

**Departmental and Program Assessment  
Annual Assessment Plan Basic Update**

Academic Year:       **2013-14**

Academic Unit:       **German Program**

Chair:                 **Wayne Oudekerk, head**

**Student Assessment Plan (SAP) – Basic Check-list**

1. Have any changes been made to your program's student assessment plan or student learning goals?  
Your recent version should be on the web at  
<http://www.hendrix.edu/academics/academics.aspx?id=7264>. If you have made changes, then attach a copy of the new plan or goals.

**No**

2. Are student learning goals available to students on the web on the departmental/programmatic page(s)? If not, then this will be considered as an action plan for the coming year.

**Yes**

3. Are student learning goals, appropriate for each course, included in the course syllabi in your department or program? If not, then this will be considered as an action plan for the coming year.

**Yes**

**Student Assessment Plan Development** - Departments and programs who have a complete and current SAP should consider the next step in SAP development.

1. As a next step in SAP development, departments/programs are encouraged begin working on an assessment audit to determine how student learning goals fit across the courses in the major. Sometimes the term “scaffolding” is used to describe this process. This could be as complicated as a full grid of student learning goals, or a single learning goal, across the courses in the major. (This has not been required of departments, but it is a recommended next step when the SAP is up to date.) Has your program already done this?

**During spring semester, the FL department worked on a grid-based direct assessment instrument for department-wide use. It is my intent to start employing this grid in the fall of 2015 when I return to the classroom from my sabbatical leave.**

**Yearly Assessment Report** – each department or program is expected to have assessment discussions for at least two hours each academic year. If necessary, help is available from David Sutherland, just call.

1. What was your planned action item identified in your last report?

**To evaluate the effectiveness of instruction in German 330 (Survey of German Literature and Civilization, Part 2, fall semester) and German 310 (Advance Composition and Conversation, spring semester)**

2. Briefly summarize the topics discussed in your annual assessment meeting.

**I recently analyzed the content of the German 330 student evaluations from fall 2010 and fall 2013 and the spring 2011 and 2014 student evaluations for German 310.**

3. What was the conclusion of your assessment discussion and how did the collected assessment data inform your conclusion? Specifically describe any curricular or programmatic changes that have been made that were based, at least in part, on the data in your SAP.

**The German 330 evaluations were very positive. The main textbook used in both iterations of the course was viewed as challenging but very useful. Several students commented on multiple works providing (paraphrase) ‘a clear overview of the literary period in question.’ Constructive suggestions included replacing one work which was criticized as being ‘more pop culture than literature per se’ and a call on the part of two students for longer papers.**

**The German 310 evaluations were also strong (including one statement that “Dr. O. is the best professor at Hendrix.”). “I really learned a lot” and “Loved the idiomatic expressions” were sentiments echoed in most of the evaluations. Based on the suggestions of these two sets of students, I will endeavor in the next German 310 course to find more current textbooks and to reduce slightly the grammar content in favor of more spontaneous language exercises in the classroom.**

Define one new action item for your assessment discussions next year.

**I will not be teaching next year, but I intend to start using the FL department direct assessment grid on two upper-level courses during AY 2015-16, presumably German 320 and a German literature in translation course yet to be designed.**