Outcomes Assessment Plan for M.A. in English

Program Outcomes:

1. Students should be able to situate literary texts in English within broad historical and cultural contexts, recognize appropriate literary conventions, and interpret particular texts by means of close reading.

2. Students should have a broad understanding of the philosophy of literary studies, be able to recognize different theoretical frameworks, and be able to apply one or more theoretical frameworks to particular texts.

3. Students should be able to write clearly and engagingly about literature, and be able to produce sustained, coherent arguments at an appropriate level of sophistication.

4. Students should complete their courses of study in a rigorous and timely manner.

5. Students who are going on to work or further study in the field of English should be adequately prepared for the next step in their professional lives.

6. Students should consider their graduate program at UAF to be of high quality.

Assessment Criteria (matched by number to above outcomes):

1. Review of portfolio (see Implementation Procedures for description of portfolio).

2. Successful completion of ENGL 601 with a grade of B or better (as recorded on Advancement to Candidacy form), plus review of portfolio.


4. Completion of required coursework and thesis (if required) within a period of 2-4 years (depending on financial support), with grades of B or better (as recorded in Advancement to Candidacy form).

5. Exit survey results, plus review of portfolio.

6. Exit survey results.

Implementation Procedure:

Every October a committee of four faculty, including three literature professors and one creative writing professor, will hold a workshop to address assessment. Prior to this workshop they will have reviewed the following assessment materials (gathered by English Department staff) for each M.A. student who graduated in the previous calendar year (fall through summer):
1. Exit survey results (see attachment), collected by department secretary.
2. A portfolio consisting of the students master’s thesis plus one seminar term paper (for those students doing a thesis), or three seminar term papers (for those students not doing a thesis), selected by the student as representative of his or her best effort, collected by department secretary.
3. Advancement to Candidacy form.

This committee will also have available the reports written by the four previous committees (once the program has been in place). This committee will discuss the assembled materials, and draft a report to be submitted to the English Department. The report will include a summary assessment of both the last year’s achievements and problems, and trends in the program over the previous four years. It may also include recommendations for program or staffing changes. After the English Department has had an opportunity to respond and perhaps amend the report (by no later than November 15), a final version will be submitted to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and the Provost.