Middle Eastern Studies Minor

Goal: Establish Cultural Awareness Measure and Benchmark

Goal Description:

WOLC's Curriculum and Assessment Committee will explore cultural awareness measures for minor students in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. Using peer-reviewed research and best practices for Arabic language and culture instruction, the committee will determine appropriate benchmark levels for students in the minor.

Providing Department: Middle Eastern Studies Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective: Cultural Competence and Awareness
Learning Objective Description:

While WOLC's Curriculum and Assessment Committee explores possible measures for evaluating cultural competence and awareness, the department will temporarily assess cultural awareness using a modified version of the Cross-Cultural Competence Inventory (3CI).

Testing Middle Eastern Studies minors using the modified 3CI will help WOLC to establish an appropriate baseline for these students.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Indicator: Cultural Competence and Awareness
Indicator Description:

Prior to graduation, all graduating minors in Middle Eastern Studies will take the modified 3CI.

Criterion Description:

3CI is a 63-item inventory rated on a 7-point Likert scale. The test is statistically reliable and measures cognitive, emotional, and behavioral aspects of cross-cultural behaviors.

Findings Description:

WOLC delayed implementation of 3CI and will begin reporting data in the 2022-2023 cycle.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action: Cultural Competence and Awareness
Action Description:

WOLC delayed implementation of 3CI and will begin reporting data in the 2022-2023 cycle.

Goal: Establish Oral Proficiency Measure and Benchmark

Goal Description:

WOLC's Curriculum and Assessment Committee will explore language proficiency testing for minor students in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. Using peer-reviewed research and best practices for Arabic language instruction, the committee will determine appropriate benchmark levels for students in the minor. Long-term testing of minors using the OPI-C is cost-prohibitive ($70/test) so the committee will explore new options to make testing equitable and affordable.

Providing Department: Middle Eastern Studies Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Learning Objective: Oral Proficiency
Learning Objective Description:

While WOLC's Curriculum and Assessment Committee identifies alternative measures for measuring oral proficiency, the department will assess the Middle Eastern minors' oral proficiency in Arabic using the ACTFL OPI-c.

Indicator: Oral Proficiency

Indicator Description:

Prior to graduation, a sample of a minimum of 50% of graduating seniors will take the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview - Computerized (OPI-C) SHSU Testing Center.

Criterion Description:

All minor students taking the OPI-C will obtain a minimum score of Intermediate Low. ACTFL describes this level as follows:

Speakers at the Intermediate Low sublevel are able to handle successfully a limited number of uncomplicated communicative tasks by creating with the language in straightforward social situations. Conversation is restricted to some of the concrete exchanges and predictable topics necessary for survival in the target-language culture. These topics relate to basic personal information; for example, self and family, some daily activities and personal preferences, and some immediate needs, such as ordering food and making simple purchases. At the Intermediate Low sublevel, speakers are primarily reactive and struggle to answer direct questions or requests for information. They are also able to ask a few appropriate questions. Intermediate Low speakers manage to sustain the functions of the Intermediate level, although just barely.

Intermediate Low speakers express personal meaning by combining and recombining what they know and what they hear from their interlocutors into short statements and discrete sentences. Their responses are often filled with hesitancy and inaccuracies as they search for appropriate linguistic forms and vocabulary while attempting to give form to the message. Their speech is characterized by frequent pauses, ineffective reformulations and self-corrections. Their pronunciation, vocabulary and syntax are strongly influenced by their first language. In spite of frequent misunderstandings that may require repetition or rephrasing, Intermediate Low speakers can generally be understood by sympathetic interlocutors, particularly by those accustomed to dealing with non-natives.

Findings Description:

WOLC delayed implementation of OPIc and will begin reporting data in the 2022-2023 cycle. WOLC will also explore alternative oral proficiency measures for Arabic.

Action: Oral Proficiency

Action Description:

WOLC delayed implementation of OPIc and will begin reporting data in the 2022-2023 cycle. WOLC will also explore alternative oral proficiency measures for Arabic.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

1) Pilot test the Cross-Cultural Competence Inventory (3CI) with currently enrolled students to establish a benchmark and begin validating the measure.

2) Explore oral language proficiency testing options to replace the cost-prohibitive OPIc

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

Closing Summary

1) Pilot test the Cross-Cultural Competence Inventory (3CI) with currently enrolled students to establish a benchmark and begin validating the measure.

2) Explore oral language proficiency testing options to replace the cost-prohibitive OPIc.

WOLC delayed implementation of both measures and will begin reporting data in the 2022-2023 cycle.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

1) Pilot test the Cross-Cultural Competence Inventory (3CI) with currently enrolled students to establish a benchmark and begin validating the measure.

2) Explore oral language proficiency testing options to replace the cost-prohibitive OPIc.