

Italian Studies, BA



Assessment Overview & Results Summary

College/School: College of Arts and Sciences

Measures Used: The Department of Languages, Cultures, and Literatures (LANG) includes three majors: Spanish, French, and Italian. The department uses tests provided by the ACTFL Testing Office and advanced writing assignments to evaluate communicative proficiency, intercultural competence, critical thinking, and understanding of literature and other forms of cultural production.

Process for Interpretation of Evidence: The department has a standing assessment committee with representation from the three majors. In general, members serve for two or three years on the committee, with membership staggered to ensure continuity in the assessment process. The department's Language Coordinator is a permanent member of the committee. The committee's responsibilities include (a) drafting and revising the assessment plan; (b) guiding the implementation of assessment activities; (c) interpreting the compiled data; (d) making recommendations for program improvement; and (e) preparing and submitting the annual reports to the Chair, who distributes them to the entire department for approval. The Chair then submits the approved assessment plan and annual reports to the CAS Assessment Team.

The actual implementation of assessment activities is program (language) specific. The member(s) of the Assessment Committee in any given language (French, Italian, or Spanish) will work with colleagues, both full- and part-time, in collecting data. To ensure reliability, before assessing student work, the assessors will read through three or four papers—or other assessment measures—assess them using the relevant rubric and compare results. This ensures the correct calibration. The compiled data is then interpreted by the entire Assessment Committee to generate recommendations for improvement.

How Findings are Used:

- ✓ Changes to curriculum/pedagogy
- ✓ Changes to assessment methods

Results Summary and Continuous Improvement Actions for AY 2020-2021: In the 2020-21 assessment cycle, the department analyzed and discussed assessment data gathered over the past six years in preparation for writing the Academic Program Review Self-Study Report.