Degree Program Student Learning Report

Revised August 2017

Communications

Bachelor of Arts

Fall 2020-Spring 2021

PART 1 Degree Program Mission and Student Learning Outcomes

A. State the school, department, and degree program missions.

University Mission	School Mission	Department Mission	Degree Program Mission
Our mission is to ensure students develop the skills and knowledge required to achieve professional and personal goals in dynamic local and global communities.	Central to the mission of the School is the preparation of students to achieve professional and personal goals in their respective disciplines and to enable their success in dynamic local and global communities. Our strategy is to foster an academic setting of diverse curricula that inherently incorporates an environment of service and collegiality:	research, and oral communication	The overall mission is to develop in students the general and specific knowledge and skills to function as effective citizen-leaders and to serve in a variety of careers associated with the discipline of communications.

B. Align school purposes, department purposes, and program student learning outcomes with their appropriate University commitments.

University Commitments	School Purposes	Department Purposes	Student Learning Outcomes
To provide quality associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree opportunities and educational experiences which foster student excellence in oral and written communications, scientific reasoning	The School offers innovative degrees, which focus upon developing skills in oral and written communication, critical thinking, creativity, empirical and evidenced-based inquiry, experimental investigation and theoretical explanation of natural phenomena, and innovative	Our department will provide a BA degree with a strong focus on oral and written communication, critical thinking and creativity, as well as extra-curricular activities, internships and scholarly activities.	Students completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications will demonstrate proficiency in their written and oral communication skills, as well as the ability to think creatively and critically.

University Commitments	School Purposes	Department Purposes	Student Learning Outcomes
and critical and creative thinking.	technology.		
To promote an atmosphere of academic and intellectual freedom and respect for diverse expression in an environment of physical safety that is supportive of teaching and learning.			
To provide a general liberal arts education that supports specialized academic program sand prepares students for lifelong learning and service in a diverse society.			
To provide students with a diverse, innovative faculty dedicated to excellence in teaching, scholarly pursuits and continuous improvement of programs.			
To provide university-wide student services, activities and resources that complement academic programs.			
To support and strengthen student, faculty and administrative structures that promote shared governance of the institution.			
To promote and encourage student, faculty, staff and community interaction in a positive academic climate that creates opportunities for cultural, intellectual and personal enrichment for the University and the communities it serves.			

PART 2 Revisit Proposed Changes Made in Previous Assessment Cycle

Revisit each instructional/assessment change proposed in Part 5 of the degree program SLR for the preceding year. Indicate whether the proposed change was implemented and comment accordingly. Any changes the department implemented for this academic year, but which were not specifically proposed in the preceding report, should also be reported and discussed here. Please note if no changes were either proposed or implemented or this academic year.

Proposed Change	Implemented? (Y/N)	Comments
The department will revise existing student learning outcomes and/or formulate new ones.	N	The faculty weren't able to work on this due to the nature of the pandemic-disrupted academic year.
COMM 4163 Global Communication will no longer be used to measure the first learning outcome.	N	The department did not discuss this but will discuss it in the next academic year.
The grade on the presentation in COMM 3253 Argumentation and Persuasion will no longer be used as an assessment measure. A presentation in another required course will be used.	Y	The presentation in Digital Design (COMM 3313) is now used to assess students' oral presentation skills.
The mid-point satisfaction survey will no longer be administered in COMM 3253 Argumentation and Persuasion, which will move out of the core and become an elective under the new curriculum, but will instead be administered in Media Law, Public Relations Strategies, or Digital Design.	N	The mid-point survey wasn't administered during the 2020-2021 academic year, but it will be administered in Writing for the Media (COMM 3023) during the 2021-2022 academic year.
Revise departmental purpose.	N	The faculty weren't able to work on this due to the nature of the pandemic-disrupted academic year.

