

Departmental Assessment Meeting: Conversation guide

Please have a conversation with your department about the following issues, complete the Departmental Assessment Meeting Report, and return it to Megan Leonard or Sasha Pfau no later than **March 31, 2017**.

Summary of past decisions

- In the time since the last HLC visit (08-09), what changes have been made in your department (new courses, changes to existing courses, restructuring major, etc)?

The Spanish Program has restructured its major and minor, has added many courses and deleted others (in part due to staffing change), and have revamped individual courses to better fit our current population of students.

- What was the impetus for these changes (surveys, course evaluations, student performance, departmental conversation, conversations with advisees, etc)?

The changes in the major and minor were inspired by a study of Spanish majors, the courses they chose to take, and departmental conversation. It became clear that we would benefit by adding more structure to our major for guidance. Changes in individual courses have come about due to assessments of evaluations and student performance in individual classes.

- Have you made any changes to the ways your department gathers information about student development (for example, surveys, rubrics, common exams, alumni feedback, etc)?

No.

Looking forward

- For next year, what key area of student development would your department like to focus on? How will you gather information to help you evaluate the current state of your area of focus in order to make evidence-based decisions?

We will continue to work on trying to equalize class size in order to maximize conversational opportunities in each venue.

Achieving departmental goals for students

Program goals: The mission of the Spanish program at Hendrix College is twofold: to give the students the opportunity to learn the language and to introduce them to the academic and cultural richness of the Hispanic world through the analytical study of major texts. Towards this end, the Spanish program is geared towards educating students so they can:

- communicate effectively in Spanish, both written and oral,
- understand and analyze different types of text in Spanish,
- be culturally aware and sensitive through constant engagement with the cultural products of others, therefore becoming better global citizens, and
- have a wide base of knowledge about Hispanic cultures and literary traditions.

- Consider your department learning goals. Do they accurately reflect your desired student outcomes? If you have not already done so, please explicitly consider where in your curriculum you achieve your goals for student learning. This can be done through a curricular map or in the form of a narrative.

Our first three learning goals, which focus on communication, comprehension, analysis, and engagement, are what we do in every single class in our curriculum. The fourth learning goal, which focuses on have a wide base of knowledge of cultures and traditions within the Hispanic world, can easily be achieved through any of the survey courses, SPAN 310, 320, or 330. Because there is very little overlap between the content of classes, the fourth learning goal can also be achieved by taking more than one course at the 300 or 400 level.

- What role does your Capstone play in achieving your departmental learning goals? How do you know that students are achieving these goals through the Capstone experience?

Through our Senior Comprehensive Exam, which is specifically tailored to each student based on the course work that they have done, we gauge how well the students have captured the major points taught in each of the classes. It also allows us to see what courses students have chosen during their time within the major. This has pushed us to restructure the major in order to assure a more diverse spread of courses and it has enabled us to change individual courses to better suit our pedagogical desires.

- In what ways does your department provide guidance in the effective use of research and information resources?

We work with our students in individual courses to assure that they use the resources available to the best of their abilities. This differs greatly depending on course.

Your department's role in achieving the college's shared goals for students

- How do your departmental learning goals fit into the new Vision for Student Learning Goals? Which parts of the VSL does your department most contribute to? If you would like to do a mapping, you may wish to use the attached template for VSLG mapping.

Departmental Assessment Meeting: Report

Please fill out this report based on your department's conversation and return via e-mail to Megan Leonard or Sasha Pfau by March 31, 2017.

Summary of past decisions

Please summarize up to three departmental changes made since the last HLC visit (08-09) the impetus for those changes and any changes to information gathering about student development.

More course offerings on cultural topics (film, popular culture) – brought on by student requests

A major/minor restructuring requiring a set number of 400 level courses

A major/minor restructuring requiring balance between Latin American and Peninsular literature

- The last two brought on by assessment of the Senior Comprehensive Exam

Looking forward

Please summarize your department's focus for student development and your evaluation methods.

The Spanish Program focuses on the development of language use. This is done through extensive writing assignments and in class participation.

Achieving departmental goals for students

Please explain how your departmental curriculum achieves your student learning goals, being sure to include the Capstone. Feel free to attach a curricular map or other supporting documents. Summarize the ways your department provides guidance in the effective use of research and information resources.

Your department's role in achieving the college's shared goals for students

Please explain how your departmental learning goals contribute to the Vision for Student Learning Goals. Feel free to attach a map or other supporting documents.