



**Final Annual Report**

**Tennessee Tech University**

**President**

**Provost**

**College of Interdisciplinary Studies**

**School of Interdisciplinary Studies**



**SoIS Mission Statement**

**Department/Unit Contact:** Steve Frye

**Mission/Vision/Goal Statement**

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies is a university-wide academic unit whose mission is to provide innovative, high quality educational opportunities in response to changing needs of the diverse population within TTU's service area and beyond.



**SoIS Goal 1: Critical Thinking**

**Define Goal**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to engage in critical thinking and leadership development.

**Intended Outcomes / Objectives**

- Interdisciplinary Studies majors will develop critical thinking skills, as measurable through the Senior Exit Exam.



**SoIS Goal 2: Integrated learning**

**Define Goal**

Develop a program of study that integrates learning from two academic emphasis areas, and demonstrates that integration through a senior-level capstone project.

**Intended Outcomes / Objectives**



- Each student will develop and complete an interdisciplinary program of study that draws from two academic areas.
- Each student will complete the Culminating Project course during his/her senior year.

### **SoIS Goal 3: Interdisciplinary Research Project**

#### **Define Goal**

Identify and research a topic from various perspectives, address significant problems that impact a global society, and communicate findings effectively.

#### **Intended Outcomes / Objectives**

- Each student will develop a research paper or project that serves to synthesize concepts from the students' two concentration areas.
- Each student will successfully complete the research paper or project report to an acceptable level, correctly utilizing appropriate academic sources.

### **Assessment: Senior Capstone Project Assessment Rubric**

**Goal/ Outcome/ Objective:** Goal 1, Goal 2 (outcome b), Goal 3 (outcomes a, b)

**Type of Tool:** Capstone Project

#### **Rationale**

The Senior Capstone course is required of all Interdisciplinary Studies majors. Each student must complete either a 6000 word research paper or a real-world project that integrates the two academic concentration areas.

Faculty members complete the rubric on each student that completes the course, entering a score based on the rubric. The scores are combined to get an overall score for each semester's cohort of students.

Data from the rubric is used to assess overall preparedness for the senior project, and student development in research question development, analysis, integration and synthesis of concentration areas, documentation, and critical thinking. Data is also used in program evaluation to assess areas of needed improvement. A score of 2.5 is adequate, 3.0 is considered acceptable, 3.5 advanced, and 4.0 stellar.

**Frequency of Assessment:** Per Semester



## Assessment: Senior Exit Exam

**Goal/ Outcome/ Objective:** Goal 1

**Type of Tool:** Exit Exam

### Rationale

The Senior Exit Exam is administered to every student who graduates from TTU, with the exception of non-traditional students. This assessment evaluates students in the area of critical thinking. Scores are aggregated by major and reported annually. The California Critical Thinking Test is a well-tested measure of critical thinking, and is accepted by the University as a whole. (It must be noted that the exception of Non-traditional student scores is a university policy and not one of the SOIS. The exemption leads to the exclusion of over 40% of our majors from the data. It s our goal to work toward the inclusion of all SOIS students.)

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies uses the Senor Exit Exam to evaluate majors in Critical Thinking. The goal is to have an increasing score in the Exam annually, and to meet or exceed the university average score.

**Frequency of Assessment:** Annually

## Results

**Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:** Goals, 1, 2, and 3

### Results

### Attachments

No items to display.

## Results - Senior Exit Exam 2016-17 data for I.S. Major

**Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:** Goal 1

### Results

The Senior Exit Exam (California Critical Thinking Test) is administered to every student who graduates from TTU, with the exception of non-traditional students. This assessment evaluates students in the area of critical thinking. Scores are aggregated by major and reported annually. The California Critical Thinking Test is a well-tested measure of critical thinking, and is accepted by the University as a whole. (It must be noted that the exception of Non-traditional student scores is a university policy and not one of the SOIS. The exemption leads to the exclusion of over 40% of our majors from the data. It is our goal to work toward the inclusion of all SOIS students.)



In 2017 data became available for individual majors, rather than just colleges. The School of Interdisciplinary Studies uses the Senior Exit Exam to evaluate majors in Critical Thinking. The goal is to have an increasing score in the Exam annually, and to meet or exceed the university average score. In 2016-17 the School of Interdisciplinary Studies average score exceeded 2015-2016, and exceeded the TTU University average.

	2015-2016	2016-2017
LIST	15.2 N=59	17.0 N=60
TTU AVG	16.9 N=1485	N/A
National Average	17.1	16.2

#### Attachments

No items to display.



