#### UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

## Feedback to Academic Departments on Assessment Activities Reported in 2012-13 Annual Reports UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT	Communications	DA'I	EAp	ril 7, 2014	_
PROGRAM(S) CO	OVERED IN REVIEWB.A. wit	th a major in (	Communic	eation	
COMMITTEE ME	EMBER(S) CONDUCTING REV	IEW Casey Oz	zaki <b>,</b> Mary	Askim-Lovseth, and Devo	on Hansen
1. STUDENT LEAR	NING GOALS				
• If so, we	y goals referenced? re goals well articulated? s address student learning?	YES_X_	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N QUALIFIED Y/N QUALIFIED Y/N	
Comments:					
the plan's revision, th	for the B.A. in Communications was he program developed a new mission and focused than the previous goals	statement and	four new le	earning goals. The learning	g goals are
learning to real-world	from some additional specification. d professional environments is impli- te more directly to the assessment ru	ed through the	stated goal	and associated rubric, mo	re specific
(shown in alignment wX1 CommuniX2 Thinking aX3 Thinking aX5 Informatio6 Diversity (7 Lifelong le	gram goals, please also consider UND's within parentheses) and identify which ication – written or oral ("able to write and reasoning – critical thinking (or "band reasoning – creative thinking (or "and reasoning – quantitative reasoning on literacy ("be able to access and evalu ("demonstrate understanding of diversi earning ("commit themselves to lifelon tizenship ("share responsibility both fo	goals are similar and speak in var be intellectually of the intellectually ("apply empirical uate for effectivity and use that use learning")	to program rious setting curious"; and creative"; e al dataana we, efficient, nderstandin	goals. s with a sense of purpose/au alyze, synthesize, evaluate) xplore, discover, engage) alyze graphical information" , and ethical use") g")	idience")
Comments regarding	program goals and alignment with in	stitutional and <b>L</b>	Essential Stu	udies goals:	
Many of UND's esser of commitment to the	ntial studies goals are addressed with ese goals include:	nin program's le	earning goa	ls and mission statement. I	Examples

#### Mission:

The mission of the Communication Program is to provide students with a broad understanding of human communication in various contexts, across diverse cultures, and through multiple systems. The Program engages students in lifelong learning that <u>addresses socially and globally pressing communication challenges through scholarly,</u> creative, critical, and practical curriculum and instruction.

- 1. Students will understand key foundational communication theories and best practices, and <u>will be able to apply these concepts</u> to scholarly and professional scenarios.
- 2. Students will become proficient <u>in communicating critically, creatively, and ethically in diverse contexts</u> and through multiple forms of media, including (though not limited to), written, oral, digital, and print-based communication.

- 3. Students will learn to conduct and report research in the broader discipline of Communication, including in (depending on courses/emphases taken:) journalism, digital communication, advertising, cultural, organizational, and health communication, public relations, speech communication, broadcasting, and other areas.
- 4. Students will demonstrate the knowledge they have acquired in their Communication coursework in an experiential learning environment, providing relevant and meaningful connections between their classroom work and the broader extended community.

2	ACCE	CCI	<b>TENT</b>	MET	TOUT	10
7	A.3.3H		/I H.IN I	IVI H.	нсп	1.

Were any specific assessment methods referenced?	YESX_	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N
<ul> <li>If so, were specifically chosen assessment methods appropriately aligned with individual</li> </ul>			
goals?	YES	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N _X_
<ul> <li>Were both direct and indirect assessment methods used as components of a "multiple</li> </ul>	YES	NO X	QUALIFIED Y/N
measures" approach?			

#### Comments:

Final projects from the program's capstone course are used to assess Learning Goals 1-3 on a biennial basis. There are well-developed rubrics assigned to each of the goals to support assessment. In the alternate year, data for Learning Goal 4 is collected from student internship employers. The internship evaluations collect both qualitative and quantitative data for assessment. The learning goal and assessment rubric would benefit from more alignment; more specific goal language would support alignment.

