

## ASSESSMENT REPORT 2015-2016

**Software Systems Design MS**  
(Instructional Degree Program)

**MSDS**  
(Degree Level)

### **Program Mission:**

The general mission of the SSD Program in the Department of Media Arts & Technology is to educate students in the technical skills, theoretical underpinnings, and the sociocultural context for the field of software development. SSD seeks to inspire students to work creatively and collaboratively towards the goal of contributing to our own communities and to innovate and excel in the software landscape. Collaboration, experimentation and a drive to push the boundaries of current technology platforms.

### **Student Learning Outcome 1:**

Students will demonstrate the ability to write programs across a variety of language types, showing an understanding of syntax, logic, and objected oriented programming.

### **NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1**

- Effective Use of Technology

### **First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:**

SSD 600 Principles of Software Development. 80% of students should be able to attain a grade of B or better on the midterm project covering multiple programming languages and written test.

### **Summary of Data:**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	5	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	5	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

### **Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:**

Our SSD Masters students are successfully meeting the program's criterion for language proficiency (80%). We also tested the introduction of hardware technological proficiency

this semester and found success among students being able to switch technological mastery not only between languages but between platforms. We will continue this hybrid technological assessment in the future.

**Student Learning Outcome 2:**

Students will demonstrate their ability to visually present research to an audience.

**NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2**

- Effective Communication Skills

**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:**

By end of the first academic year, students will deliver a qualifying Oral Exam to the faculty. Successful competition of the oral exam enables them to continue into the second year of the program. 95% of students should be able to pass this oral exam.

**Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:**

SSD Graduate students met program criterion for successfully presenting preliminary research and a plan for their field project before a committee. Practice presentations outside and in class with faculty is helping to shape skills required for this exam. We plan to implement more opportunities to practice research and presentation within the curriculum for each course going forward.

**Student Learning Outcome 3:**

Students will be able to demonstrate the results of their research to an audience.

**NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3**

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills

### **First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:**

Students will use an Oral Examination to defend their field project or thesis to their graduate faculty committee. 80% of students should be able to pass this oral exam.

#### **Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	4	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	4	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

### **Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:**

**SSD Masters students are successfully completing the program with well presented and well researched field projects, adding to their portfolio for post-graduation employment.**