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

Performance on American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency (OPI)
Indicator Description:

Students must take the computerized version of OPI upon completion of the MA program and show highly advanced oral production skills.

Criterion Description:

Students will achieve the rank of "superior" oral production skills as per the OPI computerized test.

Findings Description:

The department did not have a necessary budget to cover the cost of administering the OPI computerized version at the MA level. Consequently, WOLC is currently working to see how this cost can be offset by the college and/or students in 2017-2018.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

OPI

Action Description:

Given the budget constraints and the cost of training faculty, it was decided to replace the OPIc with OPI face-to-face evalua on carried out by the faculty.

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:

Four MA graduates successfully passed (with a grade of pass or high pass) the written and oral comprehensive exam in the three content areas, Linguistics & Methodology, Spanish Literature and Spanish American Literature.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Comprehensive Exams

Action Description:

It was decided that the procedures covering the three sec ons of the comprehensive exam would be maintained, as all graduating students were utimately successful on the all parts of the exam.

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:
Four students were admitted to the program, all of whom met the academic and policy standards for direct admission to the MA program. None required a remediation plan.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Student Preparation
Action Description:
WOLC will continue to use its best practices for admissions, including a double screening of all new applicants

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:
Exactly two MA students presented papers along with MA faculty at the annual Western Social Science Association Conference in San Francisco, CA.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Conference Presentations
Action Description:
Given the success of MA students' conference presentations, WOLC intends to send additional students to conferences during the 2017-2018 academic year.

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 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.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:
Progress updates to PCI are listed below:

1. Conduct a thorough self-study review of the MA in Spanish to order to be er understand how to further develop the exis ng curriculum.

After careful review of thereview report produced by Drs. Villa and Baranowski, we agree with the vast majority of their recommenda ons for developing the Spanish MA program at Sam Houston State University. In looking at the nature of the specific recommenda ons, we have determined that some can be implemented quickly, while others will take more me. Accordingly, we have divided our responses into short-term, middle-term, and long-term goals (see table, below).

Ac on item	Projected implementa on
Short term	
Direct recruitment in Houston-area schools	Fall 2017
Needs survey of school districts and teachers	Fall 2017
Needs survey of current MA students	Fall 2017
Invite advanced undergraduates to take MA courses	Fall 2017
Complete web page redesign	Fall 2017
Remove reference to mul ple tracks	Fall 2017
Revise target comple on to 6 semesters	Fall 2017
Middle term	
Implement hybrid courses	Spring 2018
Long term*	
Arrange selected courses in Houston-area school districts	2019
Hire in transla on/applied language studies**	2019-2020
Hire in languages for specific purposes**	2019-2020
Study abroad/service-learning courses	2019-2020
Graduate cer ficates in languages for specific purposes	2020-2021

*Long-term ac on item implementa on dates are purposely vague because they are largely dependent on increased enrollments in the program.

**Hiring target dates depend on enrollments as well as re rements of current faculty

2. Assess gradua ng MA students' wri en and oral produc on skills according to ACTFL guidelines.

As a result of the MA review, WOLC was not able to formally assess the MA students' oral and wri en ACTFL skills in Spring 2017. However, this assessment will be given to three gradua ng students in Spring 2018.

3. Develop addi onal courses in applied linguis cs so that curriculum meets the needs of the majority of students enrolling in the program.

Based on reccomenda ons in the MA Review Report, WOLC has started development of three courses targe ng the teaching of oral and wri en skills in the classroom, the role of culture in language learning, and second language acquisi on. The first course (Principles of Second Language Acquisi on) will be given at the Woodlands Center in Spring 2018.

2015-16 Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

WOLC has for the first me 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 be er understand how to further develop the exis ng curriculum.
2. Assess gradua ng MA students' wri en and oral produc on skills according to ACTFL guidelines.
3. Develop addi onal courses in applied linguis cs so that curriculum meets the needs of the majority of students enrolling in the program.