

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2015-2016

English Graduate

(Instructional Degree Program)

M.A.

(Degree Level)

Program Mission:

The mission of the Department of English and Philosophy is to provide quality education leading to intellectual growth and professional success. In regards to “intellectual growth,” the program is committed to preserving, interpreting, and promoting the unique multicultural heritage of the region, and achieves this both the range of classes offered and the kind of unique theses our students complete, many of which are focused on the literary, creative, and composition aspects of the Southwest. In regards to “professional success,” the graduate program serves regional secondary school teachers, prospective community college teachers, students who plan to enter PhD programs, and students who seek stronger credentials in English for careers in journalism, publication, and professional writing. Each year, graduate assistantships are awarded competitively to full-time students. Along with tutoring in the Writing Center, graduate assistants undertake extensive teacher training in composition and gain considerable experience as composition instructors.

Student Learning Outcome 1:

Students will produce high-quality written work demonstrating their interpretative and analytical skills through mastery of relevant and current theoretical concepts.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Learning Outcome #1 is assessed by evaluation of a student’s written work at three key points in their academic career: their qualifying exam, their thesis proposal, and their thesis. The two English faculty department members, utilizing a form, score these written works on a scale of 1-5 based on Quality of Written Work. These three scores are averaged, and a score of 3.5 or higher is considered success. Specifically, 100% of English MA graduates will average a 3.5 or higher for “Quality of Written Work.”

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	8	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	9	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	88.9%

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Learning Outcome #1 is further assessed by evaluation of a student’s written work at three key points in their academic career: their qualifying exam, their thesis proposal, and their thesis. The two English faculty department members on the student’s committee will, utilizing a form, score these written works on a scale of 1-5 based on Mastery of Relevant and Current Theoretical Concepts. These three scores are averaged, and a score of 3.5 or higher is considered success. Specifically, 100% of English MA graduates will average a 3.5 or higher for “Mastery Relevant and Current Theoretical Concepts.”

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	9	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	9	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:

Students entering the MA English Program often need help with their writing skills, and the department works closely with such students throughout their degree. 99% of the time, the student’s work is proficient and meets our learning outcome when their thesis is evaluated at the oral defense. In this instance, it was discovered at an oral defense that a student’s thesis needed more work. As a result, faculty have been encouraged to delay oral defenses until a student’s thesis or portfolio is at the desired level of proficiency.

Student Learning Outcome 2:

Students will display mastery of the subject and form of their chosen concentration area (Literature, Creative Writing, or Linguistics and Composition).

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2**First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:**

Learning Outcome #2 is assessed by evaluation of a student’s work at four key points in their academic career: their qualifying exam, their thesis proposal, their thesis defense, and their thesis. The two English faculty department members on the student’s committee will, utilizing a form, score these works on a scale of 1-5 based on Mastery of the Subject and Form. These four scores are averaged, and a score of 3.5 or higher is

considered success. Specifically, 100% of English MA graduates will average a 3.5 or higher for “Mastery of the Subject and Form.”

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	9	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	9	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:

Since all our graduating students met the desired outcomes, the graduate program is functioning very effectively.

Student Learning Outcome 3:

Students will be able to conduct, synthesize, interpret, document, and present original academic research.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

Learning Outcome #3 is assessed by evaluation of a student’s written work at three key points in their academic career: their qualifying exam, their thesis proposal, and their thesis. The two English faculty department members on the student’s committee will, utilizing a form, score these written works on a scale of 1-5 based on “Ability to Conduct, Synthesize, Interpret, and Document Research.” These three scores are averaged, and a score of 3.5 or higher is considered success. Specifically, 100% of English MA graduates will average a 3.5 or higher for “Ability to Conduct, Synthesize, Interpret, and Document Research.”

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	9	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	9	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

Learning Outcome #3 is further assessed by evaluation of a student's written work at

three key points in their academic career: their qualifying exam, their thesis proposal, and their thesis. The two English faculty department members, utilizing a form, score these written works on a scale of 1-5 based on “Originality of Research or Creative Project.” These three scores are averaged, and a score of 3.5 or higher is considered success. Specifically, 100% of English MA graduates will average a 3.5 or higher for “Originality of Research or Creative Project.”

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	9	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	9	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:

Once again, since all the students met the learning outcomes, the graduate program is effectively maintaining its goals.

Utilization of Results:

As mentioned above, due to the difficulties that some MA English students have with their writing, the graduate faculty in English are working more closely with students on the formal writing in their theses and delaying the scheduling of oral defenses until the student’s thesis or portfolio shows proficiency and meets our desired outcomes.

At some point in the future, the MA English Program will investigate ways to measure the progress of student writing from the first to the last semester.