

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2016-2017

Software Systems Design MS
(Instructional Degree Program)

MSSD
(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 object 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:	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 1:

Only one SSD Masters student was eligible for this course. This student successfully met the program's criterion for programming language proficiency, including the ability to switch languages and hardware systems with each project given.

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:

We had several new graduate students in SSD this year, but they all started in Spring. Therefore, no one was eligible for the qualifying oral examination.

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:	0	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	0	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	N/A

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:

No SSD Masters students opted to take their oral exams this year.

Utilization of Results:

These results tell us that our current crop of students all chose to extend their field projects into another semester, and our incoming students are being properly trained on how to deliver a presentation.

Changes to Program Based on Results:

We have already begun to modify the SSD 600 curriculum in Fall '17 to begin demonstrating to students the time and effort required by a field project so that they can complete on time. The new SSD 600 curriculum requires 3 mini field project proof of concepts with accompanying papers. Each project requires a schedule to be created by the student, so that with 3 iterations of the process, they can begin to see how to best schedule their time between research, coding, and testing to deliver a project on time.

Retention Strategies:

There is not currently a retention issue, only a completion in a timely manner issue, which we are addressing above.