

L&S ASSESSMENT REPORT SURVEY 2012-2013

This survey may be completed online, by going to:
https://uwmadison.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1KPP5NTbU2acZ6t

Introduction

Dear L&S chairs, directors, faculty, and academic program staff:

Annual assessment reports are due to the college by May 15, 2013.

By completing the survey that follows, you will be submitting your annual report on the assessment of student learning. These reports are needed so UW-Madison can comply with Regent and Federal regulations that require the university to systematically perform this work for all academic programs that lead to a credential (degree, major, and certificate). Your responses will be used to create the L&S Annual Report to the Provost on the Assessment of Student Learning. The college report to the Provost must contain a response for every L&S credential. As you know, this is a huge task - your help is essential.

The following links offer some background on Assessment of Student Learning, from the college assessment plan to some simple "how to" guides. (Some of the survey questions below also provide links to relevant resources.)

- L&S Assessment Plan: <https://kb.wisc.edu/lis/page.php?id=25259>
- L&S Department and Program Plans and Reports: <https://kb.wisc.edu/lis/page.php?id=23837>
- L&S Plan and Report content guidelines / templates: <https://kb.wisc.edu/lis/page.php?id=25242>
- Assessment Tips and Terms: <https://kb.wisc.edu/lis/page.php?id=25287>

This is the first time we are trying to gather this information by asking you to complete an online survey. Because reports are due May 15, 2013, the survey will be open during the Spring 2013 term. This survey has been designed to allow you to start, stop, and revise responses as long as you do so on the same computer where you started the survey, using the original link you were sent to begin the survey, and if you click "next" (which saves your information) before closing the survey. (If this gives you trouble, contact Elaine.) As an alternative to responding online, we will also make the survey available as an MS Word document that can be emailed to us.

If your program provides a formal report on assessment to a professional organization, accrediting agency, board of visitors, or other group, you may share that report as part of your response. Please contact Elaine Klein, the L&S Assistant Dean for Academic Planning (emklein@ls.wisc.edu) to discuss these options. (We will need responses for any programs that are not covered by these reports.)

Finally, we hope to share and use this information across the college, to encourage departments and programs to learn from each other, develop collaborations, and improve practices and learning. You may also notice that the information you provide here will be requested by other entities - the L&S Academic Planning Council, Curriculum Committee, and other groups in the college refer to assessment activities when discussing program reviews, requests for changes to courses and curricula, requests for departmental reconfiguration, calls for proposals for new projects, etc. Understanding how, and how well, our students are performing in our programs is essential to the work we do. The responses you provide will help us know if we're headed in the right direction.

Again, thank you for your response.

Gary Sandefur, Dean, College of Letters & Science
Elaine M. Klein, Assistant Dean for Academic Planning

Contact Information

Q2.1. If we have questions about the responses provided, it would be useful to be able to discuss them with you. Whom should we contact?

Laurie Silverberg, Associate Director

Q2.2. Address

108 Ingraham Hall (moving to Humanities in Summer 2013, date TBA)

Q2.3. e-mail contact

lsilverberg@wisc.edu

Q2.4. Telephone

265-4763

Program Information Validation

Q3.1. List all of the academic programs this response addresses. Remember to include undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as certificate programs. For your convenience, we provide here links to the lists of approved UW-Madison programs.

- **Major in Jewish Studies**
- **Major in Jewish Studies: Education Track**
- **Certificate in Jewish Studies**

Q3.2. Are the names and levels of the programs, as you understand them, consistent with the official lists?

- **Yes**

Q3.3. If an academic program name needs to be updated, you may need to request a change to make the working name consistent with the official name. This will require approval by the department/program, the L&S Academic Planning Council, and the University Academic Planning Council. If you think you would like to change an academic program name, please contact your associate dean and the Assistant Dean for Academic Planning, Elaine M. Klein (emklein@ls.wisc.edu).

Should we let Elaine know you'll be contacting her about this?

- **No**

Q3.4. If an academic program isn't listed, and if it should be formally recognized by the university, the department/program needs to seek approval through the College and University Academic Planning Councils. Please alert your department chair and associate dean that you wish to begin this process. If you have questions, contact the L&S Assistant Dean for Academic Planning, Elaine Klein (emklein@ls.wisc.edu).

Should we let Elaine know you'll be contacting her about this?

- No**

Q3.5. If you have an academic program that should not be listed in these official documents (because the faculty have closed or suspended it), that action must be formally approved and implemented by the university. The department/program needs to seek approval through the L&S and University Academic Planning Councils.

Please alert your department chair and associate dean as soon as possible that you wish to begin this process. If you have questions, contact the L&S Assistant Dean for Academic Planning, Elaine Klein (emklein@ls.wisc.edu).

Should we let Elaine know you'll be contacting her about this?

- No**

Assessment Plan

Q4.1. Please review the assessment plan on file for your program(s).

- L&S Department and Program Assessment Plans: <https://kb.wisc.edu/ls/page.php?id=23837>

Is it current?

- No**

Q4.2. If the plan on file is not current, and if you have a current plan, please send a copy to Elaine Klein (emklein@ls.wisc.edu).

