

Academic Program: M.A. German Studies  
Plan for Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes  
The University of New Mexico

**A. College, Department and Date**

1. College: Arts and Sciences
2. Department: Foreign Languages and Literatures
3. Date: January 13, 2009

**B. Academic Program of Study**

M.A. German Studies

**C. Contact Person(s) for the Assessment Plan**

*Susanne Baackmann, Associate Professor of German Studies, [theodor@unm.edu](mailto:theodor@unm.edu)  
Katja Schroeter, Associate Professor of German Studies, [kaddisch@gmail.com](mailto:kaddisch@gmail.com)  
Jason Wilby, Lecturer III of German, [jwilby@unm.edu](mailto:jwilby@unm.edu)*

**D. Broad Program Goals & Measurable Student Learning Outcomes**

**1. Broad Program Learning Goals for this Degree/Certificate Program**

- A. Students will provide nuanced discussions of literary and cultural works.
- B. Students will conduct independent research in their field.
- C. Students will be knowledgeable about the literary and cultural productions of German-speaking communities in the past and present.
- D. Students will be familiar with several major tendencies in critical and theoretical analysis.
- E. Students will find and evaluate career and post-graduate opportunities that their degree makes possible.

**2. List of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for this Degree/Certificate Program**

- A.1. Students can analyze literary and cultural texts through the lens of a theoretical paradigm.
- A.2. Students can incorporate theoretical frameworks into their written and oral discussions of literary works.
- B.1. Students can develop and delimit a research question and conduct a systematic investigation of the question.
- B.2. Students can evaluate their findings.
- C.1. Students can identify the significant literary and cultural productions of German speaking communities in the past and present.
- C.2. Students can situate works within their historical, cultural and discursive context.
- C.3. Students can distinguish the characteristics of different ideologies and histories within German-speaking countries and/or former states.

**D.1.** Students can demonstrate familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identify their principle theorists.

**D.2.** Students can read and understand works that engage with contemporary theory and cultural artifacts.

**E.1.** Students know how to search and apply for jobs in professions related to the M.A. in German Studies.

**E.2.** Students participate in professional activities such as colloquia, conferences and meetings.

**E. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan**

<b>University of New Mexico Student Learning Goals</b>			
<b>Program SLOs</b>	<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Skills</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>A.2.</b> Students can incorporate theoretical frameworks into their written and oral discussions of literary works.	XX		
<b>B.1.</b> Students can develop and delimit a research question and conduct a systematic investigation of the question.	XX	XX	
<b>C.2.</b> Students can situate works within their historical, cultural and discursive context.	XX		
<b>C.3.</b> Students can distinguish the characteristics of different ideologies and histories within German-speaking countries and/or former states.	XX		
<b>D.1.</b> Students can demonstrate familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identify their principle theorists.	XX		
<b>E.2.</b> Students participate in professional activities such as colloquia, conferences and meetings.		XX	XX

**2. How will learning outcomes be assessed?**

A. What:

i. *For each SLO, describe the means of assessment*

At the end of their course of study, M.A. students under plan I complete an oral exam, a thesis and an oral presentation of the thesis project. At the end of their course of study, M.A. students under plan II complete an oral exam, a written exam, and a research paper. The majority of students in the program choose Plan I. Assessment of A.2, C.2, C.3 and D.1 will occur in the oral exams. Assessment of A.2, B.1, C.2, C.3 and D.1 will be conducted on

written thesis projects and research papers. Faculty will assess oral and written performance using evaluative questionnaires focused on skills A.2, B.1, C.2, C.3 and D.1 and ranking performance of skills on a 1-5 scale where 5 corresponds to excellence.

Assessment of E.2 will occur through collection and evaluation of student curriculum vitae at the time of graduation. In addition, graduates will be asked to respond to a questionnaire about their current professional status every five years.

ii. *Indicate whether each measure is direct or indirect*

A.2, B.1, C.2, C.3, D.1: Direct measurement through evaluation of oral exam and evaluation of written thesis (Plan I) and written (Plan II) research papers.

