

# AC 2022-2023 Assessment

## Bachelor's Degree in English (221)

College: Arts and Sciences

Prepared by: Allison Rittmayer

Date: 05/17/2023

Approved by: Dr. Francene J. Lemoine

Date: 06/15/2023

**Northwestern State Mission:** Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution committed to acquiring, creating, and disseminating knowledge through innovative teaching, research, and service. With its certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs, Northwestern State University prepares its increasingly diverse student population to contribute to an inclusive global community with a steadfast dedication to improving our region, state, and nation.

**College of Arts and Sciences' Mission:** The College of Arts & Sciences, the largest college at Northwestern State University, is a diverse community of scholars, teachers, and students, working collaboratively to acquire, create, and disseminate knowledge through transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research, and service. The College strives to produce graduates who are productive members of society equipped with the capability to promote economic and social development and improve the overall quality of life in the region. The College provides an unequaled undergraduate education in the social and behavioral sciences, English, communication, journalism, media arts, biological and physical sciences, and the creative and performing arts, and at the graduate level in the creative and performing arts, English, TESOL, and Homeland Security. Uniquely, the College houses the Louisiana Scholars' College (the State's designated Honors College), the Louisiana Folklife Center, and the Creole Center, demonstrating its commitment to community service, research, and preservation of Louisiana's precious resources.

### **Department of English, Languages, and Cultural Studies Mission Statement:**

**As scholars, students, and teachers,** we strive to be engaged, compassionate, curious learners and to engender the same passion in every student we teach. The critical study of texts, languages, and textual production is vital for our development as critical thinkers, effective communicators, and thoughtful community members. As a department, we offer these interdisciplinary experiences in diverse but complementary areas of study.

**As scholars of literature,** we cultivate comprehension and analysis of texts through evidence-based communication to acknowledge the integral operation of discourse, its forms, and its circulation inherent in all cultures.

**As scholars of film and media,** we prepare students to interpret and create a range of audiovisual texts through an understanding of the moving image as a form of creative expression, a global commodity, and a culturally situated work.

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

**As professional writers and scholars of rhetoric, composition, and linguistics**, we explore the theory and practice of using language in order to prepare composers to clearly and effectively articulate and support arguments for diverse purposes, contexts, and audiences and to instruct others to do the same.

**As creative writers**, we build communities where we nurture students as they discover and hone their expressive voices and personal aesthetics through experimentation in style, genre, and form.

**As language and TESOL scholars**, we bridge cultures through the study of world languages and cultures to expand our horizons, foster understanding of each other, better understand our own languages and cultures, and prepare culturally competent instructors to teach languages effectively.

**As folklorists and scholars of cultural studies**, we prepare students to document, analyze, and sustain cultural practices and products and provide students with the opportunity to engage with the folk and their lore through ethnographic study, allowing us to examine the dynamics of identity formation, cultural production, exchange, and consumption, and the negotiations these acts entail.

**As scholars at Northwestern State University**, each faculty and staff member of the Department of English, Languages, and Cultural Studies is committed to helping our students and each other become effective composers of texts, critical consumers of texts, and responsible members of physical and digital spaces who exchange knowledge locally, nationally, and globally.

**Undergraduate English Major Mission Statement:** The undergraduate major in English is a dynamic, student-oriented program focused on rigorously preparing students to achieve in diverse fields. The undergraduate program focuses on developing, providing, and supporting innovative, responsive, and accessible education. The program encourages a mastery of disciplinary literature, thoughtful research, professional development, and cross-curricular innovation as members of an engaged scholarly community. Through encompassing a diverse suite of related fields of study, the English major offers its students access to creative, critical, and compositional skills, providing them invaluable versatility in a rapidly changing market.

### **Methodology:**

- The assessor(s) will electronically collect student writing and assignment descriptions.
- The assessor(s) will determine which SLOs each assignment targets.
- Student writing will be assessed using the rubric appended to this document. On the rubric, the “targeted” column pertains to whether the SLO was explicitly targeted by the paper assignment, as determined by the assessor(s). On the rubric, the “evaluation” column is for the assessor’s evaluation of how well the paper meets each SLO. The assessor(s) will mark “not applicable” for any goal that is not relevant to the pertinent assignment. The assessor(s) will mark a writing

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

sample “weak” if the goal was explicitly targeted by the assignment but does not appear in the paper.

