



Department of Humanities Student Learning Assessment Report (2)

SECTION I: Mission and Student Learning Outcomes (Graduating Student Profile)

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Humanities is to cultivate an appreciation of the diversity of human culture by examining and analyzing the artistic and intellectual achievements of humanity. The Department endeavors to foster students to think critically across disciplines so as to stimulate the development of creative and intellectual curiosity, promote the ability to form sound intellectual judgments and ethical values, and foment creativity and innovation. The faculty of the Humanities Department emphasizes the study of multiple cultural expressions, especially those that open new avenues for research, and how these relate to the Puerto Rican cultural reality.

The integration of a liberal, fine arts program with professional learning provides the knowledge, skills, and values needed to be a responsible, successful, and creative citizen. For the people of Puerto Rico it provides educational programs, public cultural events, and community services that enhance the quality of life.

Departmental Objectives

1. To provide the humanities majors with a broad, well founded, and solid education that enables them to pursue their academic and professional goals.
2. To familiarize students with the major intellectual and artistic traditions through an interdisciplinary approach so as to broaden their critical perspective and heighten their appreciation of diverse cultural values through the