

**Institutional Effectiveness
2022-2023**

Program: English BA

College and Department: College of Arts & Sciences, Department of English

Contact: Linda Null

Mission:

Mission: The English BA curriculum is designed to improve students' skills in writing, critical reading, and thinking; to enrich their cultural experience; and to prepare them for all professions requiring a high level of expression, imagination, and intellectual activity, including creative writing, editing, teaching, law, politics, and management.

Attach Curriculum Map (Educational Programs Only): *See Appendix 1.

SLO 1: CAPACITY TO WRITE CLEARLY

Define Outcome:

Students graduating with a degree in English will employ their capacity to write clearly with 85% of students scoring "Very Good" or above in each relevant rubric category of the ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium research paper.

Assessment Methods:

- **Relevant rubric categories:**
 - The document presented a clear thesis statement.
 - The document was well organized with main points related to the thesis.
 - The writer developed the main points using effective rhetorical strategies.
 - The topic was appropriate for the designated audience, and specific terms were explained.
 - Sources used were appropriate to the purpose of the writing and were managed well.
 - Format features appropriately addressed the prompt.
 - The writing demonstrated correct diction, syntax, usage, grammar, and mechanics.
 - Tone and style were appropriate for the audience.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):

- ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium Rubric:
 - 85% of students will score "Very Good" or above in each relevant rubric category.

Results and Analysis:

In Spring 2023, the rubric which was described in the Assessment Methods area of this report was used for the first time to evaluate students' writing in ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium.

There were 8 categories to be evaluated in the rubric. Twelve students submitted essays. Ninety-two % of the students scored "Excellent" or "Very Good" in four of the categories. The category with the lowest number of students scoring "Excellent" was "Correct diction, syntax, usage, etc." This category and the category "Sources Appropriate" were the areas with the highest number of students not scoring "Excellent" or "Very Good."

The rubric with results for both the writing and the oral evaluation is attached. *See Appendix 2.

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

These results will be shared with the English BA Curriculum Committee to determine if changes should be made in content/evaluation of existing courses or if we need to modify curriculum.

SLO 2: CAPACITY TO SPEAK CLEARLY**Define Outcome:**

Students graduating with a degree in English will employ their capacity to speak clearly with 85% of students scoring "Very Good" or above in each relevant rubric category of the ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium Oral Presentation.

Assessment Methods: *See Appendix 3.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):

85% of students will score "Very Good" or above in each relevant rubric category

Results and Analysis:

The attached document contains the results of both the oral and the written assessments in ENGL 4995. Twelve students submitted written assignments; eleven students gave oral presentations.

We met the threshold of at least 85% of participants scoring "Very Good" or above in each category of evaluation. The area where we need to place most effort is in helping students to improve is to avoid "fillers" in their oral presentations.

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

These results will be shared with the English BA Curriculum Committee. The committee will provide suggestions for further improvement.

The outside reviewer noted that the department "seems to have been effective in providing opportunities for students to develop their oral communication skills." She suggested that the "department should shift focus to assessing assessing one or more of the other learning outcomes." Hence, we developed the rubric for assessing writing in ENGL 4995 and used it for the first time in Spring 2023. The

SLO 3: READ WIDELY AND PERCEPTIVELY

Define Outcome:

Students graduating with a degree in English will read widely and perceptively, as demonstrated by 80% of students scoring at or above the national average on the ETS English Major Field Test.

Assessment Methods:

English Major Field Test taken during students' last semester in the English BA program.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):

The ETS English Major Field Test: 80% of composite scores at or above the national average.

Results and Analysis:

In Fall 2022, only two students took the ETS English Major Field Test. ETS provided only limited information on the results of these students.

In Spring 2023, five students took the field test. the results for Spring 2023 are below:

	TTU Mean	National Mean
1 British Literature Pre-1660	48	49.3
2 British Literature 1660-1900	43	40.6
3 American Literature to 1900	52	48.8
4 British and American Literature 1901-1945	46	46.8
5 Literature in English Since 1945	57	50.4
6 Literary History	51	45.6
7 Identification	35	40.1

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

In Spring 2023, TTU majors scored above the national mean in four of the eight categories of evaluation (50%). The goal was 80%. In Literary Theory, TTU English majors scored only .3 below the national mean. In the category of "identification," English majors had their lowest score (35 with 40.1 as the national mean.)

The English BA Curriculum Committee should discuss these results, but it appears that the department should place more stress on definition of terms.

SLO 4: CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS**Define Outcome:**

Students graduating with a degree in English will apply their ability to think critically with 80% of students performing at or above the national average on the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST).

Assessment Methods:

The California Critical Thinking Skills Test assesses critical thinking skills, including analysis and interpretation sub-scores, which relate to the English major student learning outcomes.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):

80% of students will perform at or above the national average on the CCTST.

Results and Analysis:

On the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST) the mean score for English majors for 2022-2023 was 78.0. Ten English majors took the exam. This score was above the TTU mean of 74.3 and the national mean of 73.3.

English majors almost always score above the national mean on the CCTST:

Year	English Majors	TTU Mean	National Mean
2019-20	79.0	75.0	74.0
2020-21	76.0	74.5	74.0
2021-22	74.3	75.2	73.3

All English majors take four literature courses in their core curriculum. These courses stress critical thinking skills as part of literary analysis. Our majors are provided an abundance of opportunities to develop their critical thinking skills in these and other literature courses.