- Faculty will meet during the fall on call week to discuss the results and determine the actions that need to be taken in response to the evaluation. Individual meetings will be held with faculty during on call week, if necessary.
- The Director of Undergraduate Studies, in consultation with faculty and the department advisory committee, will propose changes to measurable outcomes, assessment tools for the next period, and, where needed, curriculum and program changes.

### Student Learning Outcomes

**SLO 1. Analysis and interpretation of evidence.** Students in the English BA program will perform analysis and interpretation of evidence. In literature, film studies, and folklore papers, students will use textual evidence from close reading to defend an interpretive thesis, including locating the significance of chosen passages in the context of a larger work. For those students who take professional writing courses, this evidence may include primary materials such as websites, job ads, writing samples, *etc.* and the argument may be practical rather than interpretive.

#### Measure 1.1 (Direct – Skill)

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate a basic ability to analyze and interpret evidence from a variety of texts, broadly defined to include fiction, nonfiction, drama, film, new media, and primary texts including interviews and oral histories. At least 90% of students sampled will score a 4 (competent-to-strong) or higher on the evaluation.

**Findings:** Target was not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, the target was changed, and courses were refined to increase instruction in the skills of close reading, particularly as they apply to nonfiction, primary texts, visual media, and scholarly sources.

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 51 of 79 (65%) student projects being judged as competent-to-strong or higher in demonstrating the student’s ability to analyze and interpret evidence from a variety of texts. This marks no change from AC 2021-2022. This is the second cycle in which the assessment cycle was based on the percentage of students scoring competent-to-strong, which accounts for the target not being met as we explore instructional methods to increase student learning.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, courses will be refined to increase instruction in the skills of close

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

reading, particularly as they apply to fiction, poetry, visual media, and scholarly sources. Also, because the target was not met, it will remain set at 90% of student work receiving a score of competent-to-strong or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

**SLO 2. Application of theory.** Students in the English BA program will use theory to inform their analysis and argumentation. This theory may be literary, philosophical, cultural, psychological, political, economic, rhetorical, *etc.* in nature, and students will reference it explicitly in their writing, as, for example, an explicitly formulated Marxist analysis of the representation of class in a novel. This outcome does not pertain to general approaches that may have an unstated theoretical basis. For example, a focus on the passivity of female characters in a novel would not count for this outcome, unless feminist theory is an explicit topic of the paper as well.

### Measure 2.1 (Direct – Knowledge/Skill)

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate a basic knowledge of fundamental principles of theory as it relates to a given course. At least 90% of students sampled will score a 4 (competent-to-strong) or higher on the evaluation.

**Finding:** Target was not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, the target was changed, and courses were refined to increase instruction in the fundamental principles of theory and how to apply it in their work in each course and across our curriculum. Training sessions were held with instructors on ways to better integrate theory into their courses and assignments.

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 32 of 48 (67%) student projects being judged as competent-to-strong or higher in demonstrating the student's ability to use theory to inform their analysis and argumentation. This marks a 6% decrease from AC 2021-2022. This is the second cycle in which the assessment cycle was based on the percentage of students scoring competent-to-strong, which accounts for the target not being met as we explore instructional methods to increase student learning.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, courses will be refined to increase instruction in the fundamental principles of theory and how to apply theory in undergraduate work, both scholarly and creative. The target will remain set at 90% of student work receiving a score of competent-to-strong or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

**SLO 3. Application of established methodologies in the field.** Students in the English BA program will use established methodologies of literary criticism. This outcome pertains to the use of the discourse of literary criticism, film studies, rhetorical theory, and cultural studies at a complex level, in regard to either: (a) specific approaches to interpretation that have established currency in the discipline, such as feminism and new historicism, but which do not involve the explicit theorization of learning outcome #2; and (b) terminology and techniques of formal analysis wielded in a more systematic and knowledgeable manner than the more general close reading that is covered by learning outcome #1.

