

Assessment: Reporting Unit Four Column

Creative Writing - M.F.A.

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Results/Observations</i>	<i>Meaningful Changes</i>
<p>16-20 PLLO 1: Creative Writing - Students will create publishable work in a creative genre; evaluate and analyze creative writing using round table workshop; synthesize workshop criticism and apply that criticism in development of a personal aesthetic; apply knowledge of the literary market as they begin submitting creative work to appropriate genres; and present work in a public setting.</p> <p>Objective Status: Active</p> <p>Objective Type (Control-click to select multiple): 16-20 Plan, Critical Thinking Learning Objective, M.F.A. Creative Writing, Program-Level Learning Objectives (PLLO)</p>	<p>Completion of creative thesis accompanied by critical introduction.</p> <p>Criterion: Critical introduction, scored by committee, must average 2.0 in each of four categories on a 4.0 scale.</p> <p>Schedule: Annually</p>	<p>Result Status: Result Open-Further action needed</p> <p>Result/Observation Type: Strength</p> <p>Eight students (100%) met this expectation in 2015-2016. Over the last two years, we've begun assessing "portfolios" in the form of a thesis manuscript from each student, which the student must defend. The development of the thesis came as the result of a "best practices" adjustment. As the thesis requirement was put into place, we developed extensive written thesis requirements as part of our Student Handbook.</p> <p>Student scores on the thesis have all been favorable. We've recently modified some thesis requirements based on the need for clearer expectations regarding timelines and defenses. Our concern about student preparation has also led us to develop specific "fundamentals" courses that help the student prepare for the thesis and the critical introduction to the thesis.</p> <p>We've continuously refined the reading list for the critical introduction and changed how the students choose items from the reading list in consultation with the thesis director. Finally, we've added core "common books" to help ease the student's integration into our program.</p> <p>MFA faculty also developed ENG 810 to serve as an introduction to the program. (05/01/2017)</p> <p>Related Documents:</p> <p>810_fall16_Sickels (1).pdf</p> <p>Winter Res 2016_Schedule.docx</p>	<p>Meaningful Changes: Our concern about student preparation has also led us to develop specific "fundamentals" courses that help the student prepare for the thesis and the critical introduction to the thesis, specifically ENG 810: Introduction to MFA Graduate Study, which was piloted during 2015-2016. The program also offered students many opportunities on this front, including editing and production experience with the literary magazine Jelly Bucket. (05/01/2017)</p>

Objectives	Assessment Methods	Results/Observations	Meaningful Changes
		<p>Result Status: Result Open-Further action needed Result/Observation Type: Strength All students (8/8) met this expectation. The program added working writing sessions and panels to the residencies during 2015-2016 to help students be successful on this front. (05/01/2017) Related Documents: Winter Res 2016_Schedule.docx</p>	<p>Meaningful Changes: The program added working writer sessions and panels to the winter residency during 2015-2016. Previously, the main focus of the MFA program had been on craft, but faculty decided that introducing more content related to the professional side of writing would better prepare students to submit their work for publication. (05/01/2017)</p>
	<p>Oral defense of thesis Criterion: Public presentation of creative work, followed by formal interview (focusing on understanding of both craft and critical elements) and deliberated by committee. Schedule: Annually</p>	<p>Result Status: Result Open-Further action needed Result/Observation Type: Strength All students (8/8) met this goal. The program offered students many opportunities on this front, including monthly readings at Babylon Garden in downtown Richmond as well as required readings at the winter residency. (05/01/2017) Related Documents: Winter Res 2016_Schedule.docx</p>	<p>Meaningful Changes: Prior to the 2015-2016 cycle, student readings during the winter residency were optional, and some students opted out of this important experience and opportunity to practice and receive immediate feedback. Recognizing the value of providing students with this experience, MFA faculty decided to make readings a required component in preparation of the oral defense during 2015-2016. (05/01/2017)</p>