Institutional Effectiveness
2023-2024

Program: English BA
College and Department: College of Arts and Sciences, Department of English
Contact: Linda Null
Mission:

Mission: The English BA curriculum is designed to improve students' skills in writing, critical reading, and thinking; to enrich their cultural experience; and to prepare them for all professions requiring a high level of expression, imagination, and intellectual activity, including creative writing, editing, teaching, law, politics, and management.

Attach Curriculum Map (Educational Programs Only):
Attached Files: See Appendix 1

SLO 1: Capacity to Write Clearly

Define Outcome:
Students graduating with a degree in English will employ their capacity to write clearly with 80% of students scoring "Very Good" or above in each relevant rubric category of the ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium research paper.

Assessment Methods:
Relevant rubric categories:
- The document presented a clear thesis statement.
- The document was well organized with main points related to the thesis.
- The writer developed the main points using effective rhetorical strategies.
- The topic was appropriate for the designated audience, and specific terms were explained.
- Sources used were appropriate to the purpose of the writing and were managed well.
- Format features appropriately addressed the prompt.
- The writing demonstrated correct diction, syntax, usage, grammar, and mechanics.
- Tone and style were appropriate for the audience.
- The data are collected in ENGL 4995, the capstone course for ENGL majors. This course is offered in the spring only. Usually the spring semester is the final semester for these students.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):
ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium Rubric:
80% of students will score "Very Good" or above in each relevant rubric category. A score of 80% or above indicates a strong "above average" for attainment of this SLO.

Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:
1.E Stackable Credentials

Results and Analysis:
In 2023, the English Department developed a rubric for evaluating the written skills of its majors. We will use this rubric in ENGL 4995, the capstone course. We set a goal that 80% of the students will score "Very Good" or above. We met that goal for 2024.

The attached chart also includes the results of the evaluation of majors' oral communication skills. We have used that rubric for over ten years. Our majors met our goal that students will score "Very Good" or above in each category.

Attached Files: See Appendix 2

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:
We plan to continue to work on MLA citation form, beginning with the freshman composition courses where we have planned workshops for instructors to assist students in learning what to cite and how to find sources.

SLO 2: Capacity to Speak Clearly

Define Outcome:
Students graduating with a degree in English will employ their capacity to speak clearly with an average score of 4.50 out of 5.00 per trait assessed. Students' speaking ability is assessed in ENGL 4995, the capstone ENGL course that students usually take their last semester as undergraduates.

Assessment Methods:
Data are collected in ENGL 4995, the capstone course for ENGL majors. The course is offered in spring semesters only. Usually this semester is the last semester the student will be enrolled at TTU as an undergraduate.

Attached Files: See Appendix 3

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):
Members of the BA Curriculum Committee, based on their knowledge and expertise, determined that a 4.50 average per trait was a reasonable expectation and benchmark of students' proficiency in oral communication.

Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:
1.E Stackable Credentials

Results and Analysis:
In 2023, the English Department developed a rubric for evaluating the written skills of its majors. We will use this rubric in ENGL 4995, the capstone course. We set a goal that 80% of the students will score "Very Good" or above. We met that goal for 2024.

The attached chart also includes the results of the evaluation of majors' oral communication skills. We have used that rubric for over ten years. Our majors met our goal that students will score "Very Good" or above in each category.

Attached Files: See Appendix 2

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:
We plan to continue to work on MLA citation form, beginning with the freshman composition courses where we have planned workshops for instructors to assist students in learning what to cite and how to find sources.

SLO 3: Read Widely and Perceptively

Define Outcome:
Students graduating with a degree in English will read widely and perceptively, as demonstrated by 80% of students scoring at 90% of the ratio for the Tennessee Tech average score/national comparison average on the ETS English Major Field Test.

Assessment Methods:
English Major Field Test taken during students' last semester in the English BA program.

The test asks questions based on American, British, and world authors from all time periods.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):
The ETS English Major Field Test: 90% of the ratio for the Tennessee Tech average score/national comparison average on the ETS Major Field Test

Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:
1.E Stackable Credentials,2.B Research, Scholar, Intellect, and Creativity

Results and Analysis:
English majors should read works across a wide span of time and a variety of cultures. The major field test in literature includes sections on literary history, literary theory, and literary terms. The chart below indicates that the average score for English majors who took the ETS in 2023-24 was at 90% of the national average, a score that the Tennessee Tech web site on the ETS indicates is within the university's goal.

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:
We are especially interested in assisting students with identification of literary terms, an area where they have not scored well in the past. We provided copies of the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* for all the new English majors in Fall 2024. The hope is that students will use this resource to help them identify literary techniques and thereby gain greater appreciation of literary technique.

