THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
HENDRIX COLLEGE

ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR FRENCH

Student Learning Goals

French courses at Hendrix are designed to meet the standards known as the "Five C's of Foreign Language Education" defined by the National Standards in Foreign Language Education project:

1. Communication: communicate in languages other than English
2. Cultures: gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures
3. Connections: connect with other disciplines and acquire information
4. Comparisons: develop insight into the nature of language and culture
5. Communities: participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world

Through its implementation of the "Five C's" the French program at Hendrix College addresses the following aims expressed in the College's statement of purpose:

- To investigate and appreciate the richly diverse cultural, intellectual, and linguistic traditions shaping the contemporary world;
- To examine critically and understand the intellectual traditions woven into the history of Western thought;
- To develop skill and effectiveness in the use of language, the analysis of information, and the communication of knowledge;
- To explore and connect the content and methods of the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences.

Assessment Instruments

The following direct assessment instruments are used to assess student learning outcomes:

- Written exams
- Oral exams
- Written compositions
- Oral compositions
- Exposés
- Term papers
- Senior comprehensive exams, written and oral

The following indirect assessment instruments are used to assess student learning outcomes:

- Course evaluations
- Faculty evaluations
- Reports from outside constituencies such as graduate schools

Curricular Review

The French program undergoes an official review every ten years as part of the departmental self-study procedure. The last self-study was conducted in 2009.

Implementation

All of the assessment methodologies discussed above are used to help the French program to continue to improve its curriculum.