

Department of Germanic and Asian Languages

Assessment of Student Learning Report

FA 2018

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Report on Assessment Activities, Department of Germanic and Asian Languages (AY 2017-18)
October 15, 2018

1. Goals for student learning for majors in German, Chinese and Japanese

SLOs for German submitted on Sept. 12, 2013.

SLOs for Chinese and Japanese submitted separately by Asian Studies Program.

2. Data collected 2017-18

ASIAN LANGUAGES: Submitted separately with Asian Studies Program report.

GERMAN

The three broader assessment categories in the German major are:

- A. INTERCULTURAL ENGAGEMENT
- B. INTERPERSONAL ENGAGEMENT
- C. CROSS-CULTURAL TEXTUAL ENGAGEMENT

Since our program was also assessing SLO #1 of multiple core categories this past year (World Language, Literature, Rhetoric in Culture), we decided to gather data in just one of the three assessment categories of the German major—category B, interpersonal engagement. The detailed SLOs for that category are as follows:

B. INTERPERSONAL ENGAGEMENT

Majors should demonstrate the ability to communicate and negotiate meaningfully with members of target cultures/language groups in the target language in a way that is satisfactory to both parties. This includes the ability to exchange information, feelings, opinions, and faith convictions.

Measurement:

Note: this category will be assessed most frequently in German 361. Evidence of completion of this requirement will be recorded in the students' portfolios.

- 1. Majors will take an oral proficiency test and demonstrate the equivalent of an intermediate-high level of speaking skill as defined by the ACTFL proficiency scale.*
- 2. Majors will demonstrate an advanced level of listening skills as defined by the ACTFL proficiency scale.*
- 3. Majors will demonstrate the ability to carry out written tasks such as routine social correspondence and more formal correspondence. They will demonstrate the equivalent of an intermediate-high level of writing skills as defined by the ACTFL proficiency scale.*

Summary of Assessment Data and Process

As noted above in the passage from our assessment plan, SLOs in this category are most often assessed in GERM 361. This course, however, is only offered in the fall semester of even years, so in the spring semester of 2017-18 we had our graduating seniors complete an external assessment tool: the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). The OPI is the standard assessment tool used by North American foreign language programs to measure speaking proficiency in a target language. **Of our five graduating seniors in spring 2018 who took the OPI in German, four attained a score of Advanced Low and one a score of Intermediate High.** These scores indicate that all of our 2018 graduates met or exceeded our program SLO of Intermediate Mid in this assessment category.

Proposed Action Steps

Since the students who completed this assessment met or exceeded the program SLO in this category, we do not plan significant changes to our program's curriculum. In the German program, we aspire to get all of our graduates to the Advanced Low level in oral proficiency. Thus, the one student score of Intermediate High, while technically meeting our SLO benchmark in this category, is still a step below what we would expect. It should be noted, however, that this one student who did not achieve Advanced Low on the OPI did not take any German courses in her final three semesters at Calvin, so it is not shocking that her proficiency might have slipped somewhat due to lack of regular practice with the language. Nevertheless, we will continue to monitor student progress in this assessment category in various places in our curriculum.

3. Data to be collected 2018-19

ASIAN LANGUAGES: Submitted separately with Asian Studies Program report.

GERMAN

We will continue to collect data across assessment categories A-C in our assessment plan.

Courses where assessment data will be collected for 2018-19

- GERM 301: Assessment category A and B
- GERM 303: Assessment categories B and C
- GERM 361: Assessment categories B and C
- GERM 371: Assessment category A and C
- GERM W80 (GIA): Assessment category A