While the assessment methods are clear and well-developed, they are direct measures of students' abilities and skills. No indirect measures are indicated.

#### 3. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Were any assessment results reported?	YES_ <b>X</b> _ NO	QUALIFIED Y/N	
<ul> <li>If so, were the results clear in terms of how they specifically affirm achievement of goals?</li> </ul>	YES NO_X_	QUALIFIED Y/N	
<ul> <li>If so, were the results clear in terms of how they indicate need for improvement?</li> <li>Were the results tied to goals for student</li> </ul>	YES NO	QUALIFIED Y/NX_	
learning?	YES_X_ NO	QUALIFIED Y/N	

#### Comments:

For this annual report, assessment data from 2012-13 related to Learning Goal 4 were reported. Aggregate scores and qualitative comments from student internship employers were presented in the areas of personal attributes, professional qualities, work effectiveness, and communication skills. Qualitative responses regarding the students' strengths, areas of improvement, hire-ability, and met expectations were also reported.

While aggregate data were reported, analysis and findings of the data were not discussed. The annual review indicated that the faculty had a discussion about the strengths and weaknesses revealed by the data, but strengths were not reported.

In addition to program goals, some assessment results may be applicable to institutional and Essential Studies goals. Indicate
any goals for which the program presents findings, and, for indicated items, describe findings below.
X1 Communication – written or oral ("able to write and speak in various settings with a sense of purpose/audience")
2 Thinking and reasoning – critical thinking (or "be intellectually curious"; analyze, synthesize, evaluate)
3 Thinking and reasoning – creative thinking (or "be intellectually creative"; explore, discover, engage)

<ul> <li>4 Thinking and reasoning – quantitative reasoning</li> <li>5 Information literacy ("be able to access and evalued of Diversity ("demonstrate understanding of diversity Lifelong learning ("commit themselves to lifelong to Service/citizenship ("share responsibility both forms)</li> </ul>	ty and use that understanding") g learning")
Comments regarding results and the application of results	to program, institutional, and Essential Studies goals:
4. CLOSING THE LOOP	
Were any actions taken on the basis of assessment results reported?  • If so, do curricular or other improvements/ changes arising from assessment results directly address goals for student learning?	YES NOX QUALIFIED Y/N           YES NO QUALIFIED Y/N
Comments:	
Though there was indication that a discussion about the months of the mo	results was had among the faculty, the review reported that ental policies were suggested."
SUMMARY	
Strengths	Areas for Improvement
X A specific plan for assessment is in placeStudent learning goals are well-articulatedX_Assessment methods are clearly describedAssessment methods are appropriately selectedAssessment methods are well-implementedDirect and indirect methods are implementedX_Results are reportedResults are tied to closing the loop. (Decision-making is tied to evidence.)	<ul> <li>No specific plan for assessment is in place.</li> <li>Student learning goals are not well-articulated.</li> <li>Assessment methods are not clearly described.</li> <li>Assessment methods are not appropriately selected.</li> <li>Assessment methods are not well-implemented.</li> <li>X_ A single type of assessment methods predominates.</li> <li>No results are reported.</li> <li>Results are not clearly tied to closing the loop.</li> <li>(Decision-making is not directly tied to evidence.)</li> </ul>
OVERALL SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION	ONS:

Communication's assessment plan was revised and improved within the last year. Learning goals are more specific and clearly relate to UND's Essential Studies goals. In addition, a clear and do-able plan for the collection of assessment data is described and, based on the annual review, appears to be in place and enacted. Summary data collected within the last year for one of the learning goals is included in the annual review and accessible.

Three recommendations are provided. First, current assessment data comes solely from direct methods; introduction of indirect methods would enhance the program's review of student learning. Second, while the review indicated that a discussion of strengths and weaknesses were had among the faculty, outcomes of that analysis were not reported. A short summary or specific points would continue to clarify their student learning assessment. Third, as stated in the review, Goal 4 would benefit from increased specification and alignment with the rubric.

