Departmental and Program Assessment
Annual Assessment Plan Report

Academic Year: 2010-2011

Academic Unit: Theatre Arts and Dance

Chair: Ann Muse

Student Assessment Plan (SAP) – Basic Check-list – If your answers are "yes" a question in this section, no further explanation is necessary.

1. Is there a current assessment plan for your department, program, or general education component? Current implies that this SAP is used by the department. It does not have to be rewritten unless your assessment plan has changed. It should be on the web at http://www.hendrix.edu/academics/academics.aspx?id=47328.

   □ yes X no *If no, provide a timeline that will produce a plan by the end of the next academic year.*
   I have submitted our mission statement as a possible SAP. It seems to consider broadly our assessment plan for our students. I would like to hear a response regarding this submission. If this is not acceptable, our department will begin creating a detailed SAP in 2011-12 using our mission statement as a guide. We will devote one of the two monthly departmental meetings each month to this task.

2. Does the current SAP include student learning goals? Departmental/programmatic/general education component student learning goals should be able to stand alone as a list without pages of explanatory commentary.

   □ yes Xno *If no, provide a timeline that will produce student learning goals by the end of the next academic year.*
   Please see above.

3. Does your SAP include a list of assessment data collected yearly? Assessment data lists should be able to stand alone without pages of explanatory commentary. Additionally, collected data should be of enough value to the department that it is read yearly. If not, it is probably not of sufficient use to collect.

   X yes no *If no, provide a timeline that will produce an assessment data list by the end of the next academic year.*
   Yearly we review our the written and oral comprehensives of our majors. We will begin to review two years previous to the current year in AY 2011-12.

4. Are student learning goals available to students on the web on the departmental/programmatic page(s)?

   X yes □ no *If no, provide a timeline that will produce student access to the learning goals by the end of the next academic year.*

5. Are student learning goals, appropriate for each course, included in the course syllabi in your department or program?

   X yes □ no *If no, provide a timeline that will produce student learning goals by the end of the next academic year.*
   However, we have a new faculty member, and she will be alerted to the requirement in the fall.

6. Does your SAP include direct assessments? "Direct" refers to evaluated student work.

   X yes □ no *If no, provide a timeline that will produce a direct student assessment tool by the end of the next academic year.*
   We in fact have written papers that are assessed by the department. We do not have videos of the oral component. We will begin to video the oral comprehensive presentations in AY 2011-12.

7. Describe which indirect assessments in your assessment plan have been collected for the year and which have not. "Indirect" refers to student surveys, interviews, or opinions.

   X yes □ no *If no, provide a timeline that will produce an indirect student assessment tool by the end of the next academic year.*
   We have student evaluations from the Senior Seminar/Capstone Experience from its inception. In AY 2010-2011 we incorporated an exit interview with our graduating majors. We will continue to conduct these interviews.

Student Assessment Plan Development - Departments and programs who have a complete and current SAP should consider the next step in SAP development. *This could easily be the annual action item for your department or program (next section #5).*

1. As a next step in SAP development, departments/programs are encouraged begin working on an assessment audit to determine how student learning goals fit across the courses in the major. This could be as complicated as a full grid of student learning goals, or a single learning goal, across the courses in the major. (This has not been required of departments, but it is a recommended next step when the SAP is up to date.)

   Xyes □ no *If yes, please provide the results in either in prose or as a table.*

Yearly Assessment Report – each department or program is expected to have assessment discussions for at least two hours each academic year. If necessary, help is available from David Sutherland, just call.

1. What was your planned action item identified in your last report?

Oral and Written Comprehensives for graduating majors

2. Briefly summarize the topics discussed in your annual assessment meeting. (If you have not met this year, why not and when do you plan to meet?)

May 3, 2011 the department met to discuss the SAP in terms of the Senior Capstone Experience which includes Oral and Written Comps and the Senior Seminar. The focus of the meeting: Oral and Written Comps. We addressed a concern that the written comprehensives were not really satisfactory. We entertained the assessment used to evaluate each manifesto and oral comprehensive.

3. What was the conclusion of your assessment discussion and how did the collected assessment data inform your conclusion? Specifically describe any curricular or programmatic changes that have been made that were based, at least in part, on the data in your SAP.

The outcome of the meeting is to implement two changes to the Oral and Written Comprehensives. 1) each student has his or her mentor of the written manifesto and 2) the students will read the manifesto publicly and entertain a discussion with the audience similar to a defense. In AY 2011-12 the students will be given the option between reading the manifesto and an audition or mini lecture. Following years will be required to read the manifesto publicly.

4. What are the plans for improving student learning in your unit?

We hope to engage the students more directly in our courses and to follow up with the students regarding their interests after Hendrix.

5. Define at least one new action item for your unit that will be a goal of your assessment discussions next year?
   We will continue to develop the SAP in regards to Senior Manifesto and the oral comprehensives. Assessing the AY 2011-12 with an eye to 2012-13 in terms of improvement.