

English

Office or Department of Academic Affairs
Administrative Unit Assessment
Year Reporting: FY 20 (July 2019-July 2020)

Department and Assessment Report Information

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For which department or area are you reporting?	English
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Departmental Mission and Goals

The mission and goals of the department should be consistent over a 5 year period, although some institutional changes may necessitate and prompt a change in mission or goals for specific departments. In this section, you will report the mission statement for your department as well as the long term goals (5 year range) for the department.

What is the mission statement for this department/area? Your mission should explain why the department/area exists and who it serves.	The English Department's mission is to prepare graduates to be reflective professionals with an exceptionally strong content knowledge in English, a commitment to their chosen profession, a willingness to engage in professional development long after they graduate, and a desire to use their expertise to provide service within diverse communities.
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What are the goals for this department? These should be the "big things" the department/area intends to accomplish within 5 years.	A) Grow enrollment in our programs with purpose. B) Increase student success. C) Foster efficient progression to timely graduation.
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Objectives

Each year, every department should identify objectives the department hopes to accomplish in the next year. These should align with departmental goals and the MGA strategic plan. In the next section you will be reporting on the objectives you set and whether or not you achieved them in FY20. Later in the document you will report on objectives you hope to accomplish in the coming fiscal year, FY21.

Objective 1

Objective 1: What was this department's first objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	Build enrollment in the B.A. in English program and in our graduate Technical Writing programs.
Objective 1: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	Enrolled English majors (B.A. in English) and students enrolled in English graduate programs, comparing fall 2018 to fall 2019.
Objective 1: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	1% enrollment growth in the B.A. in English and graduate enrollment (M.A. and Certificate)
Objective 1: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	Overall: 8.5% enrollment decline -- 106 students in fall 2018, 97 in fall 2019. B.A. in English: 20.4% decline -- 98 in fall 2018, 78 in fall 2019. Graduate (M.A. and Certificate): 238% growth -- 8 in fall 2018, 19 in fall 2019.
Objective 1: Did your department meet this objective?	The department did not meet this objective.
Objective 1: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	We had impressive growth in graduate enrollment but a sharp and troubling drop in English majors. We plan to improve undergraduate enrollment by promoting new work-ready concentrations in the English B.A.

Objective 2

<p>Objective 2: What was this department's second objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.</p>	<p>Improve student academic success across English Creative Writing, and Professional Writing courses.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)</p>	<p>DWF rates in 1000-4000-level English (ENGL) classes, Creative Writing (CRWR) and Professional Writing (PFWR classes).</p>
<p>Objective 2: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)</p>	<p>Less than 25%</p>
<p>Objective 2: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)</p>	<p>Overall: 25.73% (1682 grades of 6537 total 2019-2020 grades). ENGL: 25.93% (1645 grades of 6345 total 2019-2020 grades). CRWR: 22.73% (25 grades of 110 total 2019-2020 grades). PFWR: 14.63% (12 grades of 82 total 2019-2020 grades). ENGL 1101: 29.07% (562 grades of 1933 total fall and spring 1101 grades). ENGL 0999: 39.59% (97 grades of 245 total fall and spring 0999 grades).</p>
<p>Objective 2: Did your department meet this objective?</p>	<p>The department did not meet this objective.</p>
<p>Objective 2: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?</p>	<p>We achieved less than 25% DWF rate in Creative Writing and Professional Writing courses but not in English courses and overall, though we were within a percentage point for each. We need to work on decreasing DWF rates in English courses. This year we are revamping our English Learning Support pedagogy to improve DWF rates in ENGL 1101 and ENGL 0999 courses.</p>

Objective 3

<p>Objective 3: What was this department's third objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.</p>	<p>Increase retention in English B.A. and English graduate programs.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)</p>	<p>Fall to fall retention rates</p>
<p>Objective 3: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)</p>	<p>1% improvement in retention rates</p>
<p>Objective 3: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)</p>	<p>Overall: 3.2% growth in retention (94 students in fall 2018, 97 in fall 2019).</p> <p>Graduate programs: 271% growth in retention: Fall 2018: 7 students to retain (Certificate only). Fall 2019: 19 students retained (4 Grad Cert, 15 M.A.).</p> <p>English B.A.: 10.3% decline in retention: Fall 2018: 87 majors to retain (excluding those who graduated before fall 2019). Fall 2019: 78 majors retained.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Did your department meet this objective?</p>	<p>The department exceeded this objective.</p>
<p>Objective 3: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?</p>	<p>We learned that we cannot take retention in the English B.A. for granted. We have redesigned curriculum to allow greater flexibility in elective credit both in upper-division English B.A. coursework and in general electives.</p>

Objective 4

Objective 4: What was this department's fourth objective for this fiscal year? Objectives should be specific, measurable, and achievable within one year.	Ensure efficient progression to support graduation
Objective 4: Detail how your department measured this objective? (Survey, budget number, number of participants, jobs completed, measurable time and/or effort)	Credit hours to graduation in the English B.A.; time to degree for graduate programs
Objective 4: What was your target outcome for this objective? (1.e. 80% participation, 5% enrollment growth, 7% change in engagement)	Average credit hours at B.A. graduation below 135 hours; average time to graduate degree three years or less.
Objective 4: At what level did the department/area achieve on this objective? (This should be a number, i.e. 82%, 6%, 345 attendees, 75% engagement)	Average credit hours at B.A. graduation was 147.8 hours. Average time to degree for graduate programs was 1.54 years (grad certificate students only; no M.A. students have graduated yet).
Objective 4: Did your department meet this objective?	The department did not meet this objective.
Objective 4: What did your department learn from working toward this objective? What changes will you make based on this effort next year?	We need to improve average time to graduation. These numbers were clearly impacted by a few students who changed majors late in their careers or came to MGA with much transfer credit. Next year we will use two metrics: one for those admitted as new students and another for transfer students. The M.A. program is too new for us to have meaningful data yet—we have not yet offered all the classes that M.A. students need to graduate. We will review our time-to-degree rates in two years and may adjust our target accordingly.

Future Plans

<p>Please identify and detail three to four measurable objectives for the next fiscal year. In listing the objectives, please use the format shown in these examples. 1) The Department of X will improve services levels by 5% as measured by our satisfaction survey. 2) The department of X will provide training in ABC for at least 73 MGA faculty and staff.</p>	<p>1) The Department of English will analyze enrollment in our new English B.A. concentrations and increase overall program enrollment by 2%. 2) The Department of English will lower D/W/F rates in English Department courses (ENGL, PFWR, and CRWR) by 1%. 3) The Department of English will improve year-to-year retention rates by 1%. 4) English baccalaureate students who entered MGA as freshmen will graduate with fewer than 130 credit hours; English baccalaureate students who entered MGA as transfer students will graduate with fewer than 145 hours.</p>
<p>Based on this assessment, please share your thoughts on the current status and future direction of this department or area.</p>	<p>The new M.A. in Technical and Professional Writing has bolstered enrollment in English programs substantially, though continued growth in the M.A. will likely level off as the newness wears off. In the M.A. and even more in the B.A. in English, attracting and retaining students is a stiff challenge that requires constant effort. We had a good spring and summer 2020 in terms of retention and enrollment, and we anticipate growth in fall as well.</p>

Open Box for Additional Comments

<p>Open Text Box For Assessment Comments:</p>	
<p>If the COVID-19 pandemic impacted this assessment cycle, please provide specific details below.</p>	

