

## ASSESSMENT REPORT 2015-2016

**Special Education Graduate**  
(Instructional Degree Program)

**M.A.**  
(Degree Level)

### **Program Mission:**

The School of Education at NMHU carries forward a long-standing tradition of teacher education that dates back to 1893. We are committed to providing experiences and knowledge to students seeking a degree or licensure in education. The School of Education also promotes continuous personal and professional scholarly development activities and graduate work to achieve lifelong learning. We subscribe to the philosophy that views optimal living as a function of the personal ability to pursue a meaningful life in work, leisure and home, while respecting, tolerating and valuing all people.

### **Special Education Mission and Vision** Mission

The NMHU Special Education Department prepares candidates to work successfully with diverse individuals with exceptional needs by applying evidence-based practices in educational and work settings.

### Vision

The NMHU Special Education Department will develop highly qualified special education professionals who make a positive difference in the lives of students with exceptionalities and their families.

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

Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills

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

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills

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

Assessment material. MA written comprehensive exam. Criterion for success.  $\geq 70\%$

**Summary of Data:**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	22	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	22	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

**Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:**

Assessment material. MA orals rating form. Criterion for success.  $\leq 3$  on "Command of Subject Matter"

**Summary of Data:**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	21	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	2
Total Number of Students Assessed:	23	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	91%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:** 100% of the program completers met the criterion for the first means of assessment (a score of greater than or equal to 70% on the written comprehensive exam) while 91% met the criterion on the second means of assessment ("Command of Subject Matter" from the MA orals rating form). These high percentages show that our program is effectively teaching content. We have had discussions within the Special Education Department about raising the passing score on the written comprehensive exam from 70% to 80%, a passing score that would be more in-line with other graduate programs in the SOE and would set a higher bar for the level of mastery we expect at the MA level.

**Student Learning Outcome 2:**

Effective Communication Skills

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

- Effective Communication Skills

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

Assessment material. Gned 610 literature review rubric score. Criterion for success.  $\geq 8/10$

#### **Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	17	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	17	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

### **Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:**

Assessment material. MA orals rating form. Criterion for success.  $\leq 3$  on "Command of English"

#### **Summary of Data:**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	23	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	23	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:** 100% of the program completers met the criterion for each of the two means of assessment for Outcomes 2, showing that our graduates have demonstrated mastery of effective communication skills. Data were missing for some students for the first means of assessment (the gned 610 literature review grade) due to some difficulty in getting an assignment grade from a course (the instructor must provide this information). It would be a good idea to set up a way for gned 610 instructors to provide this information for outcomes assessment purposes since other programs in the SOE also use the literature review grade as a means of assessment in their own outcomes assessment plans.

### **Student Learning Outcome 3:**

Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

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

- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

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

Assessment material. Masters orals rating form. Criterion for success.  $\leq 3$  on “Application of subject matter to solution of problems”

#### **Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	21	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	2
Total Number of Students Assessed:	23	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	91%

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

Assessment Material. Masters orals rating form. Criterion for success.  $\leq 3$  on “Use of relevant factors in arriving at conclusions”

#### **Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	22	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	23	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	96%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:** 91% of the program completers met the criterion for the first means of assessment (“Application of subject matter to the solution of problems” from the MA orals rating form) and 96% met the criterion for the second means of assessment (“Use of relevant factors in arriving at conclusions” from the MA orals rating form). As has been the case in the previous several years, these two assessments indicate that the majority of the graduates demonstrated mastery of critical and reflective thinking skills during their masters oral exam.

### **Student Learning Outcome 4:**

Effective Use of Technology

### **NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 4**

- Effective Use of Technology

#### **First Means of Assessment for Outcome 4:**

Assessment material. Masters orals rating for. Criterion for success.  $\leq 3$  on "PowerPoint rating"

#### **Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	12	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	2
Total Number of Students Assessed:	14	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	86%

#### **Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 4:**

Assessment material. GNED 605 grade. Criterion for success. "B" or higher in gned 605

#### **Summary of Data**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	23	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	23	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 4:** 86% of the program completers met the criterion for the first means of assessment (a rating of 3 or higher on their PowerPoint presentation during the MA oral exam) and 100% of the program completers met the criterion on the second means of assessment (a "B" or higher in gned 605, Statistics for Educators, which requires the use of statistics software), which shows that the majority of the graduates demonstrated mastery of use of technology. Data were collected on

the first means of assessment for the first time during 2015-2016, and while there were 23 program completers, data on the first means of assessment were recorded on the orals rating form for only 14 of them, which requires manually adding a “use of technology” rating pending the revision of the MA orals rating form. Special Education faculty will make a point of more consistently adding the “technology” rating to the orals rating form until the form has been revised to reflect this additional rating category.