# Program Assessment Plan

## American University
### Academic Program: CAS: Literature - BA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact Person for Assessment:</strong> Jeffrey Middents</td>
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<td><strong>Unit's Primary Department:</strong> Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COLA Reader -1:</strong> Daniel Kerr</td>
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<td><strong>COLA Reader -2:</strong> Kathy McAdams</td>
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## Learning Outcome: Content Knowledge

Literature majors will be exposed to and demonstrate a broad knowledge of major and minor authors, major texts and contexts and defining intellectual issues of British and/or American literature, enriched by familiarity with the same in other European and/or non-European literature and/or cinematic traditions.

- **Outcome Year:** 2010-2011
- **Start Date:** 10/28/2010
- **Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

### Assessment Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measure</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Schedule/Cycle</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Assessment Committee will sample syllabi in all survey courses.</td>
<td>100% of courses surveyed reflect sufficient breadth.</td>
<td>Every fourth academic year by undergraduate studies committee. Year A.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Measure Type:</strong> Other</td>
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| The Assessment Committee will evaluate a random sampling of A, B, and C papers/ exams from each survey course to determine whether or not students are gaining this broad knowledge. | 75% of student papers reflect broad knowledge. | Every fourth academic year by undergraduate studies committee. Year A. | Yes |
| **Measure Type:** Written Assignment |

## Learning Outcome: Analysis

Literature majors will hone their skills in analysis, interpretation and research.

- **Outcome Year:** 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013
- **Start Date:** 10/28/2010
- **Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

### Assessment Plan

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<td>The Assessment Committee will randomly sample papers of literature majors in 300 and 400 level topics courses to determine how many demonstrate quality close reading, interpretation and engagement with secondary materials. The papers will be from a range of grades.</td>
<td>75% of student essays demonstrate good close reading. 75% of student essays demonstrate good interpretive skills. 75% of student essays demonstrate good engagement with secondary materials.</td>
<td>Every fourth academic year by undergraduates studies committee. Year B.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Measure Type:</strong> Written Assignment</td>
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## Learning Outcome: Writing

Literature majors will write with clarity, creativity, and persuasiveness.

- **Outcome Year:** 2010-2011
The Assessment Committee will sample 20% of senior student projects with a range of grades and compile strengths and weaknesses of the essays.

**Measure Type:**
Final Paper/ Final Project

**Target:** 75%

**Schedule/Cycle:** Every fourth academic year by undergraduates studies committee. Year C.

Yes

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**Learning Outcome: Cultural Significance**

Literature majors develop and demonstrate an awareness of the significance of literature and of literary form, and of the role they play in the larger culture by being conversant in debates concerning literature’s values as a creative endeavor.

**Outcome Year:** 2010-2011  
**Start Date:** 10/28/2010  
**Outcome Status:** Active Learning Outcome

The Assessment Committee will examine one paper from 20% of students in Value of Literature.

**Measure Type:** Written Assignment

**Target:** 75%

**Schedule/Cycle:** Every fourth academic year by the undergraduate studies committee. Year D.

Yes

The Assessment Committee will sample syllabi from literature courses to ensure that these issues are being taught.

**Measure Type:** Written Assignment

**Target:** 100%

**Schedule/Cycle:** Every fourth academic year by undergraduates studies committee. Year D.

Yes