

University of West Georgia Degree Program Assessment Plan

Degree Program Identification

Degree Program: Bachelor of Arts with a major in Foreign Languages

Degree Program Director: Gary Schmidt

URL for Assessment Data (if applicable):

Specialized/discipline-specific accreditation (if applicable):

Program Mission Statement

- <http://www.westga.edu/~forlang/HTMLCV/mission.html>

Program Outcomes

1. Students will acquire and demonstrate listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills at the advanced level of the target language consistent with national standards for foreign language education.
2. Students will acquire and demonstrate skills necessary to analyze and compare cultures and practices of the target area with their own culture.
3. Students will be able to situate the history of the target culture within a broad historical framework.
4. Students will demonstrate competence in a second foreign language.
5. Students will demonstrate familiarity with technologies allowing them to access sources in the following areas: current news from the target country, bibliographical and other sources related to coursework, contemporary culture sources, and interactive communication sites.

Assessment Activities (add/delete activities as necessary)

1. Assessment Activity: Outside language exams for graduating seniors (Goethe Institut Zertifikat Deutsch) (German)
 - Criteria for success: Students receive a passing exam that demonstrates a measurable proficiency level
 - Time table (how often assess): Completion of Program (Senior Capstone)
 - Individual(s) responsible for assessment: German Faculty
 - Assessment findings: Upon review of the percentage of students passing the exam, it was agreed that the exam was not challenging enough and, hence, not a true measure of the level students were at upon completion of the program.
 - Modifications/improvements based on use of findings: Upon review of performance on German exam, section raised the level of the exam to C1 (European Framework)

2. Assessment Activity: Student Online Portfolio (including curriculum vitae, personal narratives, sample essays, hyperlinks, etc.) (German)
 - Criteria for success: Students complete assignment with a passing grade.
 - Time table (how often assess): during Senior Capstone
 - Individual(s) responsible for assessment: Capstone instructor
 - Assessment findings: Discussion among German faculty revealed that students did not necessarily need instruction in technology; all were quite adept at web-design.
 - Modifications/improvements based on use of findings: Suggestions are currently being discussed for how to change the Capstone portfolio to make it more useful as an assessment of overall student learning.
3. Assessment Activity: Comparison of student scores on online placement exam (German)
 - Criteria for success: Students obtain score that would place them into the course at the next level in the sequence.
 - Time table (how often assess): every semester
 - Individual(s) responsible for assessment: German faculty
 - Assessment findings: Periodically, variation has been found in mean scores between sections at the elementary level.
 - Modifications/improvements based on use of findings: German faculty discussed and modified factors that may have contributed to student achievement: grading standards, types of assignments, pace of classroom instruction, etc. German faculty all taught at least one section of GRMN 1001 in the Fall of 2008 and coordinated on lesson plans and PowerPoints and visited each other. They continue to visit the visiting Assistant Professor on a regular basis to help him adjust to and maintain the standards in the program.
4. Assessment Activity: Review of Study Abroad Program Courses for equivalency to courses offered on campus (German)
 - Criteria for success: Students are able to perform successfully at the next level of instruction when returning to campus from study abroad.
 - Time table (how often assess): Annually
 - Individual(s) responsible for assessment: Study Abroad directors and faculty

- Assessment findings: After the 2007 Study Abroad Program in Oldenburg, review of student performance indicated that the students who had completed the intermediary sequence (2001/2002) taught by faculty at the University of Oldenburg did not perform as well in 3102 as those who had completed the intermediary sequence on campus.
 - Modifications/improvements based on use of findings: Intermediate German courses are no longer taught by faculty at University of Oldenburg but instead by our own faculty using the same curriculum used to teach courses on Campus.
5. Assessment Activity: Review of Study Abroad Program Courses for equivalency to courses offered on campus (French)
- Criteria for success: Students are able to perform successfully at the next level of instruction when returning to campus from study abroad.
 - Time table (how often assess): Annually
 - Individual(s) responsible for assessment: Study Abroad directors and faculty
 - Assessment review: French faculty has found that the grades received at the *Institut de Touraine* were generally higher than what students would have received at the University of West Georgia. French faculty also found that in some cases students were placed at levels below their true ability, which resulted in less progress in French and less readiness for the next level upon return to campus.
 - Modifications/improvements based on review: Faculty is currently revising the grade transfer system to more accurately reflect student performance. Faculty is also modifying placement criteria to increase the likelihood of appropriate progress in French. These new systems will be implemented in summer 2010.
6. Assessment Activity: Review of Extracurricular Programs (French)
- Criteria for success: High level of student participation with consistently high level of output in the target language.
 - Time table (how often assess): Every semester (in section meeting)
 - Individual(s) responsible for assessment: French faculty
 - Assessment review: Level of participation in the “Pause-Café” (weekly conversation group) has increased from last year’s figures, and ranges between 4 and 10 as of fall 2010. Attendance at film nights is encouraging, ranging between 10 and 25. Section noted that involvement of French majors and minors in extracurricular events remains low.