PART 3

Response to University Assessment Committee Peer Review

The University Assessment Committee provides written feedback on departmental assessment plans through a regular peer review process. This faculty-led oversight is integral to RSU's commitment to the continuous improvement of student learning and institutional effectiveness. UAC recommendations are not compulsory and departments may implement them at their discretion. Nevertheless, respond below to each UAC recommendations from last year's peer review report. Indicate whether the recommendation was implemented and comment accordingly. Please indicate either if the UAC had no recommendations or if the program was not subject to review in the previous cycle.

Peer Review Feedback	Implemented (Y/N)	Comment
The Department of Communications wasn't subject to peer review during the 2019-2020 academic year.	N/A	

PART 4

Evidence of Student Learning

Evidence and analyze student progress for each of the student learning outcomes (same as listed in Part I B above) for the degree program. See the *Appendix* for a detailed description of each component. <u>Note</u>: The table below is for the first program learning outcome. Copy the table and insert it below for each additional outcome. SLO numbers should be updated accordingly.

CLO #1. Students	emploting a Dashalar	Studer of Arts degree in Con		g Outcom		reficiency in	their writt	on and ora	1
		the ability to think cr			•	onciency ii		en anu ora	
B. Assessment Measure	C. Performance Standard	D. Sampling Method	E. Sample Size (n)						G. Standard Met (Y/N)
1a. Student learning in written					97% of students met or exceeded the C threshold.				
communication will	written skills and	research papers were			17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	
be measured by	critical /creative	counted.		A	11	10	9	8	
assessing all	thinking, by achieving			В	9	8	10	16	
students'	a grade of C or higher			С	4	13	3	4	
performances on	in their major	×		D	1	1	0	0	
their research papers in COMM 4163 in	research paper.			F	0	2	0	1]

	completing a Bachelor cation skills, as well as	of Arts degree in Cor the ability to think cr			•	proficiency in	n their writt	en and ora	1
B.C.D.E.F.Assessment MeasurePerformance StandardSampling MethodSample Size (n)F.				G. Standard Met (Y/N)					
Global				Total	25	34	22	29	
Communication				Success	96%	92%	100%	97%	
b. Oral 1b. 75% of students All partic ommunication will will demonstrate oral students	All participating	9	89% of the	students me	et or exceede	d the C three	hold.	Y	
be measured by	skills by achieving a	presentation scores		[]	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	
assessing all	grade of C or higher	in COMM 3313 were		A	24	10	8	9	1
students' major	on their	counted.		В	9	5	5	0	1
presentations in	presentations in			С	0	1	0	0	
COMM 3313 Digital	COMM 3313 Digital	*The data for prior		D	0	0	0	0	
Design.	Design	years is from		F	0	0	0	1	
		students' debates in		Total	33	17	13	9	
	•	Argumentation and Persuasion. See explanation below.		Succ	100%	100%	100%	89%	

1c. Creative and critical thinking will be measured by	1c. 75% of students will demonstrate critical thinking and	All participating students' capstone projects	19	88% of st projects.	udents earne	d a C or high	ier on their d	apstone	Y
assessing all students'	oral communication	presentations scores			17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	
capstone projects in	skills by achieving a	in COMM 4913 were		A	15	10	9	9	
COMM 4913 Senior	grade of C or higher	counted.		В	8	3	6	3	
Capstone.	on their capstone projects in COMM	The oral		С	1	3	4	3	

Capstone.		D	D 0	0	0	_	
Capstone.	reviewed by the	F	0	1	0	1	
	entire department	Total	24	17	19	17	
	faculty.	Succ	100%	94%	100%	88%	
	Con	H. Iclusions					
		faculty. Con Communication (1a) exceeded the performance thresho	faculty. Succ H. Conclusions Communication (1a) exceeded the performance threshold for the final re-	faculty. Succ 100% H. Conclusions Communication (1a) exceeded the performance threshold for the final research paper	faculty. Succ 100% 94% H. Conclusions Communication (1a) exceeded the performance threshold for the final research paper. The instruction	faculty. Succ 100% H. Conclusions Communication (1a) exceeded the performance threshold for the final research paper. The instructor notes th	faculty. Succ 100% 94% 100% 88%

title of this course to reflect its focus on global popular culture. This year Digital Design (1b), a core class in our new curriculum, replaced Argumentation and Persuasion (now an elective) as the class in which students' oral presentation skills are assessed. It was offered for the first time as a blended class during the Spring 2021 semester, and it worked well. Students worked together and used their design skills to create effective presentations. Students continued to exceed the assessment threshold on their projects in Senior Capstone (1c), despite the challenges of creating and presenting them during the pandemic.

