**Annual Academic Assessment Report Cover Sheet**

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

Email to: assessment@unlv.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Information:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Submitted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Person for This Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
- 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.
Doctor of Philosophy with Creative Dissertation

**Description and Rationale**

The Black Mountain Institute Ph.D. Fellowship program is a three or four 48 credit program designed to build on the foundations of general literary knowledge by requiring students to develop expertise in three areas selected from historical periods, genres, major figures, and special topics in creative writing. In addition, fellows are also required to demonstrate expertise in one foreign language, or competence in two foreign languages. A qualifying examination, demonstrating a student’s competency in his or her three selected areas, is taken during the candidate’s third year, after he or she has completed all course work and the language requirement. In the last year, working closely with a dissertation advisor, the PhD candidate will work on a creative work, such as a book-length manuscript of poems, short stories, or a novel, which will constitute the creative dissertation.

The qualifying examination consists of a twelve-hour, three-part written examination, plus a 90-minute oral examination. The student must pass the qualifying examination on the first or second attempt or be disqualified from continuing the program. The examination is administered by a four-person committee, chosen by the student, comprised of three faculty members from the English department and one Graduate College representative from an outside department.

In part one of the examination, the student will demonstrate detailed knowledge of English Literature in one of the following periods: Old and Middle English, Renaissance, Restoration and Eighteenth Century, Nineteenth Century British, American Literature to 1900, or Twentieth and Twenty-first Century literature.

In part two, the student will demonstrate a substantial knowledge of literature (in English or in translation) in one of the following forms: drama, lyric and reflective poetry, epic and narrative poetry, prose fiction, or nonfiction prose.

In part three, the student will demonstrate extensive knowledge of an additional time period chosen from the list in part one; a major author; a special topic approved by the student’s committee; or an examination of the student’s own writing in relationship to other writers.

After passing the Qualifying Examination, and normally in the third or fourth year of the program, the student will complete a creative dissertation of a book of poems, short stories or novel, under the direction of an Advisor and a Thesis Committee approved by the Graduate Director of the Department.
Learning Outcomes

• The 48 credit PhD program with a Creative Dissertation builds upon the foundation laid by the student’s MFA degree allowing them to become experts in their chosen field.
• Students concentrate on a self-chosen historical period, genre and major author in the first part of their PhD experience. Their professors, through examination, critical essays, in addition to oral and or digital presentations, measure their progress individually.
• Students demonstrate expertise in one language or competence in two. They have the option of taking courses in the Foreign Language department or taking an exam administered by the English department.
• After all course work is completed and the foreign language requirement has been fulfilled, students take a 12 hour, three day qualifying examination where they demonstrate detailed knowledge of a) historical period b) genre and c) an additional time period chosen from list one; a major author; a special topic approved by the student’s committee; or an examination of the student's own writing in relationship to other writers.
• Once the qualifying examination is completed successfully, students complete work on the creative dissertation (a book of poems, short stories or novel).

Assessment of Learning Outcomes of the PhD with Creative Dissertation

Our assessment of the learning outcomes from the PhD with Creative Dissertation are designed to measure our students success in using their degrees to gain entry into university teaching or other suitable profession. As well, we survey the publications of our graduates of the PhD with Creative Dissertation to see where they stand nationally.

• Our 2014 survey of students’ success in entering the profession showed the following:

Ph.D. Fellows in Poetry and Fiction

• Erica Anzalone, PhD 2012, Lecturer Emerson College, Boston
• Christopher Arigo, PhD 2006, Associate Professor, Idaho State University
• David Armstrong, PhD 2014, Assistant Professor University of the Incarnate Word.
• Maile Chapman, PhD 2004, Assistant Professor, UNLV
• Colby Gillette, PhD, 2014, Lecturer, UNLV
• Joshua Kryah, PhD 2005, Assistant Professor, University of Missouri
• Andrew Nicholson, PhD 2011, Faculty in Residence, UNLV
• Alissa Nutting, PhD 2005, Assistant Professor, John Carroll University
• Derek Pollard, PhD 2015, Lecturer, UNLV
• Matthew Shears, PhD 2004, Lecturer, California College of the Arts
• Vu Tran, PhD 2006, Assistant Professor, University of Chicago.
11. Curriculum Map for PhD in English with Creative Dissertation

The PhD with Creative Dissertation in Poetry and Fiction is a 48-hour degree program beyond the MFA degree. Students are required to:

- Complete 3-6 credits in English 705: Creative Writing AND/OR 3-6 credits in English 796: Independent Study
- Complete 3 credits in ENG 729: Forms of Fiction or Poetry
- Complete 30 credits in Literature courses at the 700 level
- Demonstrate reading knowledge of one foreign language. This may be done through examination in the English department or through a class taken in the Foreign Language department.
- Complete 12 credits of English 799: Dissertation with your dissertation advisor(s)

**RESTRICTIONS**

- Only 6 credits of English 796: Independent Study can be applied to the program
- Only 3 credits of English 798: Doctoral Research can be applied to the program

Both 796 and 798 are undertaken with the student’s advisor and are often used to prepare for the qualifying exam. All credits in 796 and 798 must be completed before the qualifying exam.

Sample Map for Year 1:

- 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

Sample Map for Year 2:
English 796: Independent Study: 3 credits
700 level Literature course: 3 credits

700 level Literature course: 3 credits
English 796: Independent Study: 3 credits
English 799: Dissertation: 3 credits

Sample Map for Year 3:
700 level Literature course: 3 credits
English 798: Doctoral Research: 3 credits

700 level Literature course: 3 credits
English 799: Dissertation: 6 credits

Total: 48 credits

TIMELINE

1. In consultation with his/her advisor, a student will organize a dissertation committee of at least three departmental members by the end of the second year. In addition, a fourth member from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed. An additional committee member may be added at the student and department's discretion. Please see Graduate College policy for committee appointment guidelines.

2. Qualifying Examinations: Students take their qualifying exams in the first semester of their third year. These examinations consist of three four-hour written exams: one in the historical period of specialization, one in the genre of specialization, and a third in an additional chronological period, a major author approved by the dissertation committee, or a special topic approved by the dissertation committee. The written exams are followed by a two-hour oral examination.

3. After passing the Qualifying Examination, the student will formulate a prospectus, which describes the creative dissertation in process, which is a book of poems, stories or novel that will be approved by the dissertation
director(s) and the Graduate Director. The creative dissertation will be completed with the direction of the dissertation director.

4. Students will defend their creative dissertation orally to their dissertation committee. Upon passing, the results shall be signed by the committee, graduate director and Dean of the College.