

**Assessment Report
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
September, 2000**

The Department of Spanish inaugurated its new Undergraduate Major in the fall, 1999. The reason for restructuring the major was twofold: 1) A sense among the faculty that the undergraduate curriculum was not as integrated as it could be. That is to say, that courses tended to stand alone and did not build upon each other. 2) The changing needs of the undergraduate student population as reflected in a survey taken of our majors and non-majors. Among the requirements for graduating majors is a portfolio containing writing samples selected from a language practice class, a literature class, and a culture class. We included the portfolio requirement as a way of assessing one of the components of our major: the writing skills of our majors during their course of study and at the time of graduation. .

Although we have collected portfolios from students graduating from our old major, we have deferred undertaking a thorough assessment of their portfolios because our main interest, at present, is to evaluate the effectiveness of the new program. The Portuguese section of the department has also begun to amass a significant number of portfolios from their majors, and will undertake an assessment of them this year.

The evaluation of the oral component of our assessment plan will begin this year. For this we will give the official ACTFL oral interview to a significant number of our graduating seniors. The same method will be used to gauge the proficiency of the Portuguese majors.

For undergraduate program assessment, the primary challenge in implementation has been the lack of faculty available for this exercise and the large number of majors that must be assessed. Now that we have new faculty we will be able to undertake this important activity.

Among the primary ways to assess our graduate program is the employment placement data for our Ph. Ds. We have taken the following figures for our department from the "Annual Report and Data" provided by the Graduate School.

1995-1998 Spanish

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|-----------------------------|----|
| PhDs granted | 22 |
| PhDs in teaching positions | 20 |
| PhDs in administration | 1 |
| PhDs no information on work | 1 |
| PhDs working in USA | 18 |
| PhDs working in Wisconsin | 2 |
| PhDs working abroad | 2 |

1995-1998 Portuguese

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| PhDs granted | 2 |
| PhDs in teaching positions | 2 |
| PhDs working in Wisconsin | 1 |
| PhDs working in USA | 1 |