Humanities (HUM) Masters Degree

REPORT PREPARED by: Stoker, Valerie L.

ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT: 2020-2021

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 outcome 1 ("students in the program develop effective research and writing skills") was assessed by having the MHUM committee read and evaluate capstone papers from students on the course-intensive track in the MHUM program. MHUM Committee members are given a questionnaire that had them evaluate each paper in terms of whether they use MLA or an equivalent formatting/citation style properly and whether they have a clearly stated thesis to assess learning outcome 1. A rating scale of 1 to 5 is used. There were four papers for the committee to evaluate, which was the total number of students in the class.

B. Scoring of Student Work

For the capstone papers, 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, and Modern Languages. The assessment questionnaire asks these faculty members to evaluate the papers based on 2 questions by rating the student's work on a scale

from 1 to 5.

C. Indirect Assessment

I did not use indirect assessment.

III. ASSESSMENT RESULTS/INFORMATION:

The Master of Humanities Assessment Questionnaire for the 4 capstone papers submitted by students in AY 2021-2022 indicated that the MHUM committee found students in the program to have achieved learning outcomes #1. Here are the average scores for all four papers 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. 4.06 2. On a scale of 1 to 5, assess whether the paper has a clearly stated thesis. 3.75

Based on the assessment questionnaire for student prospectuses, students in the Master of Humanities acquire the first learning outcome sought by the program, especially the ability to cite sources correctly. The scores for articulating a clear thesis statement were a bit lower but still strong. 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.

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