### Measure 3.1 (Direct – Knowledge/Skill)

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate a basic knowledge of the methodologies that apply to a given course. At least 90% of students sampled will score a 4 (competent-to-strong) or higher on the evaluation.

**Findings:** Target was not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, the target was changed, and courses were further refined to increase instruction in (a) specific approaches to interpretation that have established currency in the discipline, such as feminism and new historicism and (b) terminology and techniques of formal analysis at a complex level.

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 25 of 43 (58%) student projects being judged competent-to-strong or higher in their ability to analyze and interpret evidence from a variety of texts. This marks a 6% decrease from AC 2021-2022. This is the second cycle in which the assessment cycle was based on the percentage of students scoring competent-to-strong, which accounts for the target not being met as we explore instructional methods to increase student learning.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, courses will be further refined to increase instruction in specific approaches to interpretation and analysis that are prominent in our discipline, and how to employ these methodologies from beginner to advanced coursework. The target will remain set at 90% of student work receiving a score of competent-to-strong or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

**SLO 4. Engagement with social and literary history.** Students in the English BA program will engage with social and literary history. While ideally, we want students to have a sense of how social and literary history are reciprocal, this outcome may appear as engagement with *either* social history *or* literary history.

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

### Measure 4.1 (Direct – Knowledge)

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate a basic knowledge of social and/or literary history. At least 98% of students sampled will score a 3 (competency) or higher on the evaluation.

**Findings:** Target was not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, courses were refined to increase and improve instruction in both social and literary history and the way these contexts are reciprocal.

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 49 of 57 (86%) student projects being judged competent or higher in their ability to engage with social and literary history. This represents a 6% decrease from AC 2021-2022. We have lost significant ground in this category as we have shifted our focus to increased writing instruction to make up for losses there resulting from disrupted education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, courses will be steered back to instruction in both social and literary history and the way these contexts are reciprocal. We will increase instruction on these topics in our junior-level courses. The target will remain set at 98% of student work receiving a score of competent or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

**SLO 5. Engagement with genre and form.** Students in the English BA program will engage with genre and form. For literature, film, and folklore papers, this outcome requires explicit use of the terminology or concepts of genre or form, or creative imitations of a specific genre or form. For those students who take creative writing and filmmaking courses, this outcome may appear as implicit engagement, in the creative work itself, with generic and formal conventions, as, for example, the general generic categories of poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and screenwriting; the finer distinctions among, say, prose poem, flash fiction, short story, novella, and novel; specific poetic verse forms such as the sonnet, villanelle, or free verse; modes of fiction such as magical realism or psychological realism; or structural conventions such as linear narrative or experimental narratives that employ a variety of discourses. This outcome also pertains to electronic media-specific composition and design skills, for example, composition for web pages, including effective paragraph length, linking, scannable prose, use of keywords,

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

alignment, proximity, repetition, contrast and color, branding, ease of navigation, clarity and choice of visuals, font, and other multimedia.

### Measure 5.1 (Direct – Knowledge)

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate a basic knowledge of fundamental principles of genre and form in the context of a given course. At least 93% of students sampled will score a 4 (competent-to-strong) or higher on the evaluation.

**Findings:** Target was not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, the target was changed, and courses were refined to increase and improve instruction in both social and literary history and the way these contexts are reciprocal.

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 47 of 68 (69%) student projects being judged competent-to-strong or higher in their ability to demonstrate a basic knowledge of fundamental principles of genre and form in the context of a given course. This represents a 2% increase from AC 2021-2022. Increased focus on instruction in explicit uses of the terminology or concepts of genre or form and creative imitations of a specific genre or form are the reason for this increase.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, courses will be refined to increase instruction in explicit uses of the concepts of genre and form in student writing and textual analysis. The target will remain set at 93% of student work receiving a score of competent-to-strong or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

**SLO 6. Effective writing.** Students in the English BA program will demonstrate effective writing. Students will demonstrate the general skills of college-level exposition developed to some degree of sophistication, as evident in the clarity, precision, fluidity, and aptness of sentence-level grammar, mechanics, and word choice; as well as in higher-level structural flexibility of sentences and paragraphs. For those students who take creative writing courses, this outcome also involves the effective rendering of poetic lines, poetic stanzas, and dialogue. For students completing professional writing projects with a practical emphasis and is a measure of the projects' rhetorical recognition of their specific audiences, including word choice, tone, selection of evidence, organization, and style (e.g., creative or traditional). This outcome also involves the production of active, concise, engaging prose in clearly delineated chunks in professional writing assignments.

