

The Asian Studies Program Assessment Plan (2016-2017)

The Asian Studies Program (ASP) has developed a set of learning outcomes applicable to all of its concentrations as well as its minor in 2012-2013. The four learning outcomes are: a) Intercultural Knowledge and Competence, b) Oral Communication, c) Critical Thinking, and d) Written Communication. These learning outcomes are emphasized throughout the Asian Studies curriculum. ASP articulated a plan to assess the other two outcomes in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. For 2012-2013, ASP assessed Written Communication by reviewing final papers submitted by students enrolled in Asia 198 (Fall 2012). Following recommendations in the Feedback from previous Annual Assessment Reports for our program, ASP assessed Critical Thinking and Written Communication for 2013-2014 with final papers submitted by students enrolled in Asia 198. In 2014-2016, ASP assessed Oral Communication with students enrolled in ASIA 135. In 2016-2017, ASP assessed once again Oral Communication to evaluate its effectiveness with other Asia-designated courses. In 2017-2018, ASP intends to assess Intercultural Knowledge and Competence with ASIA 134.

ASP has used the Association of American Colleges and University (AAC&U) Value Rubrics to guide our assessment with the four learning outcomes and refined our assessment by establishing benchmark levels of achievement for our learning outcomes.

In addition to our learning outcomes, ASP has developed curriculum roadmaps for its majors and minors with the assistance of Todd Migliaccio, outlining efficient ways that students can graduate within the two/three year period for transfers and four/five year period for freshmen and given their specific concentrations. These curriculum roadmaps were used for the ASP smartplanner and are available to students on our CSUS website and in the form of hard copies during advising and at orientation.

The overall assessment plan provides much needed structure for ASP, outlining a clear plan to assess student performance over a number of years. At the very least, this as well as previous efforts demonstrate that we have established a methodology and baseline to compare students' oral presentation skills in succeeding years. The implementation of the curriculum maps is also an important step in providing more concrete steps for students to take as they navigate their coursework during their time at this university.

ASP is currently implementing an online survey to assess student experience on an annual basis for its upcoming Program Review in 2018-2019. These questions will draw on the Asian Studies Alumni Survey used in 2009-2010 as well as new questions to reflect current shifts in ASP and at the university, and will be used to compare experiences with courses, concentrations, minor, and the overall program on a yearly basis. ASP has also expanded the number of faculty who can advise ASP students by creating an executive committee that includes more members with expertise in various area studies. Thus, students have greater access and resources to ASP information throughout the year, including summer. Finally, ASP is planning for its majors to complete student portfolios, which will allow more guidance and direction for ASP students.