		Student L	earning Outco	ome					
SLO #2: Graduates	will demonstrate pro	ficiency in communication	on principles.						
B. Assessment Measure	C. Performance Standard	D. Sampling Method	E. Sample Size (n)			G. Standard Met (Y/N)			
in Media Theory student will earn a C st		All participating students' midterm and final exam scores	21	90% of t their cor	Y				
measured by	their overall	in Media Theory were			17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	-
assessing all student	examination grade in	counted.		A	4	3	0	2	
test scores.	this course.			В	5	10	2	11	
				С	7	7	5	6	
				D	4	4	8	2	
				F	4	1	9	0	
				Total Succ	24 67%	25 80%	24 33%	21 90%	
2b. Student-learning in research methodology will be	2b. 75% of students will earn a C or higher on their final	All participating students' final exams in COMM 3713 were	14		tudents e mination.	arned a C	or better	on the	N
measured by	examination in this	counted.			17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	
assessing all students'	course.			A	3	4	0	1	
inal examination				В	7	10	10	5	
performance in				С	3	8	8	3	
COMM 3713 Communication				D	9	5	3	3	
Communication Research Methods.				F	3	2	1	2	
				Total	27	29	22	14	
				Succ	49%	76%	81%	64%	

2c. Student-learning in media production will be measured by	media productionwill earn a C grade orstudents' finalill be measured byhigher on their finalprojects scores in		17		88% demonstrated proficiency by securing a grade of C or better on the project.					
assessing all final	project in COMM	COMM 2003 were			17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21		
projects in COMM	2003 Video	counted.		A	30	14	15	5		
2003 Video	Production			В	13	13	8	6		
Production.				С	3	1	3	4		
				D	1	0	1	1		
				F	2	1	1	1		
				Total	49	29	29 28	17		
				Succ	93%	96%	85%	88%		
			H. Conclusions							
boor performance on change likely greatly c nowever, the instructor) class was delivered en the final exam when it v ontributes to the higher or may keep using open- r higher on their midterr	vas the only test (altho success rate on exams book online exams. The	ugh there were we this year. If this se e instructor of Con	eekly quizzes ems to be w nmunication	s) — and th vorking as Research	e final we a way for Methods	re open-k students was plea	book online to know th sed that 81	exams. This e material, % of students	

didn't meet the threshold for the final exam. Video Production (2c) was taught via Zoom in both the Fall and Spring semesters. Zoom proved quite effective for teaching the class. Students in Video Production continued their trend of exceeding the standard set for the assessment measure.

SLO #3: Students	will indicate they are s	atisfied with the instru-	uction they have	e received in	n the pro	gram.			
B. Assessment Measure	C. Performance Standard	D. Sampling Method	E. Sample Size (n)			G. Standard Met (Y/N)			
3a. Students will respond to a satisfaction survey at the mid-point in their3a. 75% of students surveyed in the mid- point in their program (COMMAll participating communication majors student surveys responses	N/A	report w	No students had the opportunity this year to report whether they are satisfied with their undergraduate coursework.						
program of	3253 Argumentation	were counted.			16-17	17-18	19-20	20-21	
nstruction.	and Persuasion) will		SA	N/A	N/A	4	N/A		
report that they are		A	N/A	N/A	5	N/A			
	satisfied with their			Neu	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	
	undergraduate coursework.			D	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	
	COULSEWOIK.			SD	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	
				Total Succ	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	13 69%	N/A N/A	
			Н.				0370		

