

Assessment Report for GSU Educational Programs

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Program Mission and Student Learning Goals

The English department prepares Ph.D. students in Creative Writing with comprehensive knowledge of literary composition, aesthetics, vocabulary and techniques, expertise with established literary models, ability to teach Creative Writing at the college level, familiarity with the publishing literary marketplace, and ability to produce publishable literary works.

Goals

G 1: Knowledgeable about history of genre

Graduates of Ph.D. are experts in the history of the significant figures and works, aesthetic techniques, and literary vocabulary of their chosen genre.

G 2: Exemplary writers

Graduates of the Ph.D. are exemplary writers and are able to compose and revise creative writing that is authentic and engaging, and of publishable quality.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives (SLOs)

1. Knowledge of Form, Theory, and Aesthetics *

Ph.D. students will demonstrate a thorough familiarity with representative examples of writing by major figures in fiction or poetry, English and American literary history of fiction or poetry, and form and theory of fiction or poetry, depending on the student's choice of genre. Students will be able to draw upon this knowledge to compose meaningful literary works. They will also be able to develop vocabularies for studying and discussing poetry and fiction, depending on the student's choice of genre.

2. Progress*

Ph.D. students will demonstrate progress in literary composition from early workshop manuscripts to the thesis project.

3. Ability to Produce Creative Work of Publishable Quality*

Ph.D. students' knowledge and use of a variety of literary techniques in poetry or fiction will allow them to compose and revise writing that is authentic and engaging, and of publishable quality.

Program Learning Opportunities (optional in 2014-2015)

Assessment Methods and Targets

A. Dissertation Prospectus

The Creative Writing concentration began assessing the dissertation prospectus in Spring, 2014. The outcomes to be assessed are the degree to which the prospectus proposes a valid and original creative project; demonstrates proficient knowledge of genres and forms, major works and writers, and specific aspects of creative process; and proposes a clear and effective plan for completing the creative project described, including submitting the finished project for publication.

Linked to SLO 1 and SLO 3. Targets: 4/4

B. PhD dissertation

Graduating Ph.D. students in Creative Writing are assessed on the work of their dissertation. This assessment is facilitated by the dissertation director at the student's dissertation defense, and the form is completed by faculty members on the student's committee. The dissertation assessment form rates how effectively the student's work demonstrates the graduate learning outcomes.

Linked to SLO 1, SLO 2, and SLO 3. Targets: 4/4/4

Assessment Findings

4 dissertation prospectuses assessed

Average scores:

A4. Original 4.3

A1. Knowledge of form 4.25

A2. Plan for progress in composition 4.3

Overall is 4.3

9 dissertations assessed

Average scores:

B1. Knowledge of form, theory and aesthetics 4

B2. Progress in composition 4

B3. Knowledge and use of techniques 4

Overall is 4.4

Analysis of Assessment Findings

Overall scores exceed target (4/5 for all SLOs). Assessment of the prospectus (and the prospectus itself) is new for Creative Writing, and so we expect a slight drop in scores as faculty expectations re quality increase along with a clearer understanding of the purpose of the prospectus. We foresee average scores of prospectuses and dissertations to become more equal over the next five years.

Sharing and Discussion of Assessment Findings

After collecting data, the Assessment Coordinator shared the findings with the Creative Writing faculty and the Director of Graduate Study. Then the Assessment Committee for the Department met to discuss the findings at all levels, across concentrations; to review the stated goals; and make plans for program improvement.

Use of Assessment Findings for Program Improvement

Creative Writing faculty will discuss the prospectus's use, and the ways in which the assessment of the prospectus can be used to help the student produce a dissertation of higher quality. Creative Writing faculty will discuss norming, both of the prospectus assessment, and the dissertation assessment.

Supporting Documents

Global Assessment Report

http://www.wac.gsu.edu/EngDept/EngDept_Assessment_Global_report.php

Ph.D. Assessment Forms -- Creative Writing

- A. Prospectus: <http://english.gsu.edu/files/2014/03/Dissertation-Prospectus-Creative-Writing.pdf>
- B. Dissertation: <http://english.gsu.edu/files/2014/03/Graduate-Dissertation-Creative-Writing.pdf>