

The College of New Jersey
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of World Languages and Cultures
Assessment Plan Overview
January 26, 2015

Please note: This is the revised plan which was approved by the Department of World Languages and Cultures and then approved by the HSS Assessment Committee on February 11, 2015.

Introduction

The Department of World Languages and Cultures aspires to prepare our students to respond to the changing linguistic and cultural needs of society; to create thoughtful citizens of a multicultural and increasingly global world; to foster in our students an understanding of and an appreciation for the students' own culture and other cultures; and to develop students with the capacity to facilitate cross-cultural interaction.

Mission Statement

The Department of World Languages and Cultures is a culturally and intellectually diverse and welcoming community of faculty, staff, students, and alumni who value knowledge, multicultural awareness and the free and responsible exchange of ideas. Through the exercise of analytical rigor in our different language and culture disciplines we and our students: critically interpret language and symbols; thoroughly examine cultural artifacts and discourses; and seek to understand global, cultural, political, and historical perspectives.

Working with our faculty, our students learn how to read and think analytically in English and in the target languages, communicate effectively in speech and writing in both English and the target language, work with diverse partners, and participate fully in culturally diverse experiences. The mission of the Department of World Languages and Cultures is to help students acquire linguistic and cultural skills to communicate successfully in a language other than English, prepare students to appreciate linguistic and cultural diversity, and motivate them to continue, after graduation, for lifelong learning in the context of a global society in the 21st century. The Department of World Languages and Cultures recognizes and follows in all its courses the National Foreign Language Standards set forth by ACTFL.

Assessment Plan

The Department of World Languages and Cultures is assessing student outcomes by assessing student performance according to the National Foreign Language Standards as described below.

1. Student will be able to communicate in Spanish (National Foreign Language Standard 1)
Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- a) Engage in conversation, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotion, and exchange opinions;
- b) Understand and interpret written and spoken language in a variety of topics;
- c) Present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

2. Students will demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of Hispanic cultures (*National Foreign Language Standard 2*)

Students will:

- a) Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of Hispanic cultures;
- b) Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of Hispanic cultures.

3. Students will complete research in literature, cultural studies and linguistics in Spanish. (*National Foreign Language Standard 3*)

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- a) Reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the Spanish language;
- b) Acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures.

4. Students will develop insights into the nature of language and culture. (*National Foreign Language Standard 4*)

Students will demonstrate the understanding of:

- a) The nature of language by making comparisons between Spanish and English;
- b) The concept of culture through comparisons of American and Hispanic cultures.

5. Students will participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world. (*National Foreign Language Standard 5*)

Students will:

- a) Use Spanish both within and beyond The College of New Jersey;
- b) Show evidence of becoming life long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

Notes:

1. The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) is the nationally recognized test for evaluating oral proficiency in a world language. Four of the Spanish faculty were trained as testers. Students are given an entrance and exit exam in 203 and the data is recorded.

2. Assessment of Spanish/Secondary Education majors began with our first NCATE report (the national accrediting body for certifying teaching programs) in Spring, 2007. Our goal has been to move towards evaluating all Spanish majors through assessments in required courses.

3. With the exception of the ACTFL OPI and the Praxis exam, the department has already established rubrics to assess student proficiencies.

Assessment Plan

Assessment	NS#	When	Status
Advisory ACTFL OPI	1a	SPA 203	Annually (all Spanish students)
Official ACTFL OPI	1a	SPA 490	Annually (Spanish/Education majors)
Official Praxis Exam	1b 2ab	Graduation Graduation	Every two years beginning 2014-2015 (Spanish/Education majors)
Term paper (Culture)	1c 2ab 4b	SPA 303/304 SPA 303/304	Every two years beginning 2014-2015 (all Spanish students)
Linguistic Journal	3a 4a	SPA 215 (Linguistics) SPA 215 (Language Comparisons)	Annually (all Spanish students)
Cultural journals when studying abroad	3b 4b 5ab	SPA 391 SPA 391 SPA 391	Every two years beginning 2014-2015 (all Spanish students)

Every sixth year, the Department of World Languages and Cultures will submit a summarized version of the NCATE report which assesses the Spanish/Secondary Education majors in great detail. Although this report only assesses a subgroup of our majors, the greater detail of this assessment will be of benefit to the entire program.