The chart below indicates recent results of English majors on the major field test.

Attached Files: See Appendix 4

SLO 4: Critical Thinking Skills

Define Outcome:
Students graduating with a degree in English will apply their ability to think critically as shown at or above both the national average and the Tennessee Tech average on the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST). Students take the CCTST their senior year.

Assessment Methods:
The California Critical Thinking Skills Test assesses critical thinking skills, including analysis and interpretation sub-scores, which relate to the English major student learning outcomes. The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences helps to make students aware of this requirement and when to take the test.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):
English majors will perform at or above the national average and the Tennessee Tech average on the CCTST.

Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:
1.E Stackable Credentials

Results and Analysis:

The chart below indicates that English majors continue to perform above the Tennessee Tech average as well as the national average. To analyze literature, students need critical thinking skills. English majors hone their critical thinking skills in every literary course.

Attached Files: See Appendix 5

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:

SLO 5: Intercultural Knowledge

Define Outcome:

Students graduating with a degree in English will be able to articulate how intercultural factors shape the creation of texts with 80% of students scoring "Very Good" or above in the "Intercultural Knowledge" categories for the ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium Research.

A score of 80% or above indicates a strong "above average" attainment of this SLO.

Assessment Methods:

From the ENGL 4995 Writing Rubric:

- The writing articulates how intercultural rules and biases shape the creation of texts.
- From the ENGL 4995 Oral Presentation Rubric:
- Student demonstrates knowledge of intercultural factors and ways they shape the creation of texts.
- This outcome is measured in ENGL 4995, the capstone course for English majors. The course is offered in spring semesters only, so students usually take the course the last semester at Tennessee Tech. The intent is to determine to what degree students understand the relationship between intercultural factors (experiences, viewpoints, influences) and the creation of texts. The rubric scores this knowledge on a five point scale excellent to poor.

Criteria for Success (Thresholds for Assessment Methods):

80% of students will score "Very Good" or above in the relevant rubric category.

Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:

1.A Experiential Learning,1.C Diversity

Results and Analysis:

SLO 5 is new for 2023-24. The English Department assessed this SLO through the written assignment in ENGL 4995 the capstone course. Eleven students were assessed using a five point scale. The average score for this trait was 4.73, within the goal set of 80% of the students

scoring at "Very good" or above for this trait.   The results of the assessment are included in the chart below. The "trait" is described as "The writing articulates how intercultural factors shape the creation of texts." Because Spring 2024 was the first time this outcome had been assessed, we do have not historical data.

Attached Files: See Appendix 6

Use of Results to Improve Outcomes:
When we offer ENGL 4995 again, we should be sure to include the item on intercultural factors as part of the assessment of the oral presentation.

Summative Evaluation:
For 2023-2024, we added a new SLO to encourage diversity in the curriculum. We planned to assess that SLO through the oral communication rubric and the written communication rubric in ENGL 4995, a "capstone" course offered only in spring semesters. So Spring 2024 was the first time to assess that outcome, which we did in the written presentation rubric but by oversight, not in the oral communication rubric. We hope to improve scores on that outcome in Spring 2025. In Fall 2024, we will offer a course in African American Literature and another course in Native American Literature. We will also offer a course in disability issues. These three courses should provide our majors with more extensive exposure to a variety of cultures.

Assessment Plan Changes:
The English Department should make certain the SLO which addresses diversity is assessed through both the oral and the written assessment rubrics in ENGL 4995 and that we offer courses that provide majors the opportunity to learn about cultures other than those traditionally taught.

List of Appendices:
Appendix 1: English BA Curriculum Map
Appendix 2: SLO1 Results - IE oral and written data sp24
Appendix 3: SLO2 Assessments
Appendix 4: SLO3 Results - ETS Literature in English fall 2024
Appendix 5: SLO 4 Results - ccst chart SACSCOC report 2025
Appendix 6: SLO5 Results - ENGL 4995 writing assessment rev su 24

Appendix 1: English BA Curriculum Map

Learning Outcomes		Required Courses					
	3000 Introduction to English Methods & Research	3810 British Literature I	3820 British Literature II	3910 American Literature I	3920 American Literature II	4121 Shakespeare	4995 Senior Colloquium
Demonstrate the capacity to write clearly	I	R	R	R	R	R	M, A
Demonstrate the ability to speak clearly	I	R	R	R	R	R	M,A
Demonstrate the ability to think critically	I	R	R	R	R	R	M
Read widely and perceptively.	I	R	R	R	R	R	M, A
Demonstrate how intercultural factors shape the creation of texts.	I	R	R	R	R	R	M, A

Key:

 "I" Students are introduced to the outcome.

"R" The outcome is reinforced and students are afforded opportunities to practice.

