

Department of Religious Studies
Assessment Report

A great deal of progress has been made on the department's assessment program. As of this coming Spring Semester every aspect of the assessment program will have been fully implemented. The final step in completing the assessment plan the development and offering of the Capstone course, Religion 498 (Senior Seminar). That course has now been developed, submitted to and approved by the Curriculum Committee of the College of Arts & Sciences. The course will be offered for the first time in the Spring Semester and already has several students enrolled. This course will require a paper in the special field of interest of each student. This will assess the student's ability to do research in a particular area of religious studies and write about it with precision and clarity (Goal 3). An examination will be given to test the student's in depth knowledge of his or her particular area of concentration (Goal 2). Another examination will be given to test the general knowledge of religions and methodologies for studying religion (Goal 1). The first examination will be tailored to each student's area of specialization. The second examination will be the same for all students. An exit interview will be held with each student and the entire department faculty . A written evaluation of the quality of the education they received in Religious Studies will be required of all students. The course is required of all graduating.

At the end of the Spring Semester the whole faculty will evaluate what has been learned about student performance from the tests, the research paper, exit interviews, and written evaluating and will then make whatever changes should be accomplished by the Fall Semester, 2005, which will place us on schedule with the Assessment timetable.

List of Program Goals

Department or Unit Name:	Religious Studies
Individual Completing Form:	Dr. Derwood C. Smith
Date:	10-10-02

Program Name:	B.A. in Religious Studies
Goal 1:	A general knowledge of religions and methodologies for studying religion.
Goal 2:	An in depth knowledge of one area in religious studies.
Goal 3:	The ability to do research in an area ^{of} religious studies ^{and} write about it with precision and clarity.

Program Name:	
Goal 1:	
Goal 2:	
Goal 3:	

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Goal 2:	
Goal 3:	

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Program Assessment Report

Department or Unit Name: Religious Studies

Individual Completing Form: Dr. Derwood C. Smith

Program Name: B.A. in Religious Studies

Date: 10-10-02

Goal # / A general knowledge of religions and the methodologies for studying religion.

Outcome Measures	Research Completed	Findings	Review	Actions	Improvements
#1 An examination administered to all graduating seniors containing specific questions on this topic	This is a new section of the exit examination begins 2002-2003		Chair Assessment Review Committee of Department.		
#2 Exit Interviews with graduating seniors.	New Feature Begins 2002-2003		Chair Assessment Review Committee	Anticipated retirement of instructor of this course. Plan on hold until replacement ↓	
#3 Review of courses taken by majors.	Done regularly	Not enough distributions in different areas. Not enough courses in cognate departments	Chair Assessment Review Committee	Require Rel 101 of all majors Work more closely with majors in course selection. Monitor students course selection.	Requiring Rel 101 will begin with new catalogue Monitoring course selection is producing greater distribution of students' courses.
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New part of report course

* Designed new courses taught by present faculty. For example, Rel. 376, Women in Early Christianity. Add new course in Islam taught by new professor.

Program Assessment Report

Department or Unit Name: Religious Studies Individual Completing Form: Dr. Derwood C. Smith

Program Name: B.A. in Religious Studies Date: 10-10-02

Goal # 2
An indepth knowledge of one area in religious studies

Outcome Measures	Research Completed	Findings	Review	Actions	Improvements
# 1 The exit examination required of all graduating seniors that allows a student to select his or her area of concentration	Test given for 3 years	Demonstrates that most students have attained at least a B level knowledge of the special field.	Chair, Faculty in special area of concentration.	Will design a senior seminar to be required of all majors. A capstone course to emphasize research methods in students' area.	Not yet offered. <i>Now implemented</i>
#2 Exit interview with graduating seniors.	New feature begins 2002-2003		Chair, Faculty in the special area of concentration		
# 3 Written evaluation or the department by graduating seniors.	Done for 3 years.	In general students very satisfied with quality of education. Some want more areas of concentration	Chair Assessment Review Committee	Added full time Professor in Islam. Arranged for Professor in Hinduism one semester per year. (*)	Provides indepth study in more areas of religious studies.
# 4 All graduating seniors must submit a research paper they have written during their course study.	Done for 3 years.	Majority of graduates capable of research and write well. Some fell below standard.	Chair, Faculty in area of concentration.	Capstone Senior Seminar will stress writing.	Not yet offered <i>Now implemented</i>
# 5 Monitoring student grades.	Done for 3 years.	Majority perform at "B" level. Some need improvement.	Chair Assessment Review Committee	Individual counseling with students. Capstone Senior Seminar.	Senior Seminar not yet offered.

new paper
08
Capstone
course

Program Assessment Report

Department or Unit Name: Religious Studies

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Program Name: B.A. in Religious Studies

Date: 10-10-02

Goal # 2 An indepth knowledge of one area in religious studies

Outcome Measures	Research Completed	Findings	Review	Actions	Improvements
# 6 Developing an evaluation form that will give numerical results.	To begin 2002-2003		Chair Assessment Review Committee		Now implemented
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Goal # 3

The ability to do research in an area of religious studies and write about it with precision and clarity.

Outcome Measures	Research Completed	Findings	Review	Actions	Improvements
# 1 Exit examination gives students the opportunity to write about the way they grapple with problems in religious studies. Not just a recitation of facts.	Done for 3 years	Majority perform at least at "B" level, but room for improvement concentration.	Chair, Faculty in special area of concentration.	Develop new Senior Seminar as a capstone course.	Not yet offered.
# 2 Research paper written during course of study is submitted.	Done for 3 years	Similar to what exam reveals.	Chair, Faculty in special area of concentration.	Develop new Senior Seminar as a capstone course.	Not yet offered.
# 3 Monitoring of grades in courses which require a research paper.	Done for 3 years	Must perform at "B" level.	Chair, Faculty in area of concentration.	In addition to the senior seminar stress the research paper in 300-400 level courses.	Not yet offered.
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Now implemented

Departmental/Unit Self Assessment and Action Plan

Department or Unit Name: Religious Studies

Individual Completing Form: Dr. Derwood C. Smith

Program Name: B.A. in Religious Studies

Date: 10-10-02

NCA Level 2 Assessment Criteria	Meets Level 2 Criteria?	Action Steps to Get to Level 2	Timetable for Action Steps (see base NCA time chart)
1. Goals * The Program has specific student learning or student service goals. These goals reflect the discipline or service area professional standards.	YES	YES	Already in place.
2. Outcomes * Outcomes that are directly measurable are defined for each goal.	YES	YES	Already in place.
3. Research Completed * Research is systematically conducted to evaluate success or failure in achieving student learning or service outcomes.	YES	When fully implemented	Within 2 years.
4. Findings * Research results are analyzed and interpreted; findings are determined.	YES	When fully implemented	Within 2 years.
5. Review Process * Findings are discussed and reviewed by appropriate groups and individuals; recommendations are made for action.	YES	YES	Already in place.
6. Actions * Recommendations are acted upon.	YES	YES	Already a number of actions taken. When process fully implemented, there will probably be more.
7. Improvement * Actions result in documented improvements in student learning or services.	YES	When fully implemented	Within in 2 years.