

The College of New Jersey
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of World Languages and Cultures
Proposal for Annual Learning Outcomes Assessment
November, 2020

Introduction

The World Languages and Linguistics major builds on the College's existing strengths in linguistics and teaching of a wide variety of world languages to offer students a strong grounding in linguistics coupled with in-depth study of a world language. The new major is housed in the Department of World Languages and Cultures. However, there are many linguists in the English Department and many of the linguistics courses are offered in that department as well.

Mission Statement

As part of its Mission, The College of New Jersey commits itself to fostering a "diverse community of learners" who "seek to sustain and advance the communities in which they live." These ideals are reflected in the Mission of the Department of World Languages and Cultures and are central to the World Languages and Linguistics major. The program in World Languages and Linguistics (WLL) supports the Mission of the College and the Departments of World Languages and Cultures and English by providing students with the analytic tools, knowledge and experiences to critically interpret language and symbols; thoroughly examine linguistic artifacts and discourses; and seek to understand global, cultural, political, and historical perspectives. 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 languages, work with diverse partners, and participate fully in linguistically diverse experiences. Majors in WLL follow a developmental arc that (1) demonstrates a foundational knowledge in theoretical, historical, empirical and applied linguistics; (2) demonstrates oral and written proficiency in at least one World Language other than English, including French, Italian, Japanese, or Spanish; (3) synthesizes and expands their knowledge and understanding of linguistic and cultural diversity on a global scale; and (4) applies their knowledge in a final research project.

Assessment Plan

Assessment One - Linguistic Theory

All WLL students must take one course in linguistic theory. This is typically the first course taken. Faculty have completed the creation of a rubric to evaluate the students' fundamental knowledge about linguistic theory. This rubric will be used in all three of the foundation courses in linguistic theory as part of the final evaluation.

LNG 201/Introduction to the English Language

WLC 215/Introduction to Linguistics

ANT 213 Language and Culture: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology

Given that this is generally the first course taken, we will begin to collect data for this outcome during the Fall, 2020-Spring, 2021 AY. After this academic year, we will continue to collect data on an annual basis.

Assessment Two - Historical Linguistics

All WLL students must take one course in Historical Linguistics. This is typically the second course taken. Faculty are currently working on one rubric to evaluate the students' fundamental knowledge about historical linguistics. This rubric would be used in all three of the foundation courses in linguistic theory:

LNG 202/Structure and History of the English Language

WLC 321/Introduction to Historical Linguistics

WLC 220/Introduction to Romance Linguistics

We will begin to collect data for this learning outcome during the Fall, 2021-Spring, 2022 AY. After this academic year, we will continue to collect data on an annual basis.

Assessment Three – Second Language Acquisition Theory

All WLL students must take WLC390 (Second Language Acquisition and Related Methodologies.) This is typically taken during the junior year. The faculty members will create a rubric and all WLL majors will be evaluated. We will begin to collect this data when the first cohort begins to take this course (AY 2022-2023.) After this academic year, we will continue to collect data on an annual basis.

Assessment Four – Language Proficiency

WLL Students may elect to study French, Italian, Japanese, or Spanish. There are a variety of widely recognized exams to demonstrate language proficiency including the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI), the ACTFL Written Proficiency Test (WPT), and the National Japanese Exam among others. Current faculty members are trained to give the ACTFL OPI in Italian and Spanish. This exam is rather expensive if given officially by ACTFL and we are currently exploring possible assessments which are less expensive for the students. We are also examining funding opportunities to train the faculty.

This assessment would be given during the fourth year of the major (AY 2023-2024.). After this academic year, we will continue to collect data on an annual basis.

Assessment Five – Summative Assessment of Linguistic Knowledge

All WLL students are required to take the Linguistic Capstone course during their fourth year. Students will be evaluated with a rubric assessing their linguistic knowledge and analytical ability. This assignment and rubric will be completed in time for the first cohort (AY 2023-2024.) After this academic year, we will continue to collect data on an annual basis.