#### Results - Senior Exit Exam 2016-2017 - Data for College

**Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:** Goals 1, 2, and 3

#### Results

The Senior Exit Exam (California Critical Thinking Test) is administered to every student who graduates from TTU, with the exception of non-traditional students. This assessment evaluates students in the area of critical thinking. Scores are aggregated by major and reported annually. The California Critical Thinking Test is a well-tested measure of critical thinking, and is accepted by the University as a whole. (It must be noted that the exception of Non-traditional student scores is a university policy and not one of the SOIS. The exemption leads to the exclusion of over 40% of our majors from the data. It is our goal to work toward the inclusion of all SOIS students.)

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies uses the Senior Exit Exam to evaluate majors in Critical Thinking. The goal is to have an increasing score in the Exam annually, and to meet or exceed the university average score. In 2015-16 the College of Interdisciplinary Studies average score exceeded 2014-2015, and exceeded the TTU University average.



	2013-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017	
COLLEGE	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*
Agriculture & Human Sciences	17.1	179	18.3	90	18.2	122	16.8	111	17.1	158
Arts & Sciences	17.6	320	17.4	333	17.8	324	17.5	304	16.2	403
Business	17.7	199	17.8	174	16.7	193	19.9	137	18.7	308
Education	17.8	304	17.3	178	16.8	357	16.3	300	16.8	337
Engineering	17.6	406	18.0	272	17.2	312	16.0	319	16.0	383
Interdisciplinary Studies	16.8	52	16.8	41	16.6	39	17.5	26	17.0	70
Nursing**	**		**		18.7	43	15.8	52	21.0	106
TTU Average	17.6	1551	17.6	1551	17.7	1410	16.9	1485	17.0	1767
CCTST National Average	≈ 16.8		≈ 16.8		≈ 17.1		≈ 17.1		≈ 16.2	

### Attachments

No items to display.



### Results: Senior Capstone Project Assessment Results - Spring 2017

**Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:** Goals 1, 2, and 3

#### Results

Faculty members complete the rubric on each student that completes the course, entering a score based on the rubric. The scores are combined to get an overall score for each semester's cohort of students.

Data from the rubric is used to assess overall preparedness for the senior project, and student development in research question development, analysis, integration and synthesis of concentration areas, documentation, and critical thinking. Data is also used in program evaluation to assess areas of needed improvement. A score of 2.5 is adequate, 3.0 is considered acceptable, 3.5 advanced, and 4.0 stellar.

Spring 2017



	Thesis/Problem Question	Information Seeking Selecting and Evaluating	Analysis	Synthesis	Documentation	Product Process	Critical thinking
Spring 2016	3.59	3.39	3.43	3.41	3.39	3.27	3.15
Spring 2017	3.65	3.43	3.25	3.51	3.20	3.24	3.29

### Attachments

No items to display.



### Results: Senior Capstone Project Assessment Rubric - Spring 2015

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: 1, 2, and 3

#### Results

Faculty members complete the rubric on each student that completes the course, entering a score for each area of the rubric. The scores are combined to get an overall score for each semester's cohort of students.

Data from the rubric is used to assess overall preparedness for the senior project, and student research question development, analysis, integration and synthesis of concentration areas, critical thinking. Data is also used in program evaluation to assess areas of needed improvement. A score of 3.0 is adequate, 3.0 is considered acceptable, 3.5 advanced, and 4.0 stellar.

Area	Thesis/Problem Question	Information Seeking Selecting and Evaluating	Analysis	Synthesis	Documentation	Product Process	Critical thinking
Average Score	3.36	3.36	3.17	3.22	3.15	3.24	3.29

### Attachments

No items to display.



## Results: Senior Capstone Project Assessment Rubric - Spring 2016

**Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:** Goals 1, 2, and 3

### Results

Faculty members complete the rubric on each student that completes the course, entering a score based on the rubric. The scores are combined to get an overall score for each semester's cohort of students.

Data from the rubric is used to assess overall preparedness for the senior project, and student development in research question development, analysis, integration and synthesis of concentration areas, documentation, and critical thinking. Data is also used in program evaluation to assess areas of needed improvement. A score of 2.5 is adequate, 3.0 is considered acceptable, 3.5 advanced, and 4.0 stellar.

