Program: Multidisciplinary Studies

Assessment Coordinator: Marc Geisler

Departmental Mission

The mission of the General Studies program is to provide a solid liberal arts education to prepare students for rapidly changing career opportunities in many different fields. It is intended for students whose interests differ from Western’s established majors, and who want to focus their major studies across courses and departments to better meet their career goals or preparation for advanced levels of education.

Departmental Student Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation, majors will be able to:

1. Articulate ideas clearly and effectively both in writing and in oral presentations and discussions;
2. Analyze thoughtfully and thoroughly primary and secondary sources;
3. Effectively and efficiently find and evaluate the adequacy of online information and research;
4. Work collaboratively and manage projects to effective completion;
5. Reflect on one’s own work in relation to future goals;
6. Employ cognitive, analytical, and communication skills that will be of use in many fields and professions beyond the university.
Learning Outcomes Assessed This Year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
<th>SLOs Assessed</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final Writing Portfolio in Capstone</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>We chiefly examined the ability of students to work collaboratively on their final writing portfolios. What we found was that attendance in the classes and at peer editing groups was substandard, with a strong documented trend of poor attendance in attendance records, lacking student responses to collaborative peer editing, and student evaluation responses that documented that collaborative work was successfully being completed by only roughly 25% of the students. This was disappointing as the sections were quite small in terms of the number of students. The course is being reexamined to create assignments that better facilitate collaboration on the writing portfolios.</td>
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