

Program Assessment Plan
 American University
 Academic Program: CAS: Creative Writing - MFA

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Contact Person for David Keplinger

Assessment:

Program Mission: The American University MFA in Creative Writing provides a nurturing studio and academic environment for students of creative writing. Our curriculum aims to challenge writers to expand and sharpen their voices while being exposed to Washington, D.C.'s vibrant community of literary organizations and writers.

Unit Website Address: <http://www.american.edu/cas/literature/mfa/>

Unit's Primary Department: Literature

COLA Reader -1: Daniel Kerr

COLA Reader -2: Kathy McAdams

Learning Outcome: Authentic Writing

Students will write with authenticity, sincerity, and invention in their chosen genres

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/19/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
Thesis project evaluation; Review of MFA theses by thesis committee. Outside review: For each thesis, the thesis director works with a second reader, whether someone within the department or a colleague in the field. Using a 5-point scale rubric for the learning outcomes applied, the entire MFA faculty will randomly select five theses every three years, read them together, and rate them according to their success in those areas; then compile the results. Some indicators of excellence include: -The work, if narrative in scope, in John Gardner's terms, reveals "a narrative intelligence" -The work, if lyrical in scope, betrays an intelligent apprehension of the relationship between sound, sense, form, and image -The work betrays a firm knowledge of the tradition out of which it came, and employs effective uses of and departures from tradition Measure Type: Final Paper/ Final Project	Some of the indicators of excellence, measured by a 5-point rubric in which students should score at least 3/5.	Assessed every third year.	Yes
Exit Interviews. The rubric for the exit interview is given to every student leaving the program and compiled. Measure Type: Survey	The benchmark for the Exit Interviews of outgoing 3rd year students: excellent rating on the rubric (3/5 on a 5-point scale) designed to measure their own sense of success in seven learning outcomes.	Assessed every third years.	Yes

Learning Outcome: Aesthetic Concerns

Students will locate with precision their aesthetic concerns through reading and writing.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/19/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan

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Learning Outcome: Vocabulary

Students will hone a critical vocabulary to assist them in the field.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/19/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
<p>Field Work Evaluation: Report filed by employer listing student's learning outcomes.</p> <p>The employer report is applied to every student leaving the internship and compiled, firstly, for a grade; then, the results of the previous years are compiled and discussed every third year. All employers are given a rubric (5-point scale) to assess the learning outcomes gained by the student's internship with them.</p> <p>Measure Type: Field Work/ Internship</p>	<p>The target is 3/5 overall scores on the scale.</p>	<p>Assessed every third year.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Exit Interviews.</p> <p>The rubric for the exit interview is given to every student leaving the program and compiled.</p> <p>Measure Type: Survey</p>	<p>The benchmark for the Exit Interviews of outgoing 3rd year students: excellent rating on the rubric (3/5 on a 5-point scale) designed to measure their own sense of success in seven learning outcomes.</p>	<p>Assessed every third years.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Learning Outcome: Locate Mentors

Students will successfully locate mentors in our department.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/19/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
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Learning Outcome: Manuscript

Students will use readings of literature in sculpting their own full length manuscript.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/19/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
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Learning Outcome: Writing Communities

Students will cultivate strong writing communities.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/19/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
Assessment Measure	Target	Schedule/Cycle	Active
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Learning Outcome: Edit

Students will learn to edit others' work skillfully.

Outcome Year: 2010-2011

Start Date: 11/19/2010

Outcome Status: Active Learning Outcome

Assessment Plan			
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