#### MATERIALS REVIEWED

X_ Annua	al report	X	Assessment plan (as poste	ed)
	ices (cited in annua please describe)	1 report)X	Previous assessment review	V
Reviewer(s):	Name Department Phone Number e-mail	Mary Askim-Lovseth Marketing 7-2930 maskim@business.und.edu	Devon Hansen Geography 7-4587 <u>devon.hansen@und.edu</u>	Casey Ozaki Teaching & Learning 7-4256 carolyn.ozaki@und.edu
	Section 2:	Q_ Section 3:Y Sec	etion 4:Q	
Coding Key:				
Y	•	appropriately and well (bearing in cyclical process, i.e., with additional actions and the cyclical process).		
Q	• /			
N	= no, this is not done at all, or it is not done in relationship to student learning			
NA	= no information reported and it's unclear whether it was done			

Revision 9/25/13

### UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

# Feedback to Academic Departments on Assessment Activities Reported in 2012-13 Annual Reports $\underline{\textbf{GRADUATE PROGRAMS}}$

DEPARTMENT_	Communications	DA	TEA	pril 7, 2014	
PROGRAM(S) Co	OVERED IN REVIEWM.	A. in Commu	nication,		
<b>COMMITTEE M</b> Hansen	EMBER(S) CONDUCTING RE	VIEW: Casey	Ozaki <b>,</b> Mar	ry Askim-Lovseth, and De	von
1. STUDENT LEAD	RNING GOALS				
• If so, w	ny goals referenced? ere goals well articulated? ls address student learning?	YESX_ YESX_ YESX_	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N QUALIFIED Y/N QUALIFIED Y/N	
Comments:					
student learning fall objectives that grad generally concrete a department may wa appropriately assess	n for Communication's M.A. in Comlinto three areas: theory, research, uates with the degree are expected that measurable. Given that each object to assess the number of objectives them. In addition, developing three eneralized direction for each area.	and profession o demonstrate. ective should h s and how muc	al practice. The objecti ave a clear i h data woul	Each area is accompanied ves are very specific and a method of assessment, the d need to be collected to	by seven re
2. ASSESSMENT I	METHODS				
• If so, w	sessment methods referenced? ere specifically chosen assessment s appropriately aligned with individual	I		QUALIFIED Y/N	
Were be method	oth direct and indirect assessment s used as components of a "multiple es" approach?			QUALIFIED Y/N	
Comments:					
multiple methods lis	assessment methods specific to the M sted for each approach including a p interviews/survey, survey of alumni	ortfolio, compi	ehensive ex	ams, a thesis and presenta	tion (Dir
which methods wou	not specifically aligned with particu ld enhance the plan. In addition, inc e the aggregate results reported).				
3. ASSESSMENT I	RESULTS				
Were any assessment		YES	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N _X	-
they spe	ere the results clear in terms of how ecifically affirm achievement of goals?	? YES	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N _X	-
they inc	ere the results clear in terms of how licate need for improvement? ne results tied to goals for student	YES	NO_X_	QUALIFIED Y/N	