E.2: Indirect measure through student reporting on curriculum vitae of professional activity. The periodic questionnaire on current professional status is an indirect measure as well.

iii. *Briefly describe the criteria for success*

A.2, B.1, C.2, C.3, D.1: In overall averaging of scores on skills (in a range of 1-5), 100% of graduating M.A. students will receive an average of “3” or above and 80% of graduating M.A. students will receive an average of “4” or above.

E.2. 80% of students will have participated in professional activities.

B. Who:

The German M.A. program typically has one to two graduates per year. All graduating M.A. students will undergo assessment at the time of their oral exams and completion of research papers or master’s theses. All faculty on German M.A. committees on studies will participate in scoring A.2, B.1, C.2, C.3, and D.1. The German program graduate director will assess collected curriculum vitae for E.2.

### **3. When will learning outcomes be assessed? When and in what forum will the results of the assessment be discussed?**

Assessment will be conducted on every graduating M.A. student at the time of oral exams and submission of research papers and theses. These assessments will be kept with one copy in the student’s file and one copy in a general German M.A. program file. Evaluation of assessments will be conducted at the beginning of alternate Fall semesters, relying on the data from the prior four semesters, and beginning in Fall 2010. Collation of results and initial analysis is the responsibility of the German program graduate director. This timeline will ensure that enough student performances will have been evaluated for the outcomes assessment to be meaningful (data on approximately 2 to 4 students will accrue over the period described).

Results will be discussed in a meeting of the German faculty immediately after collation and initial analysis. The German faculty will formulate a response to findings focused on adjustment of course offerings and coverage of knowledge and skill areas in the program as a whole. It will also consider adjustment of assessment plan, when necessary.

**4. What is the unit's process for analyzing/interpreting assessment data and using results to improve student learning?**

1. Members of a student's committee on studies will score performance of SLOs. The German graduate director will be responsible for collating and analyzing data resulting from scoring. The German faculty will meet as a whole to interpret results and formulate curricular, course content and professional training modifications to the program, as well as to evaluate the outcomes assessment tools.

2. A report will be submitted by the German faculty to the departmental Committee on Graduate Studies, composed of faculty representing each of the graduate programs in the department. The report will contain the raw data of results for SLOs, discussion of areas of achievement and areas of weakness, and a plan for modifications of the program or assessment tools, where needed. The Committee on Graduate Studies will consider the report in connection with the reports of the other graduate programs in the department (M.A. in German, M.A. in Comparative Literature/Cultural Studies) and provide an overall evaluation of graduate learning outcomes to the FLL faculty in a regularly scheduled faculty meeting.

Addenda:

**I. Outcomes Assessment Scoring Sheet for Oral Examination**

Name of M.A. candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Date of assessment \_\_\_\_\_

Semester/Year \_\_\_\_\_

*Circle an evaluation of student's performance of designated skill, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent.*

**(A.2.)** Student incorporates a theoretical framework into oral discussions of a literary work:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(C.2.)** Students can situate works within their historical, cultural and discursive context:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(C.3.)** Students distinguishes the characteristics of different schools and movements within a community's production and in relation to neighboring communities or trends:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(D.1.)** Student demonstrates familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identifies their principle theorists:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

---

II. Outcomes Assessment Scoring Sheet for M.A. Thesis or Research Paper

Name of M.A. candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Date of assessment \_\_\_\_\_

Semester/Year \_\_\_\_\_

*Circle an evaluation of student's performance of designated skill, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent.*

**(A.2.)** Student incorporates a theoretical framework into oral discussions of a literary work:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(B.1.)** Students can develop and delimit a research question and conduct a systematic investigation of the question.

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(C.2.)** Students can situate works within their historical, cultural and discursive context:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(C.3.)** Students distinguishes the characteristics of different schools and movements within a community's production and in relation to neighboring communities or trends:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

**(D.1.)** Student demonstrates familiarity with several major movements and schools of critical theory and identifies their principle theorists:

1                      2                      3                      4                      5