

Institutional Effectiveness Report  
2020-2021

Program: English BA

College and Department: College of Arts & Sciences English

Contact: Linda Null

Mission: The English BA curriculum is designed to improve students' skills in writing, critical reading, and thinking; to enrich their cultural experience; and to prepare them for all professions requiring a high level of expression, imagination, and intellectual activity, including creative writing, editing, teaching, law, politics, and management.

Program Goal:

PG 1: Enrich English major through departmental life and cultural opportunities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

SLO 1: Students will demonstrate the capacity to write and speak clearly, read perceptively, and think critically.

SLO 2: Students will demonstrate understanding of historical traditions in British and American literature.

SLO 3: Students will demonstrate understanding of how written and spoken language expresses diverse cultural experiences.

SLO 4: Students will demonstrate understanding of the functions and historical development of the English language.

A departmentally developed curriculum map can be found in Appendix 1 that shows the connections between courses. Departmental Life & Report Opportunities

The department yearly collects information from annual faculty effort reports as well as summarizing the highlights of general department accomplishments during the year. Information includes curricular and co-curricular activities offered.

2. Faculty involvement in Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
3. Student Involvement in Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
4. ENGL 4995 senior Colloquium Oral Presentation

A rubric was developed in 2012 to assess student oral presentations in our departmental capstone course, English 4995 Senior Colloquium. The rubric was used to assess presentations in the capstone in Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, and Spring 19.

felt least well prepared. On the other hand, one student wrote: “This aspect of my education was done so well it is what has inspired me to pursue my future career, as I have now been instilled with a hunger to keep learning more and more about the history of every language, not just English.”

Results:

PG 1: Departmental life and cultural opportunities

In Spring 2021, in spite of pandemic restrictions, members of the department continued to host guest speakers for an audience of TTU students, staff, and faculty:

Peter Connor, author

David Romero, performance artist

Tawnysha Greene, fiction writer

Joy Harjoy, US poet laureate

The Tech Players presented the following theatrical productions: *Gross Indecency* by Three Trials of Oscar Wilde by Moises Kaufman (Fall 2020), *Hughie* by Eugene O’Neill (Winter 2021), *A Love Story* by Philip Dawkins (Spring 2021).

As a member of the Associated Writing Programs, the English Department distributed 40 copies of *AWP Chronicle* 6 times a year to our Creative Writing and other interested students and faculty. The *Chronicle* features articles on creative writing, interviews with contemporary authors, and listings of grants and publishing opportunities for creative writers.

The *Iris Review*, published in spring 2021 is the work of students who serve as managers, editors, creative designers, and contributors. This journal is for students and faculty.

NSSE scores for English majors 2020:

NSSE: TTU English Senior Mean				
	2014	2017	2019	2020



Literary theory has historically been the area where TTU students ~~take~~ the lowest scores. The department curriculum includes a course in literary theory, ENGL 4630 (5630) Literary Criticism and Theory, but it has not been offered since Fall 2017. ENGL 3000 Introduction to English Methods and Research introduces students ~~to~~ literary theory, and most courses in literature that the department offers cover literary theory. When students meet with the chair for their exit interviews and are asked how the program might be improved, they have not, in the last two years I have ~~done~~ conducting the exit interviews, mentioned including additional emphasis on literary theory as an area of improvement.

### Major Field Test

The Institutional Research Committee reviewed the results of major field tests (ETS and ACAT) for the past five years disaggregated by program. Based on an analysis of the variance in scores, the committee concluded that programs should have a ratio no more than one standard deviation below the University's overall ratio. This translated to a threshold of acceptability ~~of 90%~~. As for the targeted goal, the committee agreed that the University and its individual programs should strive for achievement that was equal to or greater than the national average resulting in a goal of 100%.

	2016-17	2017-2018	2018-19	2019-20	Sp 21
TTU Average Score	156	150	148	155	143
National Average	153.1	152.8	152.6	152.5	

### Modifications for Improvement:

SLO 1: The department needs to develop a better method, perhaps another rubric, for evaluating students' writing. Writing assignments in ENGL 4995 could be used to apply the rubric.

SLO 4: Except the students' comments on the exit survey and the exit interview, the department does not have a way to assess this outcome. We should either modify the SLO, or develop an assessment method.

### Appendices

1. English BA Curriculum Map
2. ENGL 4995 Senior Curriculum rubric

Appendix 1: English BA Curriculum Map

Learning Outcomes	Required Courses						
	3000 Introduction to English Methods & Research	3810 British Literature I	3820 British Literature II	3910 American Literature I	3920 American Literature II	4121 Shakespeare	4995 Senior Colloquium
Demonstrate the capacity to write and speak clearly, read perceptively, and think critically	I	R	R	R	R	R	M, A
Demonstrate understanding of historical traditions in British and American literature		I	R	I	R	R,A	M,A
Demonstrate understanding of how written and spoken language express diverse cultural experiences		I	R	I	R	R, A	M
Demonstrate understanding of the functions and historical development of the English language		I	R	R	R	R, A	M, A

Appendix 2: ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium rubric

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
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