Spring 2016

Area	Thesis/Problem Question	Information Seeking Selecting and Evaluating	Analysis	Synthesis	Documentation	Product Process	Critical Thinking
Average Score	3.59	3.39	3.43	3.41	3.39	3.27	3.15

### Attachments

No items to display.



## Results: Senior Exit Exam Results - 2015-2016

**Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:** Goal 1

### Results

The Senior Exit Exam (California Critical Thinking Test) is administered to every student who graduates from TTU, with the exception of non-traditional students. This assessment evaluates students in the area of critical thinking. Scores are aggregated by major and reported annually. The California Critical Thinking Test is a well-tested measure of critical thinking, and is accepted by the University as a whole. (It must be noted that the exception of Non-traditional student scores is a university policy and not one of the SOIS. The exemption leads to the exclusion of over 40% of our majors from



the data. It is our goal to work toward the inclusion of all SOIS students.)

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies uses the Senior Exit Exam to evaluate majors in Critical Thinking. The goal is to have an increasing score in the Exam annually, and to meet or exceed the university average score. In 2015-16 the College of Interdisciplinary Studies average score exceeded 2014-2015, and exceeded the TTU University average.

	2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016	
COLLEGE	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*
Agriculture & Human Sciences	18.0	170	17.1	179	18.3	90	18.2	122	16.8	111
Arts & Sciences	17.8	321	17.6	320	17.4	333	17.8	324	17.5	304
Business	18.1	193	17.7	199	17.8	174	16.7	193	19.9	137
Education	18.1	303	17.8	304	17.3	178	16.8	357	16.3	300
Engineering	17.8	248	17.6	406	18.0	272	17.2	312	16.0	319
Interdisciplinary Studies	17.4	57	16.8	52	16.8	41	16.6	39	17.5	26
Nursing**	**		**		17.6	57	18.7	43	15.8	52
TTU Average	17.4	1465	17.6	1551	17.7	1410	17.3	1411	16.9	1485
CCTST National Average	≈ 16.8		≈ 16.8		≈ 17.1		≈ 17.1		≈ 17.1	

### Attachments

No items to display.



### Results: Senior Exit Exam Results 2014-15

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Goal 1

### Results

The Senior Exit Exam (California Critical Thinking Test) is administered to every student wh





with the exception of non-traditional students. This assessment evaluates students in the area of critical thinking. Scores are aggregated by major and reported annually. The California Critical Thinking Test is a measure of critical thinking, and is accepted by the University as a whole. (It must be noted that the exemption of non-traditional student scores is a university policy and not one of the SOIS. The exemption of over 40% of our majors from the data. It is our goal to work toward the inclusion of all SOIS students.

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies uses the Senior Exit Exam to evaluate majors in Critical Thinking. The goal is to have an increasing score in the Exam annually, and to meet or exceed the university average. In 2015 the College of Interdisciplinary Studies average fell below the TTU University average.

COLLEGE	2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014	
	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*
Agriculture & Human Sciences	17.4	169	18.0	170	17.1	179	18.3	90
Arts & Sciences	17.4	300	17.8	321	17.6	320	17.4	333
Business	17.2	217	18.1	193	17.7	199	17.8	174
Education	17.6	341	18.1	303	17.8	304	17.3	178
Engineering	17.4	388	17.8	248	17.6	406	18.0	272
Interdisciplinary Studies	16.8	50	17.4	57	16.8	52	16.8	41
Nursing**	**		**		**		17.6	57
TTU Average	17.4	1465	17.9	1421	17.6	1551	17.7	1410
CCTST National Average	~ 16.8		~ 16.8		~ 16.8		~ 17.1	

## Attachments

 Senior Exit Exam Results - 2010-2015

 Senior Exit Exam - 2010-2015



## Senior Capstone Project Assessment Rubric - Fall 2015

**Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:**

### Results

Faculty members complete the rubric on each student that completes the course, entering a score based on the rubric. The scores are combined to get an overall score for each semester's cohort of students.

Data from the rubric is used to assess overall preparedness for the senior project, and student development in research question development, analysis, integration and



synthesis of concentration areas, documentation, and critical thinking. Data is also used in program evaluation to assess areas of needed improvement. A score of 2.5 is adequate, 3.0 is considered acceptable, 3.5 advanced, and 4.0 stellar.

Fall 2015 Data:

Area	Thesis/Problem Question	Information Seeking Selecting and Evaluating	Analysis	Synthesis	Documentation	Product Process	Critical thinking
Average Score	3.59	3.43	3.32	3.38	3.26	3.15	3.26

### Attachments

No items to display.