

Assessment Plan

Western Michigan University

Spanish

Mission Statement: The mission of the Department of Spanish is to produce Spanish majors who can perform at the "advanced low" level in all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Our mission is also to produce majors who have a basic knowledge of the cultures and the literatures which find expression in Spanish.

Vision Statement: Our vision for the future is to progressively but gradually increase the number of students majoring in Spanish, to better assist our majors in preparing for jobs in which their Spanish skills will be an asset, and to encourage the best of them to go on to do graduate work in Spanish, either here or elsewhere.

Outcome: Speaking

- Student participates actively in most informal and some formal conversations dealing with topics related to school, home, and leisure activities, and, to a lesser degree, those related to events of current, public, and personal interest.
- Student narrates and describes in present, past, and future time frames, although control of tense, aspect, and mood may occasionally be lacking. He or she handles routine situations or communicative tasks that present a complication or an unexpected turn of events.
- Student may be understood by native speakers unaccustomed to dealing with non-natives, even though this may only be achievable through repetition and restatement.

Track: Spanish Major: Education Curriculum

Start Date: 03/14/2009

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Assessment of the evaluation method is conducted informally on an ongoing basis. For example, beginning with the spring 2009 semester we have made the following changes:

- We have gone from analog to digital recording for easier grading and storage.
- Instead of each instructor assessing his or her own students, all oral assessment is now done by the chair of the Assessment Committee. This has the effect of standardizing the process, so that now all students have virtually the same assessment experience. This should make our data more reliable.
- To eliminate the need for oral participation by the professor, which would vary from student to student and possibly skew the results, a list of topics the students can talk about will be given to them before recording begins. The students can take a few moments to look over the questions and get their thoughts together. When they say they are ready, the chair of the committee begins recording.

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Sample of students: The pool of students to be assessed will be senior Spanish majors, out of which pool a sample of ten students will be randomly selected from those seniors enrolled in all 4000- or 5000-level classes. (Senior is defined as a student having 88 or more hours.) Procedure: The students to be assessed will be asked to make an appointment with the chair of the assessment committee to speak in Spanish about the following question: "Generally speaking, how has your experience at WMU been? What are some of the positive and negative aspects of your personal and academic experience here?" The chair of the assessment committee will record approximately three or four minutes of the student's response. He will then put those speech samples on a CD for grading by the other members of the assessment committee. In case students have trouble getting started, the chair of the committee will provide a list of questions to which they may respond should they wish to do so. The chair of the committee will not converse with the students while recording is in progress.	"Pass" is defined as a score of five or above on a scale of 1-9 (see Rubrics in Documents).	Assessment of speaking will be done only in spring semester.	Yes

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active

A committee of three professors will grade these tapes on a pass/fail basis.

Related Documents:

[Rubrics_for_Assessment_ofMajor copy.doc](#)

Outcome: Writing

- a) Student writes routine social correspondence and about familiar topics by means of narratives, descriptions and summaries of a factual nature in major time frames with some control of aspect. Combines sentences in texts of paragraph length, incorporating a limited number of cohesive devices.
- b. Writing demonstrates control of simple target-language sentence structures and partial control of more complex syntactic structures.
- c. Writing is understood by readers accustomed to the writing of second language learners although additional effort may be required in reading the text.

Start Date: 03/14/2009

Outcome Status: Active

Assessment Evaluation: Assessment of the evaluation instrument is conducted informally on an ongoing basis. For example, one change we made starting with spring semester 2009 is to allow all students to use dictionaries to write their compositions. Previously, some instructors were allowing the use of dictionaries while others were not, which reduced considerably the reliability of the data.

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Students will be asked to write a well-organized essay, in Spanish, of approximately 250-300 words. They will have fifty minutes to do this exercise. The topics will vary each semester and will be selected from a bank of topics. At the beginning of each semester the assessment committee will communicate two topics for that semester to all instructors of SPAN 4520. Students will choose one of these topics. Students are not to have prior knowledge of the topics. Students will be allowed to use dictionaries to write this composition. A committee of three professors will grade these compositions on a pass/fail basis.	"Pass" is defined as a score of five or above on a scale of 1-9. (See Rubrics in Documents.)	Writing will be assessed every semester. The students to be assessed will be all seniors enrolled in SPAN 4520, "Advanced Grammar and Composition."	Yes

Related Courses

- * SPAN 3160 - Spanish Composition
- * SPAN 4520 - Adv Spanish Gram/Comp