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

These results indicate that the English Department should continue to emphasize literary analysis in its curriculum.

SLO 5: INTERCULTURAL KNOWLEDGE

Define Outcome:

Students graduating with a degree in English will be able to articulate how intercultural factors shape the creation of texts with 85% of students scoring "Very Good" or above in the "Intercultural Knowledge" categories for the ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium Research an

Assessment Methods:

- From the ENGL 4995 Writing Rubric:
 - The writing articulates how intersectional cultural rules and biases shape the creation of texts.
 - From the ENGL 4995 Oral Presentation Rubric:
 - Student demonstrates knowledge of intercultural factors and ways they shape the creation of texts.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):

85% of students will score "Very Good" or above in the relevant rubric category.

Results and Analysis:

In Spring 2023, the English Department established this new SLO. We will assess this SLO using the Writing Rubric in ENGL 4995. A new category will be added to the rubric: "Student demonstrates knowledge of intercultural factors and ways they shape the creation of texts."

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium is offered only in the spring semester. In Spring 2023 when this SLO was developed, the instructor had already designed the course. When ENGL 4995 is offered again, this SLO will be included on the writing rubric and addressed in course content.

Summative Evaluation:

English majors as a group performed above the thresholds set.

Assessment Plan Changes:

Some of the thresholds should be revised in consideration of the way that data are reported. For example, we do not have individual scores on the CCTST, so we should not use a threshold that depends on having separate scores for each English major who took the test.

Appendix 1: Curriculum Map, English BA

Learning Outcomes		Required Courses					
	3000 Introduction to English Methods & Research	3810 British Literature I	3820 British Literature II	3910 American Literature I	3920 American Literature II	4121 Shakespeare	4995 Senior Colloquium
Demonstrate the capacity to write clearly	I	R	R	R	R	R	M, A
Demonstrate the ability to speak clearly	I	R	R	R	R	R	M,A
Demonstrate the ability to think critically	I	R	R	R	R	R	M
Read widely and perceptively.	I	R	R	R	R	R	M, A
Demonstrate how intercultural factors shape the creation of texts.	I	R	R	R	R	R	M, A

Key:

“I” Students are introduced to the outcome.

“R” The outcome is reinforced and students are afforded opportunities to practice.

“M” Students have had sufficient practice and can now demonstrate mastery.

“A” Evidence might be collected and evaluated for program-level assessment.

Appendix 2: ENGL 4995 oral pres results 23 spring

ENGL 4995: Senior Colloquium								
Spring 2023: Why Read & Write?								
Professor: Tony Baker								
Assessment of Students' Oral Presentations in Capstone Course								ORAL
<i>(5) excellent; (4) very good; (3) good; (2) fair; (1) poor</i>								
RESULTS		ORAL						
spring 2023	n=12							
Trait	Mean score	5) excellent	4) very good	3) good	2) fair	1) poor	0) fail	n = 12
1. clear thesis statement	4.50	10	1				1	12
2. well-organized main points	4.42	9	2				1	12
3. effective rhetorical strategies	4.42	9	2				1	12
4. sources appropriate	4.33	9	1	1			1	12
5. terms explained; topic appropriate	4.42	10		1			1	12
6. visible, easily readable visual aid	4.50	10	1				1	12
7. correct diction, syntax, usage, etc.	4.42	9	2				1	12
8. few fillers; extemporaneous style	4.17	7	3	1			1	12
9. dynamics, eye contact	4.25	8	2	1			1	12
10. welcoming	4.58	11					1	12
avg. per trait	4.40							

Appendix 2: ENGL 4995 oral pres results 23 spring, cont.

Assessment of Students' Written Presentations in Capstone Course								WRITTEN
(5) excellent; (4) very good; (3) good; (2) fair; (1) poor								
RESULTS			WRITTEN					
spring 2023	n=12							
Trait	Mean score	5) excellent	4) very good	3) good	2) fair	1) poor	0) fail	n = 12
1. clear thesis statement	4.58	9	2		1			12
2. well-organized main points	4.58	9	2		1			12
3. effective rhetorical strategies	4.25	8	2		1	1		12
4. sources appropriate	4.17	7	2	2		1		12
5. terms explained; topic appropriate	4.67	9	2	1				12
6. formal/format features appropriate	4.42	8	3			1		12
7. correct diction, syntax, usage, etc.	4.00	4	5	2	1			12
8. tone and style appropriate	4.25	6	4	1	1			12
avg. per trait	4.36							

Appendix 3: ENGL 4995 writing assessment rubric rev jan 2023

Rubric for Assessing Students' Writing in ENGL 4995

Name: _____

Organization/Content	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
The writing presented a clear thesis statement.					
The writing was well organized with main points related to the thesis.					
The writing developed the main points using effective rhetorical strategies.					
Sources used were appropriate to the purpose of the writing and were managed well.					
Technical/audience specific terms were explained; the topic was appropriate for the designated audience.					
Formal/format features appropriately addressed the prompt.					

Appendix 3: ENGL 4995 writing assessment rubric rev jan 2023, cont.

Intercultural

Knowledge	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
The writing articulates how intersectional cultural rules and biases shape the creation of texts.					

Prose Quality

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
The writing used correct diction, syntax, usage, grammar, and mechanics					
The tone and style were appropriate for the audience.					