

End of Year Assessment Report for Programs

Program: Theological Studies

Semester/year: Fall/Spring 2020-2021

Program Director: Ben Wayman

Submission date: 12 May 2021

Year in Operational Plan: Year 2 of operational plan.

Assessment Methods and Benchmarks

Based upon your operational plan, what components of your program are assessed this year? For each program objective being assessed this year, report the data you have collected for Introductory, Developmental, and Mastery levels. Put this information in a chart. Refer back to Section D in your Operational Plan. Because this year has not been a particularly normal year, you may have adjusted your plans. Therefore, report on the data you have available.

Program Objective	Introducing	Developing	Mastering
PO 1	Course Activity: Exam, THEO 110	Course Activity: Exam, THEO 343	Course Activity: Paper, THEO 451
	Benchmark: above 75%	Benchmark: above 75%	Benchmark: above 75%
	Evidence: 35/44 exceeded 75%	Evidence: 11/15 exceeded 75%	Evidence: 12/12 exceeded 75%
PO 2	Course Activity:	Course Activity:	Course Activity:
	Benchmark:	Benchmark:	Benchmark:
	Evidence:	Evidence:	Evidence:
PO 3	Course Activity:	Course Activity:	Course Activity:
	Benchmark:	Benchmark:	Benchmark:
	Evidence:	Evidence:	Evidence:
Etc.	Course Activity:	Course Activity:	Course Activity:
	Benchmark:	Benchmark:	Benchmark:
	Evidence:	Evidence:	Evidence:

*The chart above is merely an example template. Please make sure to edit the chart to reflect your operational plan for the current year

Analysis of Assessment Findings

Discuss the significance of the findings of the current year in light of the desired results, findings from previous years, recent changes in the program or the assessment process, etc. What did you learn from the assessment? In particular:

(1) What strengths and weaknesses do the findings reveal about the program?

We believe we're adequately introducing Christian teachings. One of the challenges we are facing is that many students are unchurched and so have very little foundation in Christian doctrine. A strength of our department is that we help our students understand world religions better and how Christianity interacts with other faiths.

(2) What strengths and weaknesses do the findings reveal about the assessment process?

The assessments seem to appropriately reveal student comprehension of Christian doctrine and we are moderately pleased with the results. One shortcoming is that the assessment process does not indicate instances where students did not take the exam, which impacts our overall metrics. We're also happy with using a paper as the assessment for THEO 451.

(3) What impact have program changes in recent years had on student learning (indicate those program changes that resulted from previous assessment findings)?

The greatest program change for us has been to condense our major offerings into one, with ministry and biblical studies as areas of concentration. We are finding that by so focusing our offerings, we teach to our strengths while offering students the ability to select a course path within their interest.

(4) What impact have recent changes in the assessment process had on the quality and usefulness of the findings? Of particular importance to note are recent changes and improvements in the program that resulted from previous assessment efforts.

We believe the tightening of our program has given our faculty a greater focus and picture of what we're trying to accomplish collectively. This new assessment process has given us a better sense of how to scale our offerings, from introduction to development to mastery, as well as a sense of each course's place in the curriculum.

Describe how assessment findings are typically shared and discussed among program faculty and other stakeholders. In particular, make clear the process for analyzing assessment findings and using them to make improvements in the program and/or the assessment process.

At the conclusion of our academic year, our School of Theology held a meeting where we discussed our assessment practices and findings and considered how to improve our instruction and curricular offerings.

Use of Assessment Findings for Program Improvement (Action Plan)

(A) Describe any changes in (1) the program and/or (2) the assessment process that are planned in response to the assessment findings from this academic year.

- One much needed change for our program is a consistent faculty person to teach our benchmark course, THEO 451. In addition, we this faculty person could teach critical courses in the ministry track like Preaching, Worship, and Modern Christianity. We are finding that consistency is crucial for our students' education.

(B) Briefly summarize the status of the previous years' or semester's action plans. Are they complete, still being implemented, on hold, or some other status?

We are currently reworking our adjunct list to ensure consistency in instruction and coherence with our approach to theological education. We are happy with last year's action plan and plan to move forward with the vision we outlined.

(C) For each intended improvement or change in the program stemming from this year's data, provide a detailed timeline for follow-up data collection, data analysis, and data review.

- While we wish we had the ability to hire a full-time faculty person, we will instead continue to advocate for our students in such a hire.

(D) Based on your CDL assessment exercise, describe how you will make programmatic changes to better prepare your students to demonstrate high levels of achievement on the UNIV 401 SLOs.

- While we appreciate the invitation to rework our curriculum toward CDL, we believe the root problem is with the structure of CDL itself. At the same time, we believe that an emphasis on character and service is a hallmark of our department and we hope to continue to deepen our instruction in this area.

(E) Indicate your plans to make your program more experiential in the coming year?

-We are currently exploring how to offer the THEO 110 St. Louis experience in a Covid-world this coming year, and so will be working on that over the summer. We are also trying to sustain current experiential practices like the St. Meinrad trip and others despite budget reductions. We are launching BIBL 230, Bible in Its World, in the spring of 2022, which will have several experiential projects. And finally, our faculty is offering an Israel experience in the Interterm of 2022, where we currently have over 30 persons registered to participate.

Supporting Documents

[If you attach any supporting documents, please list them here. You may submit these supporting documents into the D2L dropbox.]