

Assessment Plan

1. Suspend the department's portfolio requirement, beginning with the 2006-2008 catalog.
2. Suspend the three common goals for all ComS majors. Redefine department assessment goals exclusively in terms of program exit knowledge, competencies and/or abilities.
3. Retain the existing departmental assessment structure including the departmental assessment committee, subject area committees, and office support staff.
4. Beginning with the 2006-2008 catalog, require all ComS and Jour majors to complete a capstone course: senior seminar (ComS 168, 180, 181, 182, 183, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191), senior project course (ComS 184A/B or 185), Journalism course(s) or senior research course (e.g., a revamped ComS 171).
5. Prior to Fall 2005 area committees will designate a suitable capstone exercise for respective capstone courses. Exercises will facilitate assessment of area exit knowledge, competencies and/or abilities. Area capstone exercises may include papers, projects or research reports. Area committees will, however, designate a single common exercise. Capstone instructors execute capstone exercises.
6. As a graduation requirement students shall submit a *copy* of their capstone exercise to the department office prior to the last day of their final semester of coursework. Faculty who teach the capstone courses are responsible for keeping a copy of the capstone exercises or other relevant documents. Formative evaluation of a random *sample* of capstone exercises by area committees will take place during the following semester (e.g., Spring 07 capstone exercises would be assessed during the Fall 07 semester).
7. Area committees will continue to use the existing "four question" assessment format until area committees can formulate suitable assessment rubrics.
8. The current portfolio assessment plan will remain in force until fall semester 2005. During fall 2005 and Spring 2006 semesters students not including a qualifying capstone course within their graduation petitions will submit a portfolio as per the department's existing assessment plan. Area assessment committees will continue to examine a sample of these portfolios during the 2005-2006 academic year.
9. The department Assessment Committee will, at its discretion, conduct senior surveys, alumni surveys and focus groups as deemed appropriate.
10. The department will include in the 2006-2008 CSUS catalog all necessary enabling language.