

Memorandum

To: Faculty, THRS
From: J.A. Colombo, Karen Teel
Date: 4/5/2010
Re: Spring Assessment Project

Last semester Dr. Teel distributed a description of this semester's assessment pilot project. The focus is on the majors and assessment of their performance with respect to Program Learning Outcomes approved by the department in October 2009. [Those learning outcomes can be found in the assessment section of the department's web page.]

If you have already begun to implement the project, you can ignore what follows; if you have not, here are the directions once again. Please note that faculty directly involved in the assessment of the oral presentations and papers for the current senior seminar are exempt from the following.

1. Identify the majors in one of your classes. You can do so directly by asking majors to identify themselves or ask Michelle Proveda to secure a current list of THRS majors.
2. Identify one program learning outcome which best fits your course exercises.
3. Use your final exam or some part of it, e.g., a mandatory essay question, or a final paper, or some final project to serve as your evidence.
4. Write a rubric to evaluate that piece of evidence and score the exam, paper, or project by the rubric. Remember: majors only.
5. For each major, write a brief paragraph on the student's performance over the semester. Some possible questions to consider are the following. What are the student's strengths and weaknesses? Are there positive or negative patterns in his or her performances over the semester? Has the student shown noticeable improvement over the semester? What, in your estimate, is it critical for the student to work on in terms of subject matter or skills?
6. By 1 June, please give a copy of the evidence, the scored rubric, the narrative evaluation (#5), and a clean copy of the rubric to Dr. Teel. Please also send an electronic copy of the rubric to Dr. Colombo. You should leave the name of the student on the materials. If they are to be delivered to a central repository, we will take responsibility to delete the names.