"M" Students have had sufficient practice and can now demonstrate mastery.

"A" Evidence might be collected and evaluated for program-level assessment.

Appendix 2: SLO1 Results

IE oral and written data sp24

Assessment of Students' Oral Presentation in ENGL 4995

Date	Number of Students	Average/trait 5 point scale
SP 2021	12	4.455
SP 2022	16	4.94
SP 2023	12	4.40
SP 2024	11	4.83

Assessment of Students' Written Presentations in ENGL 4995*

SP 2023	12	4.36
SP 2024**	11	4.81

*Spring 2023 was the first semester to include a rubric to assess students' written presentations in ENGL 4995.

** Spring 2024 the department added a new SLO and a new category to the written assessment of presentations. The new category is "Student demonstrates knowledge of intercultural factors and ways they shape the creation of texts."

"Appendix 3: SLO2 Assessments"
Then "ENGL 4995 writing assessment rubric rev jan 2023"
Then "Rubric for Assessing Students' Writing in ENGL 4995"
Name field
Then two tables.

First table: Organization/Content with columns Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor

Rows:
- The writing presented a clear thesis statement.
- The writing was well organized with main points related to the thesis.
- The writing developed the main points using effective rhetorical strategies.
- Sources used were appropriate to the purpose of the writing and were managed well.
- Technical/audience specific terms were explained; the topic was appropriate for the designated audience.
- Formal/format features appropriately addressed the prompt.

Second table: Intercultural Knowledge with columns Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor
Row: The writing articulates...
Appendix 3: SLO2 Assessments

ENGL 4995 writing assessment rubric rev jan 2023

Rubric for Assessing Students' Writing in ENGL 4995

Name:_____

Organization/Content	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
The writing presented a clear thesis statement.					
The writing was well organized with main points related to the thesis.					
The writing developed the main points using effective rhetorical strategies.					
Sources used were appropriate to the purpose of the writing and were managed well.					
Technical/audience specific terms were explained; the topic was appropriate for the designated audience.					
Formal/format features appropriately addressed the prompt.					

Intercultural Knowledge	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
The writing articulates					

how intersectional cultural rules and biases shape the creation of texts.				

Prose Quality	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
The writing used correct diction, syntax, usage, grammar, and mechanics					
The tone and style were appropriate for the audience.					

ENGL 4995 oral pres summary 21-23

Assessment of Oral Communication

The members of the BA Curriculum Committee, based on their knowledge and expertise, determined that a 4.50 average per trait was a reasonable expectation and benchmark of students' proficiency in oral communication.

Results

Year	Number of Students	Average per trait
2021	12	4.55
2022	16	4.94
2023	12	4.0

The lower score in 2023 was influenced by the fact that one student in the class did not make an oral presentation at all and received a 0 in all categories.

Appendix 4: SLO3 Results

ETS Literature in English fall 2024

ETS Literature in English

DATE	Number of TTU Students	TTU Average
F 2021	3	151
SP 2022	10	148
F 2022	2	149.5
SP 2023	5	152.8
F 2023	1	131
SP 2024	6	147

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
TTU	149	152	139
National	153	153	151.2
TTU/National	97%	100%	90%

The university set a threshold of acceptability of 90%. English majors met that threshold.

Appendix 5: SLO 4 Results - ccst chart SACSCOC report 2025

California Critical Thinking Skills Test

2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024		
N=18	N=10	N=14		
ENGL major Mean 74.3	ENGL major mean 78.0	ENGL major mean 75.9		
TTU Mean 75.2	TTU Mean 74.3	TTU Mean 74.4		
National Mean 73.3	National Mean 73.3	National Mean 72.8		

ENGL 4995: Senior Colloquium
Spring 2024: Values in your world
Paulina Bounds

Assessment of Students' Writing Assignment in Capstone
(5) excellent; (4) very good; (3) good; (2) fair; (1) poor

RESULTS

spring 2024   n=11

Trait	Mean score	5) excellent	4) very good	3) good	2) fair
The writing presented a clear thesis statement.	5	11			
The writing was well organized with main points related to the thesis.	4.91	10	1		
The writing developed the main points using effective rhetorical strategies.	4.64	8	2	1	
Sources used were appropriate to the purpose of the writing and were managed well.	4.73	9	1	1	
Technical/audience specific terms were explained; the topic was appropriate for the designated audience.	4.64	8	2	1	
Formal/format features appropriately addressed the prompt.	4.91	10	1		
The writing articulates how intercultural factors shape the creation of texts.	4.73	9	1	1	
The writing used correct diction, syntax, usage, grammar, and mechanics	5	11			
The tone and style were appropriate for the audience.	4.73	9	1	1	
avg. per trait	4.81				