

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2017-2018

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 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:	3	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	3	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:

All three students successfully met the program's criterion for programming language proficiency, including the ability to switch languages and hardware systems with each project given. We have also added a presentation component to this course to give students more practice for their qualifying oral exams, and that proved to be fruitful. Writing skills in this class were poor, however so grads have been advised about the writing center and some leveling courses they should take.

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 completion 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:	3	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	3	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:

Everyone did well on their qualifying exam. The same students were given multiple opportunities to present with feedback from their peers and advisors in 600 class and this made the level of presentations this year go above and beyond those of previous years.

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:	2	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	3	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	66%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:

Two out of three students passed their oral examination defending their field project. The student who did not pass was given feedback prior to their examination and did not incorporate all of it, nor did they choose to redo the presentation when given the opportunity. This student did not go through the new required battery of presentations in 600 and we have made this change to 600 to help all future students be better prepared for their final defense of their field project.

Utilization of Results:

These results tell us that our current plan of giving a larger battery of presentations before the qualifying presentations is working. However, our classes are at present too similar presentation curriculum strategy and will allow students to have a larger peer group.

Changes to Program Based on Results:

For this semester, we are substituting SSD 600 for MART 600 for reasons stated in the utilization.

Retention Strategies:

There is not currently a retention issue. We are trying to work with the student who did not pass their oral exam and our new MSSD students are progressing through their Field Project work at the desired pace.