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

### Measure 6.1 (Direct – Skill)

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate a basic ability to compose effective writing. At least 90% of students sampled will score a 4 (competent-to-strong) or higher on the evaluation.

**Finding:** Target was not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, the target was changed, and courses were refined to increase and improve instruction in the skills of college-level exposition, as evident in the clarity, precision, fluidity, and aptness of sentence-level grammar, mechanics, and word choice; as well as in higher-level structural flexibility of sentences and paragraphs.

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 75 of 102 (74%) student projects being judged competent-to-strong or higher in effective writing. This represents a 10% increase from AC 2021-2022. Increased and improved instruction in the skills of college-level exposition, as evident in the clarity, precision, fluidity, and aptness of sentence-level grammar, mechanics, and word choice; as well as in higher-level structural flexibility of sentences and paragraphs is the reason for this improvement. This is the second cycle in which the assessment cycle was based on the percentage of students scoring competent-to-strong, which accounts for the target not being met as we explore instructional methods to increase student learning.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, courses will be refined to increase and improve instruction in the skills of college-level composition, as evident in the cohesion, organization, attention to detail, cultivation of voice, and clarity of thought. The target will remain set at 90% of student work receiving a score of competent-to-strong or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

**SLO 7. Establishment of sound, applicable arguments.** Students in the English BA program will establish sound, applicable arguments. In literature, film studies, and folklore courses, students will clearly articulate a substantive thesis, for which they will provide a logically reasoned and organized defense. For those students who take professional writing courses, the argument may take various practical forms, such as recommendations for a client, a personal statement of qualifications, or carefully selected primary evidence for a portfolio. For such practical arguments, this outcome includes the feasibility of the argument.

### Measure 7.1 (Direct – Skill)



## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate a basic ability to craft a sound argument. At least 90% of students sampled will score a 4 (competent-to-strong) or higher on the evaluation.

**Finding:** Target was not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, the target was changed, and courses were refined to increase instruction in how to clearly articulate a substantive thesis and provide a logically reasoned and organized defense.

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 46 of 65 (71%) student projects being judged competent-to-strong or higher in their ability to establish sound, applicable arguments. This represents a 7% increase from AC 2021-2022. This increase is credited to increased instruction in how to clearly articulate a substantive thesis and provide a logically reasoned and organized defense. This is the second cycle in which the assessment cycle was based on the percentage of students scoring competent-to-strong, which accounts for the target not being met as we explore instructional methods to increase student learning.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, courses will be refined to increase instruction in how to generate and continually revise a thesis throughout the pre-writing, research, and drafting process. The target will remain set at 90% of student work receiving a score of competent-to-strong or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

**SLO 8. Relevant use of sources.** Students in the English BA program will use sources beyond the one of primary focus to establish relevant support for their argumentation. These sources may be assigned by an instructor specifically for an assignment, ones assigned earlier in the course, or ones the student knows from another course, in addition to those discovered through research.

### Measure 8.1 (Direct – Skill)

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate a basic ability to identify and incorporate relevant sources. At least 90% of students sampled will score a 4 (competent-to-strong) or higher on the evaluation.

**Finding:** Target was not met.

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, the target was changed, and courses were further refined to increase instruction in the research process and the use of sources beyond the one of primary focus to establish relevant support for their argumentation.

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 44 of 71 (62%) student projects being judged competent-to-strong or higher in their ability to identify and incorporate relevant sources. This represents a 9% increase over AC 2021-2022. This increase is accounted for by our increased instruction in the research process and the use of sources beyond the one of primary focus to establish relevant support for their argumentation. This is the second cycle in which the assessment cycle was based on the percentage of students scoring competent-to-strong, which accounts for the target not being met as we explore instructional methods to increase student learning.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, courses will be refined to increase instruction in the use of multiple databases for research, the organization of sources, and cross-referencing practices in research. The target will remain set at 90% of student work receiving a score of competent-to-strong or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

**SLO 9. Independent, relevant research.** Students in the English BA program will conduct independent research to establish relevant support for their argumentation. This outcome requires student-directed research, usually for assignments that explicitly require such research. For those students who take professional writing, folklore, and film courses, this outcome may appear in other forms than traditional library research, such as interviews, investigations of companies or individuals, or comparison of websites, films, or versions of folktales.

### Measure 9.1 (Direct – Skill)

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate a basic ability to conduct independent, relevant research. At least 90% of students sampled will score a 4 (competent-to-strong) or higher on the evaluation.

**Findings:** Target was not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, the target was changed, and courses were refined to increase and further improve instruction in the research process and how to conduct independent research to establish relevant support for students' argumentation.

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 30 of 56 (54%) student projects being judged competent-to-strong or higher in their ability to conduct independent, relevant research. This marks a 3% decrease from AC 2021-2022. This is the second cycle in which the assessment cycle was based on the percentage of students scoring competent-to-strong, which accounts for the target not being met as we explore instructional methods to increase student learning.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, courses will be refined to increase instruction in the research process and how to conduct independent research in both sophomore-level courses and creative writing courses. The target will remain set at 90% of student work receiving a score of competent-to-strong or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

**SLO 10. Documentation of sources.** Students in the English BA program will document resources accurately, consistently, and fully. This outcome extends to the documentation of all sources in any paper that requires documentation (that is, in more than just research papers). For those students who take professional writing courses, this document extends to image credits and linking to websites; it does not necessarily involve a formal references page.

### Measure 10.1 (Direct – Skill)

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate a basic ability to document sources in the citation style specified by the professor. At least 90% of students sampled will score a 4 (competent-to-strong) or higher on the evaluation.

**Findings:** Target was not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, the target was changed, and courses were refined to increase instruction in the importance of citation and how to document resources accurately, consistently, and fully.

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 29 of 56 (52%) student projects being judged competent-to-strong or higher in their ability to document sources in the citation style specified by the professor. This marks a 11% decrease from AC 2021-2022. This is the second cycle in which the assessment cycle was based on the percentage of students scoring competent-to-strong, which accounts for the target not being met as we explore instructional methods to increase student learning.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, courses will be refined to increase instruction in logic and ethics

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

behind citation and why it is important to document resources accurately, consistently, and fully. We have found that students who do not fully understand this background are less likely to cite sources correctly and consistently. The target will remain set at 90% of student work receiving a score of competent-to-strong or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

**SLO 11. Critical thinking.** Students in the English BA program will explore and render insight in argument, reasoning, and methodology. For those students who take creative writing and filmmaking courses, this outcome requires an exploration of profound and complex themes, independent of creativity and originality.

### Measure 11.1 (Direct – Skill)

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate a basic ability to use critical thinking. At least 90% of students sampled will score a 4 (competent-to-strong) or higher on the evaluation.

**Findings:** Target was not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, the target was raised, and courses were refined to increase and improve instruction in how to explore and render insight in argument, reasoning, and methodology.

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 77 of 106 (73%) student projects being judged competent-to-strong or higher in their ability to use critical thinking. This marks a 13% increase over AC 2021-2022. This improvement is accounted for in our increased and improved instruction in how to explore and render insight in argument, reasoning, and methodology. This is the second cycle in which the assessment cycle was based on the percentage of students scoring competent-to-strong, which accounts for the target not being met as we explore instructional methods to increase student learning.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, courses will be refined to increase and improve instruction in how writing and research can be approached as a problem-solving activity. The target will remain set at 90% of student work receiving a score of competent-to-strong or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

**SLO 12. Creativity and originality.** Students in the English BA program will display creativity and originality in argument, reasoning, or methodology. For those students who take creative writing or filmmaking courses, this outcome pertains to creativity in a range

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

of items including fresh concepts, unique ideas, novel approaches, unusual perspectives, surprising images, playful language usage, and innovative forms.

### Measure 12.1 (Direct – Skill)

On an annual basis, a sample number of research papers and/or projects from all English courses taught that year will be evaluated by a panel of faculty members, using the standardized *Assessment Rubric for English Major Writing* (attached). The writing will be evaluated to determine if students can demonstrate creativity and originality. At least 100% of students sampled will score a 3 (competency) or higher on the evaluation.

**Findings:** Target was not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2021-2022 results, courses were refined to increase instruction in the development of both (a) creativity and originality in argument, reasoning, and methodology and (b) fresh concepts, unique ideas, novel approaches, unusual perspectives, surprising images, playful language usage, and innovative forms.

As a result, in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met with 84 of 93 (90%) student projects being judged competent or higher in their ability to demonstrate creativity and originality. This represents a 3% decrease from the previous year. Our renewed focus on increased academic writing instruction (in non-creative writing courses) to make up for losses resulting from disrupted education during the COVID-19 pandemic is the reason for this slight decrease.

**Decision:** In AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results, non-creative writing courses will increase their instruction in the importance of originality and creative thought in academic writing and not just the province of creative writers. The target will remain set at 100% of student work receiving a score of competent or higher on the *Rubric for English Major Writing* for AC 2023-2024.

**Comprehensive summary of key evidence of improvements based on analysis of results.** Changes implemented in AC 2022-2023 as a result of AC 2021-22 data analysis:

- Increased focus on all SLOs related to academic writing throughout our courses (SLOs 5-10) to combat substantial learning deficits caused by disrupted education during the COVID-19 pandemic. This reinforcement also instills the importance of these skills throughout each student's degree program.
- Faculty adapted existing assignments and created new assignments to target the SLOs relevant to a given course, especially targeting learning deficits caused by disrupted education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## AC 2022-2023 Assessment

- Faculty teaching within each concentration underwent professional development related to best practices for connecting the SLOs to their discipline.

### Plan of action moving forward

For AC 2023-2024, the following refinements will be made to the curriculum:

- A new, tenure-track faculty member in professional and technical writing will be hired. Filling this position is essential to the department's ability to serve its students in the professional writing track and improving the overall quality of writing instruction across the program.
- Faculty will adapt existing assignments and create new assignments to target SLOs 1-4 and 9-11 for improvement, while continuing to make gains on SLOs 5-8.
- Faculty will undergo professional development related to best practices for building coherence and scaffolding learning across all four years of a student's degree progress, culminating in their senior project.

## AC 2021-2022 Assessment

### Findings

<b>Student Learning Outcomes:</b>		Number of Assignments Targeting SLO	Weak (1)	Weak to Competent (2)	Competent (3)	Competent to Strong (4)	Strong (5)
1	Analysis and interpretation of evidence	25	5	6	22	22	40
2	Application of theory	13	3	6	9	18	29
3	Application of established methodologies	23	5	4	27	17	49
4	Engagement with social and literary history	18	3	4	22	15	40
5	Engagement with genre and form	27	4	6	29	19	61
6	Effective writing	36	5	19	33	32	68
7	Establishment of sound, applicable arguments	19	3	7	19	16	34
8	Relevant use of sources	25	6	18	27	18	40
9	Independent, relevant research	22	5	16	18	14	38
10	Documentation of sources	16	7	6	12	13	29
11	Critical Thinking	28	5	8	34	29	44
12	Creativity and originality	27	4	4	23	17	68

## AC 2021-2022 Assessment

<b>Student Learning Outcomes:</b>		Number of Assignments Assessed	Number of Students Meeting Target	Percentage of Students Meeting Target
1	Analysis and interpretation of evidence	95	62	65
2	Application of theory	65	47	72
3	Application of established methodologies	102	66	65
4	Engagement with social and literary history	84	77	92
5	Engagement with genre and form	119	80	67
6	Effective writing	157	100	64
7	Establishment of sound, applicable arguments	79	50	63
8	Relevant use of sources	109	58	53
9	Independent, relevant research	91	52	57
10	Documentation of sources	67	42	63
11	Critical Thinking	120	73	61
12	Creativity and originality	116	108	93