

UW English

Assessment Summary Paragraph for College of Letters and Science

August 24, 2012

In 2011-12, English addressed assessment goals for high impact learning practices in five ways. 1) English restructured its major by creating intensive writing sophomore seminars for all new majors, opening the curriculum to other disciplines represented by department, reshaping the large lecture courses, and emphasizing writing commitments across the English curriculum. 2) English has hired 1 of its 3 MIU faculty positions to support the new sophomore seminar and greater faculty presence in undergraduate courses. 3) For English, David Zimmerman leads a 2-day August orientation workshop and an 8-week proseminar that trains new Intro. Lit. TAs in effective practices and principles of Intro. Lit. teaching, with a focus on designing and leading effective lessons, teaching critical reading and writing skills, designing and implementing an effective writing curriculum, and meeting the challenges of a multicultural classroom. 4. The English 100 Program works with approximately 40-45 TAs a semester to provide instruction for the largest Communication A course in the university. English 100 TAs are required to participate in orientation meetings held before the start of each semester. New instructors participate in an 8-week proseminar during the fall to provide support for their teaching in the first semester. During this time they are observed and mentored both informally and formally and conference with the assistant directors, associate director, and director of the program. Each instructor receives a formal observation by the program director or associate director or a department faculty member. In both the fall and spring returning instructors participate on program committees to work on curriculum, develop course materials, and design materials to support instructors. The English 100 Program has also participated in the assessment studies of Communication A courses developed by the Comm A Directors subcommittee of the University's General Education Committee. 5) English faculty organized and taught in 6 FIG clusters and were instructors for 7 additional individual sections.