LO #4: Graduatin	g seniors will report t	hat they are prepared to	enter and perf	form satisfactori	ly in entry-	evel com	municatio	n positions.
B. Assessment Measure	C. Performance Standard	D. Sampling Method	E. Sample Size (n)		F. Resul	ts		G. Standard Met (Y/N
preparation and st satisfaction will be Se measured through a survey conducted in in COMM 4913 Senior Sa Capstone. un the base of the base	4a. 75% of the students surveyed in Senior Capstone (COMM 4913) will indicate that they are satisfied with their undergraduate coursework (Q1), that their coursework has effectively prepared them for their future career (Q2),_and that they were satisfied with the quality of technology (Q3).The survey was directed to all students enrolled in the senior capstone class. There were 3 open-ended follow up questions accompanying each Likert Scale question.	directed to all students enrolled in the senior capstone class. There	13	62% agree that their courses were effective, 46% agree that they are prepared for the future, and 77% agree that they are satisfied with departmental technology. 20-21 Capstone Results			N	
		follow up questions			Courses	Future	Tech	
				Agree	8	6	10	
				Neutral	3	4	0	
				Disagree	2	2	3	
				Total	13	13	13	
			Success	62%	46%	77%		
				19-20 Capstone Results				
				Courses	x	Tech		
				Agree	10	9	9	
				Neutral	1	1	1	
				Disagree	0	1	1	
				Total	11	11	11	
				Success	91%	82%	82%	

		18	18-19 Capstone Results	ie Results	
			Courses	Future	Tech
		Agree	5	5	9
		Neutral	0	0	0
		Disagree	4	4	ε
		Total	6	6	6
		Success	56%	56%	67%
		17	17-18 Capstone Results	ne Results	1
			Courses	Future	Tech
		Agree	10	11	13
		Neutral	5	5	3
		Disagree	8	7	7
		Total	23	23	23
		Success	44%	48%	57%
	H. Conclusions				
This year's Canstone students indicated satisfaction with the techno	the technology available in the department. But they were concerned about their preparation	artment hut	they were cr	herred	ahout thai
	production classes (acco	rding to comr	nents in the	Spring Cal	pstone sur
declining numbers in some areas may partly be attributable to chan	ble to changed and limited modes of instruction due to COVID-19, particularly in production	of instruction	due to COVII	D-19, part	icularly in p
courses. Some Spring Capstone students thought that the departme	e department's equipment was dated.	ed.			

PART 5

Proposed Instructional or Assessment Changes

Learning outcomes assessment can generate actionable evidence of student performance that can be used to improve student success and institutional effectiveness. Knowledge of student strengths and weakness gained through assessment can inform faculty efforts to improve course instruction and program curriculum. Below discuss potential changes the department is considering which are aimed at improving student learning or the assessment process. Indicate which student learning outcome(s) will be affected and provide a rationale for each proposed change. These proposals will be revisited in next assessment cycle.

Proposed Change	Applicable Learning Outcomes	Rationale and Impact
The department will revise existing student learning outcomes and/or formulate new ones.	AII	Some of the current departmental student learning outcomes may encompass too many outcomes and are too general. The faculty was unable to discuss this proposed change during the pandemic 2020- 2021 academic year.
The department will examine the performance standards for student learning outcome measures that are regularly and easily surpassed.	All	If performance standards are overwhelmingly surpassed every year, then students' actual learning in classes is possibly not being well assessed.
The department will decide whether to continue to use Global Communication (COMM 4163) to measure SLO 1a.	la	Two courses taught by Dr. Evusa are included in program course assessment, while no courses taught by Dr. Blakely and Mr. Crowley are included. A change might better reflect outcomes produced by the entire faculty.
The mid-point satisfaction survey will no longer be administered in COMM 3253 Argumentation and Persuasion but will instead be administered in Writing for the Media.	вС	COMM 3253 will no longer be a required course for majors if the proposed departmental curriculum changes are approved. Writing for the Media is a required class and will be taken by most majors at the midpoints in their academic careers.

