MA in Classical Studies, Distance Learning Program Academic Assessment Plan 2012-2013

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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Office of the Provost

University of Florida

Institutional Assessment

Continuous Quality Enhancement

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Academic Assessment Plan for Classical Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

A. Mission

- The mission of the Department of Classics at the University of Florida is to give students access to the literature, history, archaeology, mythology, and philosophy of the ancient Roman world through an array of graduate courses that introduce texts, artifacts, and ideas worth studying both in their own right and as formative influences that shaped later cultures. Such study deepens students' understanding of present-day issues by inculcating a sense of historical perspective that takes account of both the differences and the continuities between contemporary and ancient cultures. The Department's mission aligns with the mission of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which is to lead the University's academic quest to understand our place in the universe, and to help shape our society and environment. Since our distance students are teachers in Florida and throughout the country, the Program's mission aligns with the University's mission to offer broad-based public education, leading-edge research, and service to the citizens of Florida, the nation, and the world.

- Graduate students immerse themselves in the language and culture of ancient Rome. This philological training enhances students' teaching effectiveness and advancement opportunities in K-12 education and in higher education.
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B. Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

Knowledge:

1. Students identify and parse elements of Latin grammar, vocabulary, and syntax to an advanced level of competence.

2. Students identify and define essential aspects of Roman literature, history, and culture.

3. Students distinguish research methods and theories that pertain to the field of Classical Studies.

Skills:

4. Students translate and interpret Latin passages at an advanced level of competence.

5. Students develop at least one academic research project of publishable quality.

Professional Behavior:

6. Students work ethically and professionally with students and colleagues of all backgrounds.

C. Research

We expect our students to submit a master's thesis after two years of training and preparation. To this end, we require them to submit high-quality research papers (15-25 pages in length) and translation exams for their seminars. We require that all distance students take Latin Prose Composition. Potential distance Master's students must also pass a diagnostic Latin translation exam. Incoming graduate students are required to attend the Summer Latin Institute on campus, during which they receive orientation, as well as individual counseling from the Director of Distance Learning. In this manner, all distance graduate students receive guidance from the outset. Distance graduate students are required to come to campus regularly for the Summer Latin Institute and/or final exams, mentored individually on an annual basis, and encouraged to find faculty mentors with similar research interests.

D. Assessment Timeline

Program: MA in Classical Studies   College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Assessment SLOs	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Assessment 3
Knowledge			
SLO 1	seminar translation exams	Latin Prose Composition	comprehensive translation exam on Latin literature
SLO 2	Seminar exams/research papers	Written thesis	Oral thesis defense
SLO 3	Seminar research papers	Written thesis	Oral thesis defense
Skills			
SLO 4	diagnostic translation exam	seminar translation exams	comprehensive translation exam on Latin literature
SLO 5	Seminar research papers	Written thesis	Oral thesis defense
Professional Behavior			
SLO 6	employment verification (for incoming students)	Mentoring / observation	Annual evaluation

E. Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle for:
Program: MA in Classical Studies   College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Analysis and Interpretation: May - June

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Program Modifications: Completed by August 20
Dissemination: Completed by September 15

Year / SLOs	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Content Knowledge						
SLO 1		x	x	x	x	x
SLO 2		x	x	x	x	x
Skills						
SLO 3		x	x	x	x	x
SLO 4		x	x	x	x	x
Professional Behavior						
SLO 5		x	x	x	x	x
SLO 6		x	x	x	x	x

Note: data collection for these assessments will begin in the 2012-2013 academic year. We did not collect data in prior years.

F. Measurement Tools

Our measurement tools are comprised of a combination of methods. The research methods and theory *knowledge* SLOs, as well as the completion of publishable papers *skills* SLOs, are measured by the graduate faculty who teach the advanced-level seminars and set the targeted requirements for them. Successful thesis defenses are measured by either a pass or an unsatisfactory given out by a graduate faculty committee.

Students' knowledge of Latin is measured before they are even officially accepted as students, since they are required to take and pass a sight translation exam as part of the application process. Once enrollment begins, the *knowledge* SLO pertaining to expert knowledge of Latin and Roman literature and culture is measured by qualified faculty in the seminar offerings and, additionally, by way of a comprehensive examination featuring sight translation of primary sources in Latin. All students are also required to take Latin Prose Composition, which tests their mastery of the Latin language through English to Latin translation exercises. The student's understanding of the major trends, facts, and issues of Roman literature, history, and culture are tested in seminar research papers, and finally the thesis (the topic is chosen by the student, in consultation with a faculty advisor).

Current employment as a teacher is a requirement for participation in the distance learning program, and is verified upon the student's acceptance into the program. Students have the opportunity to interact with colleagues from around the country during the annual Summer Latin Institutes on-campus, and also in the distance seminars.

Grading rubric for MA Latin translation exam:

High pass: Student gives smooth, intelligible translation that accounts for the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of the passage.

Pass: Student makes some vocabulary or grammatical mistakes in translating some of the more difficult phrases but has a good overall comprehension of the passages. Although the translation may be somewhat stilted, the student maintains control of the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics at all times.

Fail: Student gives unintelligible translations, follows word order too rigidly, does not render morphology correctly, and may even leave large parts of the passage untranslated.

G. Assessment Oversight

Name	Department Affiliation	Email Address	Phone Number
Victoria Pagán	Chair	vepagan@ufl.edu	273-3696
Velvet Yates	Director of Distance Learning	vyates@ufl.edu	273-3703

Figure 1. University of Florida Graduate/Professional Program Assessment Plan Review Rubric

Related resources are found at http://www.aa.assessment.edu

Program: Year:

Component	Criterion	Met	Partially Met	Not Met	Comments
		Met	**Partially Met**	**Not Met**	
Mission Statement	Mission statement is articulated clearly.	x			
	The program mission clearly supports the College and University missions, and includes specific statements describing how it supports these missions.	x			
Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and Assessment Measures	SLOs are stated clearly.	x			
	SLOs focus on demonstration of student learning.	X			
	SLOs are measurable.				
	Measurements are appropriate for the SLO.	x			
Research	Research expectations for the program are clear, concise, and appropriate for the discipline.	x			
Assessment Map	The Assessment Map indicates the times in the program where the SLOs are assessed and measured.	x			
	The Assessment Map identifies the assessments used for each SLO.	x			
Assessment Cycle	The assessment cycle is clear.	x			
	All student learning outcomes are measured.	x			
	Data is collected at least once in the cycle.	x			
	The cycle includes a date or time period for data analysis and interpretation.	x			
	The cycle includes a date for planning improvement actions based on the data analysis.	x			
	The cycle includes a date for dissemination of results to the appropriate stakeholders.	x			

Graduate Academic Assessment Plan – MA in Classical Studies, Distance Learning Program

Component	Criterion	Rating			Comments
		Met	Partially Met	Not Met	
Measurement Tools	Measurement tools are described clearly and concisely.	x			
	Measurements are appropriate for the SLOs.	x			
	Methods and procedures reflect an appropriate balance of direct and indirect methods.	x			
	The report presents examples of at least one measurement tool.	x			
Assessment Oversight	Appropriate personnel (coordinator, committee, etc.) charged with assessment responsibilities are identified	x			