exit portfolio reflections on writing skill development were examined by all TT faculty (indirect measure).</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The department saw room for improvement in discipline-based academic writing, thesis and argument development, use of evidence, and mastery of writing conventions and citation styles.</td>
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Changes based on assessment findings:

1) The department will require that only COMM WP courses will fulfill the COMM major requirements. This policy has already been approved by ACC and is being added to the catalog next year.

2) The department is adding a pre-WP intro to academic writing component to our required Research Methods course (398) which most students take before taking other WP courses in our major. Details of this component will be worked out in the fall, so that some common standards are in place across all sections of this course related to the writing component.
3) The department is adding substantive writing components to two 200-level courses (230 and 240) so that students gain writing experience before applying for entrance into our major (this is also designed to ensure they have the chance to create substantive writing samples which are required for their major application portfolio).

4) The department is exploring the possibility of linking some of our courses to writing-intensive courses in other departments.

5) The department plans to develop a minimum shared writing rubric that will be used in all COMM WP courses so that future writing assessment efforts can built on experience with a shared rubric. (Faculty can add specialized elements to this rubric for their own courses, but the basic share rubric elements must be included). This shared rubric will be developed in the fall.

NOTE: In addition to our writing outcomes assessment described above, our department has also advanced on a process of curriculum mapping that will enable us to ensure that all students track through our curriculum in ways that guarantee exposure to at least two levels of sequenced instruction for all 7 learning outcomes. This process will continue in tandem with annual learning outcomes assessment work.