

ASSESSMENT REPORT
Spring 2021 – Fall 2023

Software Systems Design
(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:

BSSD 6000 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:

We accepted many new students, but only one or two were able to come each semester such that it worked out where students still had to take this class in a small or singular cohort. In order to give some sense of camaraderie, we invited former graduates to come speak about their experience creating a field project. This was a helpful addition and will be continued regardless of class size.

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:	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:

Students are well-prepared for the presentation aspect of this due to their experiences in BSSD 6000, but we are still exploring how best to motivate students to research and ideate multiple avenues of research here so they are even better prepared for beginning their field project in their next semester. We will start introducing more preparatory meetings to discuss this and have considered meetings among the cohort to brainstorm in a group if the cohorts begin to grow more.

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
- Effective Communication 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:

For the most part our students are well prepared and practiced before their presentations. We did have some issues with people changing their projects multiple times after beginning different ideas and having to scale back their final ideas as a result of the lost time. We believe the new changes around ideation and facilitated cohort brainstorming mentioned in interpretation of SLO 2 above will help alleviate this task switching. This is not the first time it has happened, but the first time it has occurred with such little time remaining for the student.