

2022 ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENT PLAN

Learning Objectives for the English Liberal Arts and English Secondary Education Majors

Upon completion of the English Liberal Arts and English Secondary Education majors,

1. students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with a range of critical, generic, and literary traditions (including recent theoretical approaches) that shape – and are shaped by – literary discourses and texts of particular periods or movements.
2. students will be able to describe the effects of social constructions of identity on a particular literary text and on current debates over aesthetic value, universality, and canonicity.
3. students will be able to identify historically specific elements relevant to a particular text.
4. students will be able to read a literary work and characterize its main aesthetic, structural, and rhetorical strategies in an argumentative, thesis-driven essay or in a writing workshop.
5. students will be able to write a substantial essay of literary scholarship that is theoretically informed and engages with current research and criticism in relevant fields of study, asserting their own critical voice in ongoing dialogues and debates.
6. [for education majors only] students will be able to analyze a written or spoken text linguistically and describe its use of language.
7. students will be able to write in multiple modalities (e.g., academic papers, social media, newspapers, business communications), in different genres (e.g., scholarly essay, blog, press release, readers' report, book review, business memo), for different audiences (e.g., scholarly, general, business).

The focus of assessment in 2022-2023 will be on learning outcome #2 as it relates closely to diversity, equity, and inclusion, a priority in the English department's most recent strategic plan. LIT 101 instructors will identify relevant assignments in the course and evaluate them using a standardized rubric in order to understand better how well we are preparing our students in matters of DEI.

The focus of assessment in 2023-2024 and again four years later in 2026-2027 will be on academic writing. In 2023-2024, the assessment will be conducted on assignments from a required first-year course (LIT 102), and in 2026-2027, on assignments from our senior capstone (LIT 499). While not formally a longitudinal study, the four-year gap will mean that many of the same students may be assessed for related learning objectives (4 and 5) each time, providing evidence for the writing progress that our students make in our curriculum.

Learning Objective 7 is a new learning goal for the department, adopted in the wake of our new strategic plan. Over the next five years, we will be piloting ways to accomplish this new learning objective in designated courses of various levels and kinds. We will then assess it for the first time in 2025-2027 before finalizing by what mechanism(s) the objective will be formally incorporated into our curriculum – whether by adding a new requirement to the curriculum or by

incorporating the kinds of writing addressed in Learning Objective 7 into courses already required.

All these assessments are specific to the learning objectives of the English Liberal Arts and English Secondary Education majors, but additional, annual assessments will be required for the continuing accreditation of the English Secondary Education programs.

Academic Year	Objective(s) Assessed	Assessment Method	Locus of Assessment
2022-2023	2	Course faculty will assess an appropriate student assignment in their own classes using a rubric specific to the learning objective.	LIT 101
2023-2024	4	A faculty panel will assess a sample of student writing assignments using a rubric specific to the learning objective.	LIT 102
2024-2025	6	Course faculty will assess an appropriate student assignment in their own classes using a rubric specific to the learning objective.	LNG 201 and 202
	7		designated LIT courses
2025-2026	1, 3	Course faculty will assess an appropriate student assignment in their own classes using a rubric specific to the learning objective(s).	LIT courses designated as “literary history”
	7		designated LIT courses
2026-2027	4-5	A faculty panel will assess a sample of student writing assignments using the same rubric as was used in 2023-2024 with additions specific to Learning Objective 5.	LIT 499