

Religious Studies assessment plan, update 2013

The Program assesses its undergraduate major and certificate as follows:

1. Course evaluations by students. All instructors conduct a course evaluation every semester. Course statistics are aggregated by the program staff and written comments are redacted and provided to instructors. These materials can be used to measure program effectiveness over time, particularly in the context of a biennial curriculum retreat, held in the fall of every second year.
2. Student exit surveys are currently provided in hard copy to all participants in the capstone course 695. We are planning to change this into an online survey that will be sent electronically to *all* graduating majors *and* certificate students during their final semester at the university. Students who fill out the form will be eligible for a gift drawing conducted at the end of spring semester each year. The winner of the drawing will receive a gift card from the UW Bookstore or Amazon.com (their choice).
3. A capstone essay is required of all majors. Copies of these essays are archived by the program. At biennial curriculum retreats, these are examined to see the degree to which graduates have attained the skills and understandings listed in the RS vision statement.
4. Our new capstone course 600 will include an assessment exercise in which students look back at their studies in the program and evaluate their learning. Students' written responses in this exercise will be archived by the program for examination at the biennial curriculum retreat.
5. We currently send out a second exit survey to former students five years after graduation. We are now converting this survey into an online form and will include a gift drawing for respondents, as above. Respondents' surveys will be archived by the program and examined as part of the biennial curriculum retreat.