- Modifications/improvements based on review: We have begun and intend to continue dinner nights (dinner meetings in which all conversation held in French), which are intended to increase participation among majors and minors. Additionally, we are in the initial planning stages for a French Club at the University of West Georgia. In the spring semester, the club intends to organize a variety of activities, including crêpe making, a possible trip to the High Museum and a *pétanque* tournament. Finally, we are considering an excursion to the francophone *Théâtre du rêve* in Atlanta.

7. Assessment Activity: Review of Extracurricular Programs (German)

- Criteria for success: High level of student participation with consistently high level of output in the target language.
- Time table (how often assess): Every semester (in section meeting)
- Individual(s) responsible for assessment: German faculty
- Assessment findings: Level of participation in Stammtisch (dinner meetings in which all conversation held in German) was consistently high; use of German was much greater than at film nights. Attendance at film nights was largely motivated by desire for extra credit.
- Modifications/improvements based on use of findings: During fall semester 2009, the German section is experimenting with replacing the usual film series with additional Stammtische and an Open Mic night, in which students can perform skits, music, etc. in the target language. The German section, in addition, has made the Open Mic night a multi-language event in an effort to enhance cross-language cooperation among students and faculty.

8. Assessment Activity: Review of Extracurricular Programs (Spanish)

- Criteria for success: High level of student participation with consistently high level of output in the target language.
- Time table (how often assess): Every semester (in section meeting)
- Individual(s) responsible for assessment: Spanish faculty
- Assessment findings: Spanish Tertulia has become a regular weekly conversation meeting

for the past three years. We invited guest speakers from other Departments at UWG to share their language and experiences. The number of participants is gradually increasing. Attendance to Latin American Film series has also increased, ranging about 20 students in each session. Students were also encouraged to attend dinner nights with the event "Panzón". The Luso Hispanic Day was a success in attendance and participation. Some of our Spanish major students (David Wilkerson) participated as main speakers in it as well. Some Spanish students will also be participating in the Open Mic Night.

9. Assessment Activity: Review of A Common Criteria Assessment in language courses (1001/1002/2001/2002) (Spanish)

The Spanish section (including faculty and instructors) has been having regular meetings to discuss a common criteria for assessment to improve assessment consistency among all instructors. In this regard, several exams and compositions were commonly evaluated by all Spanish instructors. Section noted that there was a general consistency in the way we all graded. We intend to keep working on a common criteria assessment for higher levels as well.

Modifications/improvements based on use of findings: A new Study Abroad Program to Costa Rica will start in Summer 2010. There are already 17 students admitted to the program. This semester we also began offering Writing Workshops. These are specially designed to improve writing skills at 3000 and 4000 level. There was an increase in the number of participants in the second workshop with respect to the first one, but we will keep encouraging attendance in the upcoming semesters.

10. Assessment Activity: Departmental Review of Curriculum (All sections: French, Spanish, and German)

Criteria for success: curriculum is determined to continue to assure that departmental learning outcomes are fulfilled.

Time table: Monthly (at department meetings)

Individuals responsible for assessment: specifically, the departmental Curriculum Committee, and more generally, entire tenure-line faculty

Assessment findings: Based on discussions in Curriculum Committee and in department meetings, the following curricular modifications have been proposed:

1. The department should develop a common course for all Foreign Language majors that directly addresses Learning Outcomes 2, 3, and 5. In Fall 2009 Curriculum Committee developed a proposed syllabus that will be discussed in our November 2009 department meeting.
2. The department should develop an interdisciplinary course, following the model of XIDS 2001/2002 (What do you Really Know About Learning a Foreign Language?). A subcommittee has been established that will draft a syllabus for this course.

Mapping of assessment activities to program outcomes (add/delete as necessary)

Program outcome 1 assessed by assessment activities: 1-10

Program outcome 2 assessed by assessment activities: 1, 2, 10

Program outcome 3 assessed by assessment activities: 2, 10

Program outcome 4 assessed by assessment activities: 3, 4, 5, 9, 10

Program outcome 5 assessed by assessment activities: 2, 10