Expected Outcome 1: Digital Communication
Students will be able to design and assemble a digital portfolio that effectively showcases their contributions to the fields of literature.

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, 8 students in total.

Findings
Eight portfolios were rated. The range was from 2 (acceptable), to 4 (excellent), with a mean score of 3.5, 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 felt that incorporating assignments that ask students to think about digital communication into literature classes would enable students to improve their skills in the area of digital communication. Students will also be advised to attend e-portfolio workshops offered through the office of university writing.

Additional Comments
The committee expressed the concern that perhaps even one portfolio evaluated acceptable in research and digital communication is an outlier or symptomatic of a bigger problem.
Expected Outcome 2: Literary Genres/Formal Knowledge
Students will demonstrate knowledge of literary genres.

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, 8 students in total.

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

How did you use findings for improvement?
The findings were distributed to graduate studies committee, and discussed during assessment meetings. The committee has advised literature faculty to refine and emphasize familiarity with literary genres so as to attain even more excellent ratings in this outcome for all portfolios.

Additional Comments

Expected Outcome 3: Literary and Cultural Theory
Students will demonstrate knowledge of literary and cultural theory, including innovations in English Studies in the last decade.

Assessment Method 1: Portfolio Review

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

**Findings**
Eight portfolios were rated. The range was from 3 (good), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.5. All of the portfolios were rated either good or excellent.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**
The outcomes in the area of literary and cultural theory show a marked improvement over those results of a year ago. The committee has advised the literature faculty to continue to emphasize cultural theory so that even more students attain an excellent rating for this outcome.

**Additional Comments**

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**Expected Outcome 4: Literary/Historical/Cultural Contexts**
Students will demonstrate knowledge of significant movements in literary history as well as historical and cultural contexts significant to literary production.

**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, 8 students in total.

**Findings**
Eight portfolios were rated. The range was from 3 (good), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.8. The majority of portfolios were rated excellent; only one was rated acceptable.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**
The findings were distributed to graduate studies committee, and discussed during assessment meetings. The committee has advised literature faculty to attain more excellent ratings in all portfolios.
Expected Outcome 5: Research
Students will produce a research essay of original scholarship that reflects understanding of the relevant literary or cultural subject matter and current scholarship in the field.

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, 4 students in total.

Findings
Eight portfolios were rated. The range was from 2 (acceptable), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.5. All but one portfolio were rated good to excellent.

How did you use findings for improvement?
The committee found these results very mixed. Although many students performed superbly in the area of research, others clearly lagged behind. The committee will recommend to the literature faculty that they focus more on training students to do research.

Additional Comments