Expected Outcome 1: Contemporaneity
Students will demonstrate familiarity with contemporary creative writing

Assessment Method 1: Portfolio Review

Assessment Method Description
In 2012, this learning outcome specified familiarity with contemporary creative writing “of the past decade.” For 2013, this phrase was dropped, out of concern that ten years represented too short a timespan to measure contemporaneity in creative writing. The portfolios were rated on each outcome according to a 4-point scale, with 1 being “not acceptable,” 2 “acceptable,” 3 “good,” and 4 “excellent.” In 2013, the two primary members of each MA portfolio committee independently rated the portfolio submitted by the students, 6 students in total.

Findings
Six portfolios were rated. The range was from 2 (acceptable), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.3.

How did you use findings for improvement?
The Graduate Studies committee discussed these results in assessment meetings and, although the outcomes were generally favorable, the Creative Writing faculty have been advised to focus more on ensuring that students meet a higher standard in this outcome, and either be more aware or more articulate in demonstrating their knowledge of current trends in creative writing.

Additional Comments
Expected Outcome 2: Creativity

Students will produce a substantial portfolio of quality creative work.

**Assessment Method 1:** Portfolio Review

**Assessment Method Description**
The portfolios were rated on each outcome according to a 4-point scale, with 1 being “not acceptable,” 2 “acceptable,” 3 “good,” and 4 “excellent.” In 2014, the two primary members of each MA portfolio committee independently rated the portfolio submitted by the student, 6 students in total.

**Findings**
Six portfolios were rated. The range was from 3 (good), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.8.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**
The findings were distributed to graduate faculty, and discussed during assessment meetings. The assessment committee will examine other possible student outcomes that might distinguish weaknesses and strengths more productively for assessment purposes.

**Additional Comments**

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Expected Outcome 3: Digital Communications

Students will be able to design and assemble a digital portfolio that effectively showcases their contributions to the fields of creative writing.

**Assessment Method 1:** Portfolio Review

**Assessment Method Description**
The portfolios were rated on each outcome according to a 4-point scale, with 1 being “not acceptable,” 2 “acceptable,” 3 “good,” and 4 “excellent.” In 2013, the two primary members of each MA portfolio committee independently rated the portfolio submitted by the student, 6 students in total.
Findings
Six portfolios were rated. The range was from 3 (good), to 4 (excellent), with a mean score of 3.8, with the ratings evenly divided.

How did you use findings for improvement?
Since Literature MAs are now required to do e-portfolios, the assessment committee decided that incorporating more assignments that ask students to think about digital communication into creative writing workshops would help address this problem.

Additional Comments
Members of the Graduate Assessment committee found it hard to say whether the one portfolio evaluated acceptable in research and digital communication is an outlier or symptomatic of a bigger problem.

Expected Outcome 4: Form & Style
Students will demonstrate understanding of the formal and stylistic features of creative work in portfolio

Assessment Method 1: Portfolio Review

Assessment Method Description
The portfolios were rated on each outcome according to a 4-point scale, with 1 being “not acceptable,” 2 “acceptable,” 3 “good,” and 4 “excellent.” In 2013, the two primary members of each MA portfolio committee independently rated the portfolio submitted by the student, 6 students in total.

Findings
Six portfolios were rated. The range was from 3 (good), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.5.

How did you use findings for improvement?
These findings were discussed in meetings with the Graduate Assessment Committee and found to be generally positive. Faculty will work to ensure that even more students attain an excellent rating in this area.

Additional Comments
Expected Outcome 5: Literature and Genre
Students will demonstrate ability to discuss their creative work in relation to significant literary influences

Assessment Method 1: Portfolio Review

Assessment Method Description
The portfolios were rated on each outcome according to a 4-point scale, with 1 being “not acceptable,” 2 “acceptable,” 3 “good,” and 4 “excellent.” In 2013, the two primary members of each MA portfolio committee independently rated the portfolio submitted by the student, 6 students in total.

Findings
Six portfolios were rated. The range was from 2 (acceptable), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 2.8.

How did you use findings for improvement?
Members of the graduate studies committee expressed concern about the high number of students who needed more clearly to demonstrate an ability to cite literary influences. Creative Writing faculty have been advised to focus intensely on issues and knowledge related to literary genre and awareness of influence.

Additional Comments