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Revise departmental purpose.	N/A	The departmental purpose includes a lot of items,
		and they should be separated and listed
		accordingly. Also, the departmental purpose on
		our SLRs still doesn't match the one listed in the
		Bulletin. If what follows from the Bulletin is our
		official purpose, then we need to change what
		appears in the Bulletin: "The Department of
		Communications offers dynamic courses in radio-
		television, corporate communications, and
		communication arts, including theatre. Its
		philosophy is that developing one's overall
		communication skills is paramount for personal
		success, and that society needs articulate citizens
		to lead the mass media, corporations, and civic
		institutions."

PART 6 Summary of Assessment Measures

- A. How many different assessment measures were used? 9
- B. List the direct measures (see appendix): 1a: written communication; 1b: oral communication; 1c: creative and critical thinking; 2a: test scores; 2b: final examination performance; and 2c: final projects
- C. List the indirect measures (see appendix): 3a: mid-point satisfaction survey, 4a: senior capstone survey and 4b graduate exit survey

PART 7

Faculty Participation and Signatures

A. Provide the names and signatures of all full time and adjunct faculty who contributed to this report.

Faculty Name	Assessment Role	Signature
David Blakely, Associate Professor	Report/plan analysis	David Blakely the
Thomas Crowley, Instructor	Report/plan analysis	Thelily
Juliet Evusa, Professor	Data collection, report/plan analysis	Marca Juliet Euroa
Bruce Hartley, Assistant Professor	Data collection, report/plan analysis	Holly kreese th
Holly Kruse, Professor	Data collection, report/plan analysis, report writing	Bruce Hartley see
Lee Williams, Assistant Professor	Data collection, report/plan analysis	TT far lee Williams see email

B. Reviewed by:

Titles	Name	Signature	Date
Department Head	Steven Rosser	shoner	Le · 7.2,
Dean	Keith Martin	Kratt W. Must	6/8/21

Appendix

Student Learning Outcome

Learning outcomes may address knowledge, skills, attitudes, or values that provide evidence that learning has occurred. They can apply to a specific course, a program of study, or an institution. Outcomes should be worded in language that clearly implies a measurable behavior or quality of student work. Outcomes should also include Bloom's action verbs appropriate to the skill level of learning expected of students. Student learning outcomes are the observable or measurable results that are expected of a student following a learning experience.

Examples

Students will be able to apply principles of evidence-based medicine to determine clinical diagnoses and implement acceptable treatment modalities.

Students will be able to articulate cultural and socioeconomic differences and the significance of these differences for instructional planning.

Assessment Measure

combination of direct and indirect assessment measures. Direct provide concrete evidence of whether a student has command of a specific An assessment measure is a tool or instrument used to gather evidence of student progress toward an established learning outcome. Every measures assess opinions or thoughts about the extent of a student's knowledge, skills, or attitudes. They reveal characteristics associated experiences in a program. Each also has unique advantages and disadvantages in terms of the type of data and information it can provide. with learning, but they only imply that learning has occurred. Both types of measures can provide useful insight into student learning and however, and may require multiple measures to accurately assess student performance. Assessment plans should try to incorporate a subject or content area, can perform a certain task, exhibits a particular skill, demonstrates a certain quality in their work, or holds a particular value. Because direct measures tap into actual student learning, it is often viewed as the preferred measure type. Indirect program learning outcome should have at least one appropriate assessment measure. Learning outcomes are frequently complex, Examples of common direct and indirect measures are listed below.

Direct Measures

- Comprehensive exams
- Class assignments
- Juried review of performances and exhibitions
- Internship or clinical evaluations
- Portfolio evaluation
- Pre/post exams
- Third-party exams such as field tests, certification exams, or licensure exams
- Senior thesis or capstone projects

Indirect Measures

- Graduate exit interviews
- Focus group responses
- Job placement statistics
- Graduate school placement statistics
- Graduation and retention rates
- Student and alumni surveys that assess perceptions of the program
- Employer surveys that assess perceptions of graduates
- Honors and awards earned by students and alumni.