Annual Academic Assessment Report Cover Sheet

Assessment reports are due the 1st Wednesday after the Fall Term

Email to: assessment@unlv.edu

Program Information:

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<th>Program Assessed</th>
<th>Creative Writing, MFA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
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<td>Department Chair</td>
<td>Dr. Richard Harp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Coordinator</td>
<td>Claudia Keelan</td>
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<td>Date Submitted</td>
<td>11/23/2015</td>
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Contact Person for This Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Claudia Keelan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>702-985-3333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Claudia.Keelan@unlv.edu">Claudia.Keelan@unlv.edu</a></td>
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Please attach a narrative (not to exceed 4 pages, excluding appendices) addressing the following:

- What are the student learning outcomes? Please provide a numbered list.
- Which learning outcomes were assessed?
- How were they assessed? (Programs must use at least one direct assessment of student learning.)
- Undergraduate programs should assess at least one University Undergraduate Learning Outcome (UULO) each year, which may or may not overlap with a program learning outcome.
- Graduate programs should assess at least one outcome related to one of the following graduate level requirements each year:
  - student engagement in research, scholarship, creative expression and/or appropriate high-level professional practice.
  - activities requiring originality, critical analysis and expertise.
  - the development of extensive knowledge in the field under study.
- What was learned from the assessment results?
- How did the program respond to what was learned?

Please limit the narrative portion of your report to no more than four pages. You may attach appendices with data, tables, charts, or other materials as needed. Please explain the relevant conclusions from any appendices in your narrative. Please contact the Office of Academic Assessment if you have questions or need assistance.
Master of Fine Arts - Creative Writing

**Description and Rationale**

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (Poetry and Fiction) at UNLV is a three-year program which requires the completion of 54 credits in Creative Writing workshops, Forms courses, Literature classes, as well as independent work in Thesis Hours, Translation, Critical Essay and a Travel abroad requirement. Students are encouraged to complete all of their in-class coursework in the first two years, with the third year reserved for independent work on theses, translation and travel abroad. All of the students in the MFA program in Creative Writing at UNLV, while working primarily within their own genre, are required to take courses in alternate genres, as well. Unlike many traditional Creative Writing programs, the MFA at UNLV is not only a studio program; rather, students are required to creatively and critically engaged with English, American and World Literatures to better create the context in which their own writing takes place.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Through 54 credits of Creative Writing Workshop, Forms courses, Literature classes, and independent work in theses hours, translation, translation, critical essay and a travel abroad requirement, students will establish the creative and critical context through which their subsequent writing will develop.
- By reading and writing in other genres, students will develop a creative and critical appreciation of the canonical contexts from which new writing emerges.
- Through close reading and translation, students will develop a practical appreciation for the international milieus of new writing.
- Upon completion of the program, students will have produced a complete manuscript of original work with the intention of publication.

**Assessment of Learning Outcomes**

Our assessment measures are designed to measure the creative and critical expression of our students through a three-year program.

- Students take 30 hours of in-class coursework and are assessed individually by their instructors through portfolio, exams, and critical essays, as well as oral and digital presentations.
- Subsequently, students take 24 credits independently, working closely with an advisor and are assessed individually in translation projects, thesis manuscripts, critical essays, independent study and international experience.
- Additionally, through a survey of student publication and awards in 2014 conducted by the MFA coordinator, we’ve seen that our students are successfully publishing fiction, poetry and nonfiction in prominent magazines including *The New York Times, The*

• Several 2013 graduates are teaching English at the college level in Korea and Taiwan.

• As well, a survey in 2014 of student presentations revealed that more of our students than ever are actively contributing to the arts and letters at the AWP, MLA, FAR WEST POPULAR CULTURE, and etc. conferences. The learning and publication outcomes of 2014 suggest that we continue to attract and graduate Creative Writing students who are successful in their chosen fields.

1. Curriculum Map for MFA in Poetry and Fiction

The MFA in Poetry and Fiction is a 54-hour degree taken over 3 years. The degree requirements break down as follows:

Course Requirements

Creative Writing: Complete 12 credits in ENG 705
Complete 9 credits in the chosen genre of concentration (fiction or poetry) and 3 credits in another genre.

Translation and Critical Essay:
Complete 6 credits in English 739 M.F.A. Translation and English 749 M.F. A Critical Essay
Complete 3 hours in English 739 and 3 hours in English 749 independently under the direction of an advisor

Forms of Fiction or Poetry Course: Complete 9 credits in English 729
Complete 6 credits in primary genre (fiction or poetry) and 3 in the other

Elective Literature Courses: Complete 9 credits in elective Literature courses
Complete 9 credits of graduate literature courses offered by the Department of English or other departments offering 700 level courses relevant to your course of study

Independent Study: English 794: International Focus—Complete 6 credits in English 794
Students will complete travel abroad for 6 credits while working with an advisor

M.F.A. Thesis: English 790: Complete 12 credits in English 790
Complete 12 hours of thesis hours working independently under the direction of an adviser. Thesis hours must result in the production of a manuscript of poems, stories or a novel to receive the MFA degree.

Sample Map for Year 1: 18 credits

Eng. 705: Graduate Poetry or Fiction Workshop 3 credits
700 level Literature course: 3 credits
English 729: Forms of Fiction or Poetry: 3 credits

English 705: Graduate Poetry or Fiction Workshop: 3 credits
700 level Literature class: 3 credits
English 729: Forms of Poetry or Fiction: 3 credits

Sample Map for Year 2: 18 credits

English 705: Graduate Poetry or Fiction Workshop: 3 credits
English 729: Forms of Poetry or Fiction: 3 credits
700 level Literature class: 3 credits

English 705: Graduate Poetry or Fiction Workshop: 3 credits
English 749: MFA Critical Essay: 3 credits
English 790: M.F.A. Thesis: 3

Sample Map for Year 3: 18 credits

English 794: International Focus (often takes place in the summer between second and third year): 3 credits
English 739: M.F.A. Translation: 3 credits
English 790: MFA Thesis: 6 credits

English 790: MFA Thesis: 3 credits
English 794: Independent Study: 3 credits

54 Total Credits