

World Languages and Cultures, Department of
Assessment Plan Summary

World Languages and Cultures, Department of

Faculty Scholarly Excellence

Goal Description:

The Department of World Languages and Cultures (WOLC) faculty (tenured and tenure-track) will engage in scholarly activities.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Recruitment Activities

Performance Objective Description:

WOLC will actively engage in recruitment activities for undergraduate and graduate programs in the department.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Recruitment

KPI Description:

WOLC will utilize hands-on recruiting events such as high school and junior college fairs as well as specific university events such as the Houston Hispanic Forum

Results Description:

WOLC attended high school and junior college fairs as well as the Houston Hispanic Forum. Overall attendance at these events resulted in the recruitment of 8 new Spanish majors for the academic year.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Recruitment

Action Description:

Given the successful recruitment carried out at the HHF, WOLC will again be present in Spring 2018 to increase its numbers for the Spanish minor and major.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Research Agenda

Performance Objective Description:

The tenured and tenure-track faculty in WOLC will develop and maintain a peer-reviewed research agenda.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Research Agenda

KPI Description:

The number of peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, conference participation (as a chair or discussant), and grant proposals by the faculty in the department (tenured and tenure-track) serve as the indicators of an active research agenda. The faculty will produce annually 1 peer reviewed journal article and 1 peer-reviewed conference presentation.

Results Description:

WOLC faculty produced on average 3.5 peer-reviewed journal articles and 3.56 peer-reviewed conference presentations. This performance clearly exceeded the targeted annual metric of 1 peer-reviewed journal article and 1 peer-reviewed conference presentation.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Research Agenda

Action Description:

As WOLC significantly exceeded the target metric for peer-reviewed articles, a new goal of 2.0 peer-reviewed articles will be targeted for 2017-2018.

Quality Instruction

Goal Description:

WOLC will demonstrate quality in the instruction of their classes, specifically to ensure the most effective delivery of target language acquisition.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Creating Benchmarks in French Minor

Performance Objective Description:

The French Program will perform a comparative analysis between domestic and study abroad courses including comparison of online and face-to-face courses.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Benchmarking in French Minor

KPI Description:

The French Program will be considered to have met this performance objective if they complete the comparative analyses of domestic and study abroad courses in a manner that allows for benchmarking future course offerings.

Results Description:

Ten students participated in the Quebec Study abroad program. After compiling pre- and post-program results on oral production, students increased their oral proficiency by 25% during the program in terms of perceived comprehensibility and fluency.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Benchmark - French Minor

Action Description:

Given the successful outcomes observed for oral proficiency (fluency and comprehensibility) during Quebec Study Abroad, WOLC now intends to encourage enrollment in SA programs for all French minors in Summer 2018.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Creating Benchmarks in German Minor

Performance Objective Description:

The German Program will perform a comparative analysis between domestic and study abroad courses including comparison of on-line and face-to-face courses.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Benchmarking in German Minor

KPI Description:

The German Program will be considered to have met this performance objective if they complete the comparative analyses of domestic and study abroad courses in a manner that allows for benchmarking future course offerings.

Results Description:

Nine students participated in the German Study abroad program. After compiling pre- and post-program results on oral production, students increased their oral proficiency by 22% during the program in terms of perceived comprehensibility and fluency.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Benchmark - German Minor

Action Description:

Given the successful outcomes observed for oral proficiency during (fluency and comprehensibility) German Study Abroad, WOLC now intends to encourage enrollment in SA programs for all German minors in Summer 2018.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Quality Instruction

Performance Objective Description:

WOLC will maintain a level of instruction at or above the average for all departments at SHSU.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Quality Instruction

KPI Description:

Successful teaching will be demonstrated by faculty performance on the Individual Development and Educational Assessment (IDEA) Class Evaluation System. This survey is a nationally normed, university-adopted evaluation instruction, which measures student perception of instructor teaching. The WOLC faculty will average at least 4.2 on the IDEA student evaluations of teaching, which is the average of all instruction at SHSU.

Results Description:

WOLC faculty averaged 4.6 on the IDEA student evaluations of teaching, which is clearly above the average (4.2) of all instruction at SHSU.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Quality of instruction

Action Description:

The performance average of 4.2 on IDEA evaluations will be maintained for 2018, as all faculty exceeded this benchmark.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

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

- 1) With recent retirees and improved enrollment in Spanish and French, we plan to hire two new tenure-track faculty, one in Spanish (to coordinate

lower-level Spanish courses) and one in French to handle the increasing enrollment.

2) As WOLC currently does not have guidelines for evaluating service and peer-reviewed research, we plan on producing the following :

- a. a rubric to evaluate faculty service;
- b. a rubric to evaluate faculty research.

3) Conduct a thorough self-study review of the MA in Spanish to order to understand how to further develop the existing curriculum.

4) Propose curriculum for a new major in French.

5) Propose curriculum for a new minor in Spanish translation / interpretation.

6) Obtain funding approval from CHSS for a new T-T ASL position in order to create a Deaf Studies minor.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

Below is the progress update for items 1-6 outlined in the PCI :

1) With recent retires and improved enrollment in Spanish and French, we plan to hire two new tenure-track faculty, one in Spanish (to coordinate lower-level Spanish courses) and one in French to handle the increasing enrollment.

In Spring 2017, WOLC hired a new Assistant Professor of Spanish, who is now responsible for coordinating the lower-level Spanish courses and also coordinating the pool faculty teaching theses courses. Additionally, WOLC hired a new Assistant Professor of French to handle increases in enrollment and also prepare for the new major in French.

2) As WOLC currently does not have guidelines for evaluating service and peer-reviewed research, we plan on producing the following :

- a. a rubric to evaluate faculty service;
- b. a rubric to evaluate faculty research.

In Spring 2017, we were able to design a rubric for evaluating faculty service; the rubric was used for the first time by the Personnel Committee to assess service for all faculty in the department.

In Fall 2017, the faculty will work on creating a research evaluation rubric which will be used by the WOLC in Spring 2108..

3) Conduct a thorough self-study review of the MA in Spanish to order to understand how to further develop the existing curriculum.

In Spring 2017, WOLC carried out a successful review of the MA program, and provided an action plan to the Dean of Graduate Studies, outlining short-term, mid-term and long-term strategies for implementing curricular changes and increasing MA enrollment.

4) Propose curriculum for a new major in French.

In Spring 2017, WOLC completed its proposal for a new French major, which was reviewed favorably by the CHSS Curriculum Committee, and consequently, sent to the University Curriculum Committee and Coordinating Board for final approval. It is anticipated, pending approval, that major will now be launched in Fall 2018.

5) Propose curriculum for a new minor in Spanish translation / interpretation.

WOLC has finished a preliminary draft for a minor in translation and interpretation and is currently working with Bilingual Health Sciences and Sociology to finalize the logistics of the translation/interpretation internships included in the minor. It is anticipated that the minor will be open to enrollment by Summer 2018.

6) Obtain funding approval from CHSS for a new T-T ASL position in order to create a Deaf Studies minor.

Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

- 1) In Fall 2017, the faculty will work on creating a research evluation rubric which will be used by the WOLC in Spring 2108.
- 2) WOLC will begin implementing the action plan generated as part of the external review of the MA Program.
- 3) The department will continue its efforts to begin offering the French Major in 2018.
- 4) The department will continue its efforts to roll out the minor in translation/interpretation in 2018. As part of these efforts, the department will work to finalize a plan for internships within the minor.
- 5) The department will hire a new tenure-track faculty member in ASL as another step toward developing a Deaf Studies Minor.
