

Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements
Department of Drama
Undergraduate B.A. Program in Drama
2015-2016

Key Assessment Findings

Please report findings from data that you display in this section.

- *Programs with specialized accreditation data should insert tables or figures with such data (e.g. pass rates on professional licensure exams) and discuss this data.*
- *Schools/Departments should present data regarding passage or failure on comprehensive exams.*
- *Schools/Departments should present data in tables based upon rubrics for key assessments. Describe the findings in the text as well, i.e. what is the pattern of the results?*
- *Briefly present data from other sources if needed.*

UNDERGRADUATE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION RESULTS
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA
AY 2015-2016

Comprehensive Exam

AY2015-2016 0 Failed 2 passed

Curricular Improvements

Briefly describe improvements to the curriculum or student supports that will be introduced subsequent to the findings, if any. Comment on the effects of recent curricular improvements in light of data if known. For example, the improvements may include changing the structure of particular courses, requiring prerequisite courses or skills, providing special advisement, introducing earlier experiences with parts of what become key projects or papers.

The Department of Drama uses the following measures to assess departmental learning outcomes:

Direct measures:

DR 451, Senior Seminar, a research-based class
Comprehensive exams, combining a take-home portion and an oral presentation
Grades in all core courses

Indirect measures:

- Grades in all courses
- Student evaluations of all courses
- Student participation in production work
- Alumni feedback
- On-going faculty review of individual student's degree progress
- On-going faculty review of comparable programs

End of Semester Student Reviews

The faculty meet once each semester to review how each student has progressed in his or her courses. The faculty also reviews what each student has accomplished to complete his or her Crew Credits. Finally, the faculty also review what production work each student has experienced to determine what the department should stage in its season to best serve the students. The students must complete their required courses with an appropriate GPA and complete four Crew Credits, each of which includes 60 hours of practical work in support of the department's mainstage season of plays.

DR 451 Senior Seminar

Advisors in the Department of Drama monitor each student's degree progress carefully, and they make sure no student takes Senior Seminar until they have completed their core requirements in the department. The faculty and all departmental literature explain to the students that they must pass Senior Seminar as a culmination of their academic work in the department. This must happen before they take the comprehensive exams.

The grades for students in the class are in general high (A's and B's). Because some students continue to need help with their writing, a few still struggle with the heavy writing component. The professor responsible for teaching Senior Seminar offers guidance for writing and re-writing to help alleviate the problem, and he or she sends students to the writing lab when appropriate. Core courses, especially DR 201/202 and 305 help prepare the students for the scholarly work necessary to successfully complete DR 451 by also emphasizing research and writing as part of the evaluative work.

In general, the students give this course very high evaluations. They speak of being expected to push their skills farther than they have in the past, and being challenged to think of the material in new ways.

Comprehensive Examinations

The Department of Drama continues to analyze the data from the comprehensive examination results and has determined that though we are concerned about how well our students are trained to write scholarly essays, the majority are successfully prepared for the comprehensive exam. We place an academic hold on all student registration every semester until they have met with their advisors, at which point the hold is removed. The students are advised to take courses in a specific order, and we have reinforced that sequence with all of the advisors in the department. We have also made the senior seminar course available by permission only in the future to prohibit a student taking it before the advisor feels they are ready. We have not made significant changes to this process since 2015.