

**Graduate Program Assessment Annual Report: MA Spanish
2007-2008
Department of Modern Languages
December 2008**

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the assessment progress in Modern Languages based upon our currently established assessment plans. Assessment in the Department of Modern Languages is an ongoing process, and continued attention to matters of assessment is essential. This report focuses primarily on assessment of our *Master of Arts Degree in Spanish*.

A.Enrollments

There were no students enrolled in the Masters program for the academic year 2007-2008. However, there have been several applicants and it is expected that we will have students enrolled for Fall 2008.

II. CURRENT ASSESSMENT PLANS: *PROGRAM GOALS AND RELATED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES*

As the MA in Spanish is a very new program, Formally approved late Spring of 2006, with its first enrolled students scheduled to begin in Fall of 2008, there are currently no Benchmarks or learning objectives established other than those established at the time the program was created.

A.ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES: *SPANISH MA PROGRAM*

a. *Assessment Measures (Tools)*

1. Formal assessment measures will need to be established. Program objectives (from the original Proposal) are:

The *Master of Arts in Spanish* will provide the students with an opportunity to:

- Develop greater knowledge of the Latin/Hispanic world.
 - Develop proficiency in the Spanish language skills.
 - Develop greater knowledge of the structures of the Spanish language.
 - Develop application strategies of the acquired Spanish cultural and linguistic knowledge and skills to teach at the secondary school level or at the undergraduate level in institutions of higher education.
 - Acquire the linguistic and theoretical bases necessary to expand their education at the Doctoral (PhD) level.
2. Program Requirements:
 - A Plan of Study must be completed by the student and his/her advisor after the first semester of study, must be approved by either the departmental chair or the director of graduate studies and kept on file in the department. The Plan of Study is subject to an audit by the Graduate School Dean and cannot contravene any Graduate School regulations.
 - Grade point average must be maintained at 3.00
 - Final Written Comprehensive Examination

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- Completion of ACTFL Oral Proficiency Examination, at student expense. This examination is administered by the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages, and can be completed by telephone
3. The Tentative assessment plan for the Master of Arts in Spanish includes:

A. Evaluation Procedures

Admission requirements will initially assure the quality of the program.

Students progress towards the completion of the master of Arts degree will be monitored and assessed regularly by the department in two ways:

1) Internal Evaluation

a) Curriculum Evaluation

All students will complete an exit interview upon finishing the Masters degree, where they will be asked:

- to rate their language skills,
- to judge the quality of courses taken during the program
- to make recommendations for the improvement of the program.

b) Student Competence and progress towards completion:

Students will evaluate every course completed via standard university procedures. The courses taken on-line from the Universidad A. de Nebrija in Madrid, Spain will also be evaluated.

Faculty will also be asked to evaluate the program, and the comprehensive exam data will also provide an additional source of assessment. These evaluations will be used to evaluate and adjust the program as needed.

Plan of Study: after the Plan of Study is approved by the students' advisor and the graduate program coordinator or the department chair, it is subject to external audit by the Dean of the Graduate College.

Advisor and Supervisory Committee: In order to monitor individual student progress toward program completion, during the semester in which graduate students complete their plan of study (18th graduate credit hour), students must choose an advisor, and form a Supervisory Committee. The composition of this committee will be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. The Director of Graduate Studies will assist students in the completion of this process. The purpose of the Supervisory Committee is to administer the comprehensive examination for non-thesis option students or the thesis defense/comprehensive oral examination for thesis option students.

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Evaluation of students within the courses.

In order to maintain a challenging program, courses will contain assessment elements such as exams, projects, written and oral reports, etc. As the program will be small at its inception, any concerns about performance or competence will be able to be addressed on an individual basis.

Written Comprehensive Examination to be taken upon completion of all course work.

ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview. All program graduates will be required to seek an official OPI interview from the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language. This interview costs approximately \$100 and can be obtained via telephone.

Minimum GPA: Students will be expected to maintain a minimum GPA of 3:00. Those students whose GPA falls below 3:00 will be put on probation.

Thesis: Thesis for those planning to pursue a PhD in Hispanic Studies at another university.

2). External Evaluation

- Graduate Survey: A graduate survey will be created and distributed to program alumni 6 months after completion of the program. The information gathered in this survey will be utilized to make changes to the program as needed.
- The program will be evaluated at the time of the NCATE Program review, in conjunction with the undergraduate program, as an Advanced Level Program.
- Student data will be collected throughout the program for this purpose, in particular in the Teaching Methods course taken early in the program.
- The Department of Modern Languages intends to invite a trained Program reviewer to evaluate our program. This review will be completed at the 2 year mark, and then every 5 years thereafter.

b. Benchmark/Standard

These will need to be established much as has been done for MDL's undergraduate program. *ADFL* (Association of Departments of Foreign Languages), *ACTFL* (American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages) are good starting points to begin this work

c. Results/Analysis:

Courses have been developed in conjunction with this program, but as there has not yet been any graduate level enrollment, there are no results to report at this time.

d. Analysis/Planned Action

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The initial steps in determining the appropriate plan of assessment for the Master of Arts in Spanish will likely include formation of a committee to determine the benchmarks for this program, and to establish procedures to administer those assessment measures that will help us identify our programs strengths and weaknesses.