Graduate

Program Assessment Plan

**Directions:** To submit an updated Program Assessment Plan, fill out this form and return it to the Assessment Coordinator, Adam Andrews, at andrewsa@uwm.edu. Your Weave data will be updated accordingly.

Contact person(s): Jane Smith

Email: JaneSmith@uwm.edu

Program Name: Folklore, PhD program

Is the program accredited (and by whom)? No

Academic Year this Assessment Plan Becomes Active: 2021

What is the **reason** for updating your assessment plan? (e.g., submitting a plan for a new program, to gather improved assessment data, to reflect a curriculum change, to better evaluate the effects of a program change, etc)

Newly approved graduate program, initial assessment plan.

List the **Program Learning Goals and their associated Outcomes**:

(If your program has not articulated learning goals, then just list your Program Learning Outcomes)

**Students in the Ph.D. program will:**

PLO1: **Demonstrate a critical understanding of the history, theory, concepts, and debates** in at least two major areas of folkloristic research by summarizing, synthesizing, and critiquing relevant literature. [Disciplinary Knowledge, Critical Thinking]

PLO2: **Develop and complete an original research project** that pursues a significant research question in the field of Folklore Studies. [Research]

PLO3: **Demonstrate the ability to ethically conduct ethnographic research**, including methods, analysis, and writing. [Methods]

PLO4: **Demonstrate oral and written communication skills** suitable for professional conference presentation, academic publication (print or digital), applications for grants, awards, and fellowships, and other forms of professional discourse. [Communication]

PLO5: **Demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills for teaching undergraduate courses in the discipline**, including the assessment of student learning, by successfully developing and teaching at least one FLR 210 special topics course under the guidance of a faculty advisor. [Pedagogy]

PLO6: **Demonstrate professionalization** through familiarity with major professional institutions and organizations, publications, conferences, and compliance with professional expectations for ethics, collegiality, and service (e.g., attending and presenting at national conferences, engaging in collaborative projects, writing grant proposals, and other professional activity). [Professionalism]

Identify where outcomes assessment evidence will be collected:

[x] Dissertation [ ] Thesis [x] Defense [ ] Capstone Experience

[ ] Capstone Project [x] Comprehensive or Qualifying Exam [x] Proposal

[ ] Coursework [ ] Other (explain) Click or tap here to enter text.

Explain how each outcome will be assessed (including where-in what courses or contexts), including descriptions of any rubrics, rating scales, or other evaluation methods that will be employed. Include a description of your **benchmarks** (minimum acceptable passing score or result) and **targets** (the % of students that ideally should meet the benchmark if the program is succeeding in its mission). See <https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/assessment-of-student-learning/assessment-resources/#Examples> for examples of graduate level assessment rubrics.

PLO1 is assessed in the Comprehensive Exam. Students are rated as High Pass, Pass, Acceptable Pass, and Fail. **Benchmark and Target:** 90% of PhD students will pass their comprehensive exams with a rating of Pass or higher.

PLO2, PLO3, PLO4, and PLO 6 as assessed through the Dissertation and Defense, which are evaluated holistically by the graduate committee. Each program outcome receives a separate rating from the committee of “High Pass, Pass, Acceptable Pass, or Fail.” **Benchmark and Target:** 90% of dissertators will receive a rating of Pass or higher for all 3 program outcomes assessed.

PLO5 is assessed by each student’s faculty advisor upon review of a sample syllabus and course plan submitted by the student in order to be considered for teaching FLR 210 during their second year in the program. Because not all students in the program will get the opportunity to teach FLR 210, this ensures each student has the chance to practice UG course design and receive feedback. Each student’s proposed course is rated “Pass” or “Fail” by their faculty advisor, with a desired 100% pass on all course proposals.

PLO6 is assessed by requiring all students to present at one or more Folklore conferences at the regional or national level. A holistic “professionalization” rating, based on their experiences with and knowledge of the student, is also given by the faculty committee to each student during their dissertation defense (see above).

Describe any other program or outcomes assessment evidence that will be collected. (e.g., student surveys, exit interviews, focus groups, alumni surveys, etc.)

We also collect data using a program Exit Survey that asks questions about student confidence with each of the program’s 6 learning outcomes, and which asks them to provide feedback on their training and experience in the program in relation to each outcome.

Describe your program’s **timeline** for managing data collection: Will data for each outcome be collected annually? Or will you establish a rotation in which data for a different outcome is gathered each year? (Note: Some kind of assessment data should be collected each year, with all program outcomes being assessed within a 5 year period).

Assessment data from the graduate program will be collected annually for all outcomes.

Who will be responsible for collecting and analyzing assessment evidence, and presenting any findings or results to program faculty (and submitting assessment data to Weave)?

The FLR graduate program director will take responsibility for coordinating data collection and interpretation among relevant faculty. The program director will also present assessment data at FLR grad policy committee (GPC) meetings once per year to facilitate a discussion about the results and any program changes faculty may wish to make as a result.

Describe your program’s process for considering assessment data, determining any needed course of action, and implementing it? (e.g., is there an annual faculty meeting in which assessment data is discussed? A specific assessment or program committee tasked with reviewing assessment data?)

Yes, program assessment data will be discussed during the first or second program faculty meeting each year, in Sept or Oct., so that results for the previous year are ready to be submitted by UWM’s annual reporting deadline on Nov. 1.

What kinds of support, if any, does your program need (from your colleagues, from other departments or programs, from Academic Affairs, from your college, or from the assessment coordinator) in order for your assessment plan to be successful?

None at this time.