Comments:  The program provided data from 2012-13 for five M.A. students, based on the three primary learning goal areas—theory, research, and practice. All but one of the students as excellent and very good across all three areas; this is all summative in nature. It cannot be discerned how well the students did regarding each objective. Based on the methods listed in the assessment plan, it is unclear which assignment(s) or assessment point(s) are being assessed to generate this data. The narrative states that the aggregate data is reported from an assessment form and that the advisors and students were instructed to collaboratively produce the evaluations through self-assessment and discussion. Please clarify what the form is assessing (e.g., what criteria is needed for an Excellent vs. Adequate for an MA student in the "Theory" area?) and how it aligns with the methods in the assessment plan.					
4. CLOSING THE LOOP					
Were any actions taken on the basis of assessment results reported?  • If so, do curricular or other improvements/ changes arising from assessment results directly address goals for student learning?	YES NO_X QUALIFIED Y/N  YES NO QUALIFIED Y/N				
Comments:					
Communications did not indicate a need for improvemen	at or list any actions taken based on the assessment.				
SUMMARY					
Strengths	Areas for Improvement				
X A specific plan for assessment is in placeStudent learning goals are well-articulatedAssessment methods are clearly describedAssessment methods are appropriately selectedAssessment methods are well-implementedDirect and indirect methods are implementedResults are reportedResults are tied to closing the loop. (Decision-making is tied to evidence.)	<ul> <li>No specific plan for assessment is in place.</li> <li>Student learning goals are not well-articulated.</li> <li>Assessment methods are not clearly described.</li> <li>Assessment methods are not appropriately selected.</li> <li>Assessment methods are not well-implemented.</li> <li>A single type of assessment methods predominates.</li> <li>No results are reported.</li> <li>X_ Results are not clearly tied to closing the loop.</li> <li>(Decision-making is not directly tied to evidence.)</li> </ul>				
OVERALL SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION	ONS:				
The assessment plan lists specific learning objectives and specific methods are listed, but the objectives are not aligned. Give the number of objectives, aligned data collection may be overwhelming. We recommend that overarching goals be developed for theory, research and practice areas and be aligned with specific assessment methods. Data were reported for the M.A. program and indicates that students are learning at excellent and very good levels. Two recommendations are provided. First, while the data are presented, there is no indication that it was discussed by the faculty or linked to closing the loop. Some indication of discussed analysis would be insightful. Second, where the data is coming from is unclear and not obviously related to one of the methods from the assessment plan. The department updated the B.A. assessment plan in the last year; they are encouraged to do the same for the graduate assessment plan in the near future.					
MATERIALS REVIEWED					
X Annual report Appendices (cited in annual report) Other (please describe)	X_ Assessment plan (as posted)X_ Previous assessment review				

YES\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_ QUALIFIED Y/N \_X\_\_\_

learning?

Reviewer(s):	Name Department Phone Number e-mail	Mary Askim-Lovseth Marketing 7-2930 maskim@business.und.edu	Devon Hansen Geography 7-4587 <u>devon.hansen@und.edu</u>	Casey Ozaki Teaching & Learning 7-4256 <u>carolyn.ozaki@und.edu</u>
Section 1:	_Y Section 2:	_Q Section 3:Q Sec	ction 4:NA	
Coding Key:				
Y	= yes, this is done	appropriately and well (bearing i	n mind the kind of program(s)	reviewed and recognizing
that assessment is a cyclical process, i.e., with additional kinds of data to be collected in other years)				
Q	Q = qualified yes as action or progress is apparent; however, evidence is lacking that this is completely and			
	appropriately done			
N	N = no, this is not done at all, or it is not done in relationship to student learning			
NA	A = no information available and it's unclear whether it was done			

Revision 9/25/13

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DEPARTMENT	Communications	DA	TEA	oril 7, 2014
PROGRAM(S) COV	/ERED IN REVIEWPh.D	in Commur	nication,	
COMMITTEE MEN Hansen	MBER(S) CONDUCTING REVI	EW: Casey	Ozaki, Mar	y Askim-Lovseth, and Devon
1. STUDENT LEARN	JING GOALS			
• If so, were	goals referenced? e goals well articulated? address student learning?	YESX_ YESX_ YESX_	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N QUALIFIED Y/N QUALIFIED Y/N
Comments:				
student learning fall in objectives that graduar generally concrete and department may want appropriately assess the	or Communication's Ph.D in Communito three areas: theory, research, are tes with the degree are expected to a measurable. Given that each object to assess the number of objectives a nem. In addition, developing three objectived direction for each area.	nd professiona demonstrate. tive should ha and how much	al practice. The objecti ave a clear i a data woul	Each area is accompanied by seven ves are very specific and are method of assessment, the
2. ASSESSMENT ME	ETHODS			
• If so, were	sment methods referenced? e specifically chosen assessment ppropriately aligned with individual	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N
goals?	direct and indirect assessment	YES	NO_X	QUALIFIED Y/N
methods u	sed as components of a "multiple approach?	YES_X	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N
Comments:				
multiple methods listed	sessment methods specific to the Ph. d for each approach including a por terviews/survey, survey of alumni, a	tfolio, compr	ehensive ex	ams, a thesis and presentation (Dire
which methods would	t specifically aligned with particular enhance the plan. In addition, inclu he aggregate results reported).			
3. ASSESSMENT RE	SULTS			
Were any assessment re	sults reported?	YES	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N _X
they specif	fically affirm achievement of goals?	YES	NO	QUALIFIED Y/N _X
they indica	the results clear in terms of how ate need for improvement? results tied to goals for student	YES	NO_X_	QUALIFIED Y/N

discerned how well the students did regarding each objective which assignment(s) or assessment point(s) are being assesse is reported from an assessment form and that the advisors are evaluations through self-assessment and discussion Please cl	ass all three areas; this is all summative in nature. It cannot be a Based on the methods listed in the assessment plan, it is uncleared to generate this data. The narrative states that the aggregate data
4. CLOSING THE LOOP	
Were any actions taken on the basis of assessment results reported?  • If so, do curricular or other improvements/ changes arising from assessment results directly address goals for student learning?	YES NO_X QUALIFIED Y/N  YES NO QUALIFIED Y/N
Comments:	
Communications did not indicate a need for improvemen	t or list any actions taken based on the assessment.
SUMMARY	A seem Com I was a seem of
Strengths	Areas for Improvement
X A specific plan for assessment is in placeStudent learning goals are well-articulatedAssessment methods are clearly describedAssessment methods are appropriately selectedAssessment methods are well-implementedDirect and indirect methods are implementedResults are reportedResults are tied to closing the loop. (Decision-making is tied to evidence.)	No specific plan for assessment is in placeStudent learning goals are not well-articulatedAssessment methods are not clearly describedAssessment methods are not appropriately selectedAssessment methods are not well-implementedA single type of assessment methods predominatesNo results are reportedXResults are not clearly tied to closing the loop. (Decision-making is not directly tied to evidence.)
OVERALL SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION	ONS:
Give the number of objectives, aligned data collection madeveloped for theory, research and practice areas and be reported for the PH.D program and indicates that studen recommendations are provided. First, while the data are faculty or linked to closing the loop. Some indication of decoming from is unclear and not obviously related to one of	
MATERIALS REVIEWED	
X Annual report Appendices (cited in annual report) Other (please describe)	X Assessment plan (as posted)X Previous assessment review

YES\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_ QUALIFIED Y/N \_X\_\_\_

learning?

Keviewe	er(s):	Name Department Phone Number e-mail	Mary Askim-Lovseth Marketing 7-2930 maskim@business.und.edu	Devon Hansen Geography 7-4587 <u>devon.hansen@und.edu</u>	Casey Ozaki Teaching & Learning 7-4256 <u>carolyn.ozaki@und.edu</u>
Section	1:	_Y Section 2:	_Q Section 3:Q Sec	etion 4:NA	
Coding 1	Key:				
Ü	Ϋ́	= yes, this is done appropriately and well (bearing in mind the kind of program(s) reviewed and rec			
		that assessment is a	cyclical process, i.e., with addition	onal kinds of data to be collec	eted in other years)
	<ul> <li>Q = qualified yes as action or progress is apparent; however, evidence is lacking that this is completely a appropriately done</li> <li>N = no, this is not done at all, or it is not done in relationship to student learning</li> </ul>				at this is completely and
	NA	= no information a	vailable and it's unclear whether	it was done	

*Revision 9/25/13*