Expected Outcome 1: Communication and Writing

Students will employ academic prose to communicate the results of their analyses to scholars in rhetoric and composition and other interested parties.

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 1 (not acceptable), to 4 (excellent), with a mean score of 3.2, with the ratings evenly divided.

How did you use findings for improvement?

This outcome was found to be generally strong, but the fact that one student was merely acceptable suggests that the Rhet/Comp faculty should work to ensure that all students attain higher ratings in the quality of their academic prose.

Additional Comments
Expected Outcome 2: Digital Communication
Students will be able to design and assemble a digital portfolio that effectively showcases their contributions to the fields of rhetoric and composition relevant to the student’s future professional goals.

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 3 (excellent), with a mean score of 3.7, with the ratings evenly divided.

How did you use findings for improvement?
The findings were distributed to graduate faculty, and discussed during assessment meetings. The faculty in Rhetoric and Composition will be advised to lead more students to attain an excellent rating in digital communication.

Additional Comments

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Expected Outcome 3: Pedagogy
Students will produce teaching materials and support items that demonstrate knowledge of best practices in composition theory and pedagogy

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 2 (acceptable), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.4. All but one portfolio was rated good to excellent.

How did you use findings for improvement?
The findings were distributed to graduate faculty, and discussed during assessment meetings. The assessment committee recommends that all graduate faculty in Rhetoric and Composition ensure that more students produce evidence of pedagogical expertise.

Additional Comments

Expected Outcome 4: Research Methods
Students will be able to demonstrate use of research methods the fields of rhetoric and composition

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 2 (acceptable), to 4 (excellent), with a mean score of 3.1, with the ratings evenly divided.
How did you use findings for improvement?
Given the high number of merely acceptable ratings for this outcome, the graduate studies committee recommends that Rhetoric and Composition faculty review the expected portfolio outcomes for research and ensure that they are attentive to training students in the area of research.

Additional Comments

Expected Outcome 5: Theory
Students will demonstrate knowledge of central theoretical approaches, terms, and concepts of rhetoric and composition as disciplinary fields

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 2 (acceptable), to 4 (excellent), with a mean rating of 3.1. Most portfolios were rated excellent.

How did you use findings for improvement?
Due to the high number of “acceptable” ratings for this outcome, the graduate studies assessment committee recommends that Rhet/Comp faculty review the expected portfolio outcomes for the use of theory in their writing and ensure that a higher percentage of students can demonstrate proficiency in this area.

Additional Comments