

Spanish MA
Assessment Plan Summary

Spanish MA

Demonstration Of Breadth Of Knowledge

Goal Description:

Through the medium of comprehensive examinations, Spanish language MA students will demonstrate that they have a graduate-level breadth of knowledge in literature, language, linguistics and methodology.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS - - - - -

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Comprehensive Exams: Critical Thinking, Writing Skills, Speaking Skills, And Breadth Of Knowledge

Learning Objective Description:

Spanish language students will demonstrate that they have a graduate-level breadth of knowledge in literature, language, linguistics and methodology and that they can express that knowledge in writing and orally.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Written And Oral Comprehensive Exams

Indicator Description:

In their last semester, Spanish language students will demonstrate that they have a graduate-level breadth of knowledge in 1.linguistics and methodology, 2. Spanish literature and 3. Spanish American literature, as well language useage through written and oral comprehensive exams.

This has been done on the basis of required course content that each individual student has taken and grading according to the individual professor (individual rubrics).

Criterion Description:

All MA in Spanish candidates for graduation will achieve pass or high pass on written and oral comprehensive exams during their last semester in residence. These exams cover the three content areas, Linguistics & Methodology, Spanish Literature and Spanish American Literature. The Department will direct particular attention to evaluation of the exam preparation and performance among on-line students.

Findings Description:

All graduating MA students achieved a high pass on written and oral comprehensive exams prior to graduating.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Comprehensive Exams

Action Description:

Given the success of this year's graduates and the use of rubrics to evaluate the three areas of knowledge, the department will continue use of this assessment procedure for 2016-2017.

Graduate Student Scholarship

Goal Description:

Graduate-level study will give students basic professional scholarly knowledge and skills.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS - - - - -

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Graduate Student Admissions Criteria

Performance Objective Description:

The Spanish Graduate Faculty will formalize policies for admission to the MA program in order that students are adequately prepared to undertake graduate-level study initially.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Student Preparation For Full Admission

KPI Description:

All students admitted to the MA in Spanish program will meet best practices policy standards for admission or will have a remediation plan in order to meet best practices policy standards.

Results Description:

All students entering the MA program in Spanish were reviewed by the graduate coordinator and met best practices policy standards.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Graduate Admission

Action Description:

The department has now adopted the best-practice procedure of verifying all scholarly accomplishments in Spanish and the minimum GPA of 2.8 prior to admitting MA students into the program. This practice will continue in 2016-2017.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1**Graduate Student Research Scholarship****Performance Objective Description:**

The Department of Foreign Languages will build a program of regular graduate student external scholarly activity.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2**Submission Rates****KPI Description:**

Each academic year, at least 2 graduate students will prepare a scholarly project for submission to a juried conference or publication venue.

Results Description:

Two students presented scholarly projects to the SHSU Bridge Program Conference.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**Student MA Presentations****Action Description:**

Given the successful presentations of research papers, it has been decided to increase MA research involvement by increasing the number of scholarly presentations given by MA students to 4 per academic year.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement**Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):**

No PCI was created during the 2014-2015 assessment cycle.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

From 2013 to 2015, enrollment in the MA program dropped drastically from around thirty students to only six students. Under the guidance of a new chair, the 2015-2016 academic year was therefore devoted to assessing the underlying causes of such significant decrease as well as examining new recruitment strategies in order to boost program enrollment. While it is still not clear what led to such a drop in enrollment, certain adjustments to the type of courses (i.e., a better balance between linguistic and literature courses) as well as a new hands-on recruitment initiative have already resulted in the admission of ten new students to the program, which now brings total enrollment in the program to sixteen students.

In terms of further identifying potential adverse factors and also further improving the program, a comprehensive external review will be carried out on the MA during 2016-2017. The results of this review will be timely and will enable to detail concrete goals which will ultimately lead to a vibrant MA program. The preliminary review results will be compiled into working objectives and reflected in the Campuslabs December 2016 update.

2015-16 Plan for Continuous Improvement**Closing Summary:**

WOLC has for the first time set tangible departmental goals for the MA in Spanish in 2016-2017:

1. Conduct a thorough self-study review of the MA in Spanish to order to better understand how to further develop the existing curriculum.
2. Assess graduating MA students' written and oral production skills according to ACTFL guidelines.
3. Develop additional courses in applied linguistics so that curriculum meets the needs of the majority of students enrolling in the program.