Mission / Purpose

The Department of Foreign Languages at the University of New Orleans is the second largest department in the College of Liberal Arts. It offers instruction at various levels of proficiency in eight languages: Chinese, French, German, Greek (Ancient), Italian, Japanese, Latin and Spanish. It offers a major in Romance Languages (French and Spanish concentrations), and minors in those two languages as well; instruction to the sixth semester level and occasionally beyond in German, Italian, Japanese, and Latin; basic and intermediate Chinese; and basic Ancient Greek. We also offer a graduate program, an M.A. in Romance Languages with a French and a Spanish option. Our department has multiple missions. 1) We provide the basic four-semester sequence of language study as foundation for our language majors, and to serve Liberal Arts and other major curriculum requirements. 2) We produce graduates who possess: a) fluency in and a mastery of French and Spanish grammar, linguistics, vocabulary and usage; b) an understanding and appreciation of French and Spanish literatures, language and culture; b) initiating and completing research projects on literary, linguistic and civilization-related topics in French, Spanish and comparative Romance areas. 3) We prepare our majors for graduate study; for jobs that serve our multicultural community’s needs in education, social work, tourism, public relations, international business; and for the challenge of the new global economy. 4) We produce graduates who hold our M.A. in Romance Languages and are capable of: a) mature judgments on the French or Spanish language, literature and culture; b) initiating and completing research projects on literary, linguistic and civilization-related topics in French, Spanish and comparative Romance areas. 5) We prepare M.A. graduates for doctoral work and for teaching positions at the secondary and college levels and other positions for which mastery of a major language and culture is required (i.e., translation, immigration and naturalization, customs, foreign trade, tourism, diplomacy, and social work). Our mission supports UNO's mission of excellence in academics and serves the needs of our urban community in training educators, counselors, specialists in public relations and employees for governmental institutions in which mastery of foreign languages is a prerequisite.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

SLO 1: Advanced training in French and Spanish

The students will acquire advanced training in French and Spanish (linguistics, literatures, civilizations), and in compared Romance languages and cultures. (non-thesis option)

Related Measures

M 1: Comprehensive exams

All graduates will pass the written and oral comprehensive exams (the “Comps”), jury-judged comprehensive exams based on 4 areas of knowledge in linguistics, literatures and civilizations. The jury is composed of 3 faculty members for both the written stage of a 3-hour long written exam on 4 areas, and for the oral stage. A minimum of 50% of the exam is to be written in the language of the option.

Source of Evidence: Comprehensive/end-of-program subject matter exam

Target:

90% will score at 'satisfactory' or above in the comprehensive exams. (written part), e.g., will provide at least 80% correct answers on its content. 90% will score “satisfactory” or above in same (oral part), e.g., will provide at least 80% accurate answers on its content at the oral stage.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Met

There were the following results by option in Fall 2013. FRENCH 1 student passed the comprehensive exams successfully (non-thesis option). Success rate 100%. Objective of 90% success attained. SPANISH 3 students passed the comprehensive exams successfully (non-thesis option). Success rate 100%. Objective of 90% success attained. There were the following results by option in Spring 2014. FRENCH No candidate in French graduated in Spring 2014. One candidate in that option passed her comprehensive exams in 5/14 (non-thesis); she will be counted as a completer in 2014-2015. SPANISH One candidate passed successfully the comprehensive exam Spring 2014 (non-thesis option). Success rate: 100%. Our objective of 90% success was obtained. Course of action: maintain the objective of 90% success.

Connected Document

Graduate Program SACS Fall 2013

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

Maintain the Objective

Maintain the objective of 90% success rate in both options: French and Spanish.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14

Implementation Status: Planned

Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):

Measure: Comprehensive exams | Outcome/Objective: Advanced training in French and Spanish

Projected Completion Date: 03/2014

Responsible Person/Group: Dr. Eliza M. Ghil, Chair & Professor of French; Graduate Coordinators

SLO 2: Advanced training in French and Spanish 2

The students will acquire advanced training in French and Spanish (linguistics, literatures, civilizations), and in compared Romance languages and cultures. (thesis option)
M 2: Research essay
Candidates who opt for the “thesis option” will complete and defend successfully a research essay (50-80 pages in length), after having passed their comprehensive exams as described above. The thesis is to be written in English or in the language of the option.

Source of Evidence: Academic direct measure of learning - other

Target: 90% will successfully defend their thesis after passing the “Comps.” The defense is oral and public; the written thesis would have been previously approved by a jury composed of 3 faculty members.

Finding (2013-14) - Target: Not Reported This Cycle
There were no candidates for the thesis option in Fall 2013. There were no candidates for the thesis option in Spring 2014. Not reported this cycle. Maintain the objective of 90% success rate for the future.

Connected Document Graduate Program SACS Fall 2013

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):

Maintain the Objective
Maintain the objective. No candidates in the thesis option graduated in Fall 2013.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: Hgh

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Research essay | Outcome/Objective: Advanced training in French and Spanish 2

Projected Completion Date: 03/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Dr. Eliza M. Ghil, Chair & Professor of French; Graduate Coordinators

Details of Action Plans for This Cycle (by Established cycle, then alpha)

Maintain the Objective
Maintain the objective. No candidates in the thesis option graduated in Fall 2013.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: Hgh

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Research essay | Outcome/Objective: Advanced training in French and Spanish 2

Projected Completion Date: 03/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Dr. Eliza M. Ghil, Chair & Professor of French; Graduate Coordinators

Maintain the Objective
Maintain the objective of 90% success rate in both options: French and Spanish.

Established in Cycle: 2013-14
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: Hgh

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Comprehensive exams | Outcome/Objective: Advanced training in French and Spanish

Projected Completion Date: 03/2014
Responsible Person/Group: Dr. Eliza M. Ghil, Chair & Professor of French; Graduate Coordinators