If the plan on file is not current, and you need to update your plan, please provide a statement below explaining your plans to undertake that work. Your updated plan should be sent to the Dean (c/o Elaine Klein) by June 30, 2013. (Please contact Elaine if you need to discuss an alternative deadline.)

The plan on file was created in May 2006 and applies only to the Jewish Studies major. Since that time, we have made significant changes to the Jewish Studies major requirements, which became effective in Fall 2012. There is no assessment plan for the Jewish Studies certificate.

Laurie Silverberg (associate director) will update the assessment plan for the major and create an assessment plan in for the certificate. This will happen in collaboration with Michael Bernard-Donals (Jewish Studies director) and faculty on the Undergraduate Studies committee. We expect to submit updated plans by the June 30, 2013 deadline.

In addition, the Center for Jewish Studies will conduct a more thorough review of the major and certificate programs and submit a new assessment plan by December 31, 2014. This date will allow us to study the impact of our new major requirements, which went into effect in Fall 2012. In addition, we anticipate that the Department of Hebrew & Semitic Studies will undergo significant structural and curricular changes over the next 12 months. These changes will undoubtedly impact Jewish Studies, but it is difficult to anticipate precisely how. By the end of 2014, we will be in a better position to assess the relationship between the Jewish Studies major and the program in Hebrew & Semitic Studies.

Q4.3. Do you have other programs on which you can provide an assessment report? (Please understand that we must provide some report on every academic program and credential we offer.)

Recent Assessment Activity

NOTE: Although the most recent Assessment Plan on file dates to 2006, the Center for Jewish Studies has nonetheless undertaken several assessment activities over the past two years. The following answers refer to these activities, not to the 2006 plan.

Q5.1. Assessment Purpose. Please describe the purpose of the assessment activity (e.g., to conduct a curricular or program review, to assess learning across a sequence of courses, to solve a problem with student performance, to honor MIU or other obligations, etc.)

The Center for Jewish Studies conducted a curricular review in 2010–11 and implemented a new set of requirements for the major in Fall 2012, with the aim of streamlining the program and adding flexibility to the major requirements. In addition, we created a new array of topics courses that better accommodate “meets with” courses and allow students to fulfill L&S breadth requirements.

Q5.2. Learning Outcomes or Goals Assessed. Referring to the list of student learning objectives/goals expressed in the program assessment plan, please identify the learning outcome(s) that were the focus of the assessment activity: what did you study about what you want students to know, value and/or do?

While it is somewhat early to assess the outcome of this curriculum change, it is already clear that students are benefitting from the new curriculum, as they may choose from a greater array of courses to fulfill major requirements. When presented with a choice between adhering to the old curriculum, or re-declaring under the new requirements, all but one Jewish Studies major decided to follow the new curriculum.

The new array of topics courses has allowed us to offer several new courses that “meet with” other departments. These include the following:

- **Jewish 230: Elementary Topics in Jewish Literature: Representing the Holocaust in Poland: Ethical Issues**
- **Jewish 431: Intermediate Topics in Jewish History: Jewish Wisconsin**
- **Jewish 432: Intermediate Topics in Jewish Philosophy and the Arts: Interdisciplinary Improvisation (F2012)**
- **Jewish 631: Advanced Topics in Jewish History: Cities, Public Sphere and Minority Identities**

The topics array has also allowed us to provide more accurate course equivalencies for students who study abroad.

Q5.3. Assessment Strategy. Please describe your most recent assessment project. What did you do to try to better understand student learning across this program, in the context of the learning goal discussed in your response above? Feel free to describe the tools, strategies, methods, and analysis used (e.g., graduating student surveys, standardized tests, grades on embedded questions on exams, alumni surveys, focus groups or interviews, evaluation of student work on papers, portfolios, capstone assignments, etc.)

In Spring 2012, we conducted an online exit survey of graduating seniors in our program. The principal goals included the following:

- **To determine how our program prepares students for life after graduation (graduate school, professional school, employment)**
- **To determine program strengths and weaknesses (as seen by graduating seniors)**

We are in the process of developing a new, and hopefully more informative, survey for the class of 2013.

Q5.4. Key Findings and Impact. Please summarize the key findings (evidence/results) and how the department or program plans to use this information (e.g., no curricular changes, program enhancements, program redesign, etc.). This may include to whom results were reported to effect change (if needed), whether the results suggested other areas of inquiry, plans for continued attention to assessment (including "tweaking" the assessment plan),and/or deadlines for achieving milestones related to the above activities.

All 11 survey respondents had earned certificates in Jewish Studies; there were no majors that year. About half are attending graduate or professional school; the other half are employed full-time. While most noted the ease of completing certificate requirements alongside their other chosen major(s), more than half cited the difficulty of completing the requirements for the Jewish Studies major as the reason they did only the certificate; 20% cited specifically the Hebrew language requirement as the impediment to the major.

We plan to offer an expanded version of this survey to the class of 2013, which we will use in creating the new assessment plan in December 2014.

The Future

Q6.1. Please let us know what your next steps for assessing student learning will be.

We will create a formalized plan for the major and certificate programs, with a particular focus on assessing learning outcomes.

Thank you!

Please email this document to emklein@ls.wisc.edu.

If you prefer, hard copies may be sent to Elaine Klein, Rm 307D South Hall

We'll be in touch if we have any additional questions.