

## Program-Level Assessment: Annual Report

Program: Philosophy for Ministry

Department: Philosophy & Letters

Degree or Certificate Level: Certificate

College/School: Philosophy & Letters

Date (Month/Year):

Primary Assessment Contact: William Rehg, S.J.

In what year was the data upon which this report is based collected? Spring 2020

In what year was the program's assessment plan most recently reviewed/updated? 2020

### 1. Student Learning Outcomes

Which of the program's student learning outcomes were assessed in this annual assessment cycle?

The College of Philosophy & Letters Assessment Plan (revised, June 2019) calls for assessment of Program Learning Outcome 3 for the Certificate in 2020. For the 2020 assessment, the 2019 Plan was revised with a new rubric for Outcome 3 (see Appendix, attached).

### 2. Assessment Methods: Student Artifacts

Which student artifacts were used to determine if students achieved this outcome? Please identify the course(s) in which these artifacts were collected. Clarify if any such courses were offered a) online, b) at the Madrid campus, or c) at any other off-campus location.

Outcome 3: The Dean collected data from the Capstone Project course instructor that indicates level of achievement of the specific outcome, as evidenced by performance on the final capstone paper, measured by the rubric for Outcome 3 (see Appendix).

### 3. Assessment Methods: Evaluation Process

What process was used to evaluate the student artifacts, and by whom? Please identify the tools(s) (e.g., a rubric) used in the process and include them in/with this report.

See Appendix with rubric for Outcome 3, attached.

### 4. Data/Results

What were the results of the assessment of the learning outcomes? Please be specific. Does achievement differ by teaching modality (e.g., online vs. face-to-face) or on-ground location (e.g., STL campus, Madrid campus, other off-campus site)?

Of the two certificate students, one met expectations and one exceeded expectations.

### 5. Findings: Interpretations & Conclusions

What have you learned from these results? What does the data tell you?

The final capstone paper is required of Phil & Lett undergrads, certificate students, and other students who are pursuing a master's degree outside the College. When the data for the two certificate students are combined with

that for the other students in the Capstone Project course, results show high-level performance overall, with 6 of the 7 students exceeding expectations. Generally the students in the certificate program are the less academically gifted, so it is not surprising that the only student who did not exceed expectations was a certificate student.

## 6. Closing the Loop: Dissemination and Use of Current Assessment Findings

A. When and how did your program faculty share and discuss these results and findings from this cycle of assessment?

The College has no full-time faculty, so the results are not discussed with a faculty body. Rather, the results inform review of the syllabus and communication of possible changes to the Capstone instructor for the following year. However, the Outcome 3 findings do not of themselves justify changes in the program or the course.

B. How specifically have you decided to use findings to improve teaching and learning in your program? For example, perhaps you've initiated one or more of the following:

Changes to the Curriculum or Pedagogies

- Course content
- Teaching techniques
- Improvements in technology
- Prerequisites

- Course sequence
- New courses
- Deletion of courses
- Changes in frequency or scheduling of course offerings

Changes to the Assessment Plan

- Student learning outcomes
- Student artifacts collected
- Evaluation process

- Evaluation tools (e.g., rubrics)
- Data collection methods
- Frequency of data collection

Please describe the actions you are taking as a result of the findings.

Discussion of results with the Capstone instructor led to the revised Outcome 3 rubric for the Assessment Plan. Otherwise no changes in the program are envisioned on the basis of this assessment.

If no changes are being made, please explain why.

The strong performance of students on this Outcome show that the current program is successful for Outcome 3.

## 7. Closing the Loop: Review of Previous Assessment Findings and Changes

A. What is at least one change your program has implemented in recent years as a result of assessment data?

The Capstone Preparation course— offered in the Fall semester before the final Capstone Project course—was initially piloted as a one-credit course in 2016. In response to student feedback and evaluation of papers, this course was changed to a two-credit course, and course expectations were clarified

B. How has this change/have these changes been assessed?

The changes were assessed in the 2018 report on the assessment of Outcome 2, which was based on analysis of final papers for Capstone Preparation course.

**C. What were the findings of the assessment?**

The assessment findings indicated that those changes contributed to greatly improved papers for that course.

**D. How do you plan to (continue to) use this information moving forward?**

This information is communicated to instructors assigned to teach the Capstone Prep course, as part of syllabus development.

**IMPORTANT: Please submit any assessment tools and/or revised/updated assessment plans along with this report.**

**APPENDIX II: KNOWLEDGE OF REVELANT SOURCES FOR UNDERSTANDING A CONTEXT OF MINISTRY**

*Rubric for Outcome 3, Direct Method: The instructor of the Capstone course will assess the student's ability to identify relevant resources in philosophy and other disciplines for the capstone, by assessing the final capstone paper with the rubric below:*

Fails to meet expectations weakening the resulting paper	student was alerted to relevant material for his or her capstone paper, but ignored it,
Meets expectations feedback	student does a decent job of bringing in relevant knowledge as discussed in class and
Exceeds expectations mastering new information	student goes beyond what the instructor would expect, showing impressive initiative in