



Program Assessment Report (PAR)

Humanities (HUM) Masters Degree

REPORT PREPARED by: Stoker, Valerie L.

ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT: 2021-2022

I. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Graduates of the Program will have effective research and writing skills 2. Graduates of the program will know how to study subjects from an interdisciplinary humanities perspective 3. Graduates of the program will be able to make a persuasive argument using evidence 4. Graduates of the program will have created a body of work in a diverse range of humanities-related fields, such as expository and/or creative writing, art, and music

II. PROCEDURES USED FOR ASSESSMENT

A. Direct Assessment

Learning outcomes numbers 1, 2, and 3 ("students in the program develop effective research and writing skills", "graduates of the program will know how to study subjects from an interdisciplinary humanities perspective", "graduates of the program will be able to make a persuasive argument using evidence") were assessed by having the MHUM committee read and evaluate papers from one of the two required MHUM courses, HUM 7100. This is a seminar course in which students produce a 15-page research paper on a topic of their choosing but within the course's larger theme. MHUM Committee members are given a questionnaire that has them evaluate each paper on the basis of learning outcomes 1-3. A rating scale of 1 to 5 is used. There were six papers for the committee to evaluate, which was the total number of students in the class.

B. Scoring of Student Work

For the papers from HUM 7100, an assessment questionnaire was distributed to the Master of Humanities committee which is a committee of graduate Liberal Arts

faculty from a variety of disciplines including History, Religion, Philosophy, Sociology, Art History, and Modern Languages. The assessment questionnaire asks these faculty members to evaluate the papers based on 3 questions by rating the student's work on a scale from 1 to 5. Collectively, the 3 questions assess learning outcomes 1, 2, and 3.

C. Indirect Assessment

I spoke to each student in this class at the end of the semester about how well they felt it prepared them to research and write longer papers. Unfortunately, I did not use any numerical scoring systems for this but may do so in the future.

III. ASSESSMENT RESULTS/INFORMATION:

The Master of Humanities Assessment Questionnaire for the 6 papers submitted by students in HUM 7100 AY 2020-2021 indicated that the MHUM committee found students in the program to have achieved learning outcomes #1-3. Here are the average scores for each question, on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 being a negative answer and 5 being a positive answer.

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating weak agreement and 5 indicating strong agreement, please assess whether the research paper demonstrates that the student properly used MLA (or equivalent) style to document sources. 3.9
2. On a scale of 1 to 5, assess whether the paper has a clearly stated thesis. 3.8
3. On a scale of 1 to 5, assess whether the topic of the paper reflects an interdisciplinary humanities perspective. 3.5

Based on the assessment questionnaire for student prospectuses, students in the Master of Humanities acquire the learning outcomes sought by the program, especially the ability to cite sources correctly, articulate a clear thesis statement, and use an inter-disciplinary perspective. Faculty from different disciplines in CoLA found this to be the case.

Learning outcomes 1-3 of the program are ably assessed using this method. Additional methods will be deployed for AY 2020-21 so as to assess a greater cross-section of the MHUM student population.

IV. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING

The Master of Humanities Program shared the assessment findings with the program committee via email this year. In previous years, we have had a meeting to discuss the findings but this has been put off until the beginning of fall semester 2022. One decision the director has made in response to the findings is

to meet with the instructor for HUM 7100 to give him/her a chance to look at our rubric before the semester starts.

V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Additional documentation, when provided, is stored in the internal Academic Program Assessment of Student Learning SharePoint site.