

Department of English and Modern Languages

Capstone Assessment: 2015-17: A Summary

- On PLO 1, writing or written communication, two rubric areas that need more emphasis are 1) content development and 2) sources and evidence.
- On research outcome (PLO 2), areas needing improvement are 1) existing knowledge/research and 2) design process, although 2017 artifacts showed better performance on this outcome overall. The rubric area of “limitations and research implications” continues to be a weak area.
- Students have performed better on outcome 3 (critical, integrative, and creative thinking) in the last two years, but there is a scope for improvement.
- Close reading outcome (PLO 4) continues to be strong on the whole, but there are few artifacts.
- Historical contextualization outcome (PLO 5) fared worse in the 2016 artifacts.
- English Lit. (Major Field Test) results, applicable for PLO5: In the assessment plan, our target is that 50% of capstone students testing at or above 50% will meet this PLO. For 2017, we achieved this target. Four out of eight students scored more than the national mean as provided in the ETS 2017 Comparative Data Guide. For 2016 and 2015, however, the students did not reach this target, though 2016 results were close (3 out of 7 students scored at or above the national mean).

Capstone Artifacts Assessment Results – Fall 2017 (Total Students: 8)

PLO 1, Writing

8 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Context and purpose	75%
Content development	63%
Genre and disciplinary conventions	50%
Sources and evidence	50%
Control of syntax and mechanics	75%

PLO 2, Research

4 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Topic selection	100%
Existing knowledge, research, or views	75%
Design process	75%
Analysis	75%
Conclusions	75%
Limitations and implications	50%

PLO 3, Critical, integrative, and creative thinking

6 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Acquiring competences (critical or creative)	67%
Taking risks	83%
Solving problems	67%
Embracing contradictions	67%
Innovative thinking	50%
Connecting, synthesizing, transforming	67%

PLO 4, Close reading

3 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Comprehension	100%
Genres	67%
Relationship to text	100%
Analysis	100%
Interpretation	67%
Reader's voice	67%

PLO 5, Historical analysis / contextualization

1 artifact	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Placement in historical context	100%
Use of social history	100%
Use of intellectual history	100%
Use of cultural history	100%
Use of political or economic history	100%
Identification of canonicity (or its lack) of a text/ historical issues	100%
Appropriate use of primary and secondary sources	100%

Capstone Artifacts Assessment Results – Fall 2016 (Total Students: 7)

PLO 1, Writing

7 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Context and purpose	100%
Content development	71%
Genre and disciplinary conventions	86%
Sources and evidence	57%
Control of syntax and mechanics	86%

PLO 2, Research

5 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Topic selection	80%
Existing knowledge, research, or views	60%
Design process	60%
Analysis	80%
Conclusions	60%
Limitations and implications	0%

PLO 3, Critical, integrative, and creative thinking

4 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Acquiring competences (critical or creative)	75%
Taking risks	50%
Solving problems	50%
Embracing contradictions	50%
Innovative thinking	50%
Connecting, synthesizing, transforming	50%

PLO 4, Close reading

1 artifact	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Comprehension	100%
Genres	100%
Relationship to text	100%
Analysis	100%
Interpretation	100%
Reader's voice	100%

PLO 5, Historical analysis / contextualization

4 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Placement in historical context	50%
Use of social history	25%
Use of intellectual history	25%
Use of cultural history	50%
Use of political or economic history	25%
Identification of canonicity (or its lack) of a text/ historical issues	25%
Appropriate use of primary and secondary sources	50%

Capstone Artifacts Assessment Results – Fall 2015 (Total Students: 12)

PLO 1, Writing

12 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Context and purpose	67%
Content development	58%
Genre and disciplinary conventions	75%
Sources and evidence	67%
Control of syntax and mechanics	75%

PLO 2, Research

20 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Topic selection	70%
Existing knowledge, research, or views	50%
Design process	50%
Analysis	70%
Conclusions	70%
Limitations and implications	30%

PLO 3, Critical, integrative, and creative thinking

18 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Acquiring competences (critical or creative)	28%
Taking risks	33%
Solving problems	17%
Embracing contradictions	22%
Innovative thinking	17%
Connecting, synthesizing, transforming	17%

PLO 4, Close reading

9 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Comprehension	89%
Genres	56%
Relationship to text	56%
Analysis	67%
Interpretation	44%
Reader's voice	56%

PLO 5, Historical analysis / contextualization

5 artifacts	Top Two Ratings (4, Capstone, and 3, Milestone); Threshold: 75%
Placement in historical context	80%
Use of social history	80%
Use of intellectual history	80%
Use of cultural history	100%
Use of political or economic history	60%
Identification of canonicity (or its lack) of a text/ historical issues	25%
Appropriate use of primary and secondary sources	80%