

Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements
Department of Drama
Master's of Fine Arts Program in Acting, Directing, Playwriting
Master's Degree in Theory & Criticism
Master's of Art in Theatre Education

AY 2009-10

Assessment Findings

	Fail		Pass		Pass w/Honors		TOTAL
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
MA program	0	0.00%	4	100.00%	0	0.00%	4
MFA program	0	0.00%	1	100.00%	0	0.00%	1

All of the graduate students successfully completed the comprehensive exams in the fall of 2009 and the spring of 2010.

Curricular Improvements

Because the curriculum for the three M.F.A. programs benefited from an intense evaluation four years ago, the faculty does not foresee major changes to their curricula or assessment mechanisms.

The MATE program is in its fourth year. Because so few have completed the program to date, there is no meaningful data on these students. The faculty has continued to monitor the progress of the current students through the program so that we will be able to compile data for its first five years. Dr. Flynn, the Head of the MATE, recommended that the department evaluate the comprehensive exams of the MATE students using a separate and more detailed rubric. The department has complied. However, the department still uses the grades of High Pass, Pass, and Fail to assess the essays, and it has not adopted the rubric that Dr. Flynn created for the other graduate programs. We continue to discuss which rubrics best serve the needs of the different programs.

After administering the spring 2010 exams, the Associate Chair and Chair adjusted the rubrics used for the essay portion of the other graduate comprehensive exams by switching the columns labeled "Exceeds Expectations" and "Below Expectations." Whereas "Exceeds Expectations" used to occupy the far left column and "Below Expectations" was placed at the far right column, "Below Expectations" is now the first column that appears as an evaluator reads the sheet from left to right. The hope is that this change will require an evaluator to read through the rubric from left to right and consider the description within each category listed on the sheet before assigning a value to that part of the student's performance in a given essay.