

Assessment Plan—Academic Year 2013-2014

Master of Arts in English - Writing Studies College of Humanities and Social Sciences Kean University

Mission:

The Master of Arts in English - Writing Studies Program at Kean University has several related goals that are aligned with the University Mission.

The Kean University Master of Arts in English - Writing Studies is designed for students pursuing advanced study in the fields of composition, creative writing, and professional writing. The program combines a rigorous overview of writing scholarship with flexible scheduling choices that allow students to build a customized program of study that will fit their individual professional, practical, and creative aspirations.

The program's mission is to meet the educational needs of individuals who want to pursue both the in-depth exploration of writing studies as a discipline, and an individualized program of study specifically tailored to particular interests and employment needs. Required courses provide students with grounding in the history of writing studies as a discipline, an overview of current writing theories and research practices, and a background in pedagogy. Electives in the three areas of study - composition, creative writing, and professional writing - provide foundational knowledge regarding relevant writing genres, practices, and theories for each track; the thesis consolidates research practices and disciplinary knowledge within students' individual areas of interest.

The program prepares graduates for writing-centered teaching, particularly at the high school and community college level, and offers experience and knowledge relevant to careers in creative and/or professional writing. The program also provides a foundation for M.F.A degrees and Ph.D. degrees in a range of writing -related disciplines.

Assessment Process: *(Your Assessment Process can be modeled after the Sociology's by filling in the blanks within this paragraph or you can develop the wording as necessary.)*

Master of Arts in English - Writing Studies students have 4 core courses to take as part of the requirements for the Degree. These core courses provide a sound backbone of the discipline with regard to the research and theoretical aspects writing studies as well as the various areas of study within the field. As such, the core courses are the primary vehicle for assessing the knowledge of our students. Beyond the 4 core courses, students take 6 additional courses offered within our program, and it is likely that no two (or very few) majors take the exact same grouping of courses. Therefore, the faculty have agreed to center our assessment on the core knowledge of the history of writing studies, theories and practices for writing pedagogy, and theory and practices for writing studies research as presented in our core requirements. Each core course has assessment tools as part of the evaluation process; however, culminating assessment is done in thesis work produced for ENG 5698-99, or in ID 5800-01. The thesis provides assessment data that require students to provide the evidence of meeting program

goals. Each semester, composite data from scored student assignments will be collected and analyzed to address areas of program strengths and weaknesses and to inform our decisions ultimately resulting in program improvements.

Students who graduate with a Master of Arts in English - Writing Studies should be able to:

SLO1: Students will identify key theoretical contributions associated with schools of research within composition studies (KU1,KU2, KU3, KU4).

Direct Measures:

ENG 5002: Scored exam based on course text, assessed by classroom instructor using rubric created by program

Thesis: Assessed via rubric developed by program

Indirect Measures:

Incoming Student Survey

Graduating Student Survey

SLO2: Students will analyze a range of research paradigms suitable for composition research (KU1,KU2, KU3, KU4).

Direct Measures:

ENG 5002: Scored exam based on course text, assessed by classroom instructor using rubric created by program

Thesis: Assessed via rubric developed by program

Indirect Measures:

Incoming Student Survey

Graduating Student Survey

SLO3: Students will explain the major theories of composing and teaching writing (KU1,KU2, KU3, KU4).

Direct Measures:

ENG 5020: Literature review assignment assessed by classroom instructor using rubric created by program

Thesis: Assessed via rubric developed by program

Indirect Measures:

Incoming Student Survey

Graduating Student Survey

SLO4 Students will apply,examine and practice the different parts of the writing process (KU1,KU2, KU3, KU4)

Direct Measures:

ENG 5020: Writing process assignment given in ENG 5020 (linked to other major assignments), assessed by classroom instructor using rubric created by the program.

Thesis: Assessed via rubric developed by program

Indirect Measures:

Incoming Student Survey

Graduating Student Survey

SLO5 Students will develop a writing process suitable for producing an M.A. essay (KU2, KU3, KU4).

Direct Measures:

Thesis: Faculty observation of writing process as they create their thesis

Indirect Measures:

Incoming Student Survey

Graduating Student Survey

*** KU Student Outcomes: *Kean University graduates should be able to:***

1. Think critically, creatively and globally;
2. Adapt to changing social, economic, and technological environments;
3. Serve as active and contributing members of their communities; and
4. Advance their knowledge in the traditional disciplines (GE) and enhance their skills in professional areas (Prof. pgms)

****General Education Student Learning Outcomes**

Student Learning Outcomes – Knowledge: Students will demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and content by:

- (K1) applying the scientific method to comprehend natural concepts and processes;
- (K2) evaluating major theories and concepts in social sciences;
- (K3) relating historical references to literature; and
- (K4) evaluating major theories and concepts in the fine arts.

Student Learning Outcomes – Skills: Students will demonstrate the skills necessary to:

- (S1) write to communicate and clarify learning ;
- (S2) communicate effectively through speech;
- (S3) solve problems using quantitative reasoning;
- (S4) think critically about concepts in multiple disciplines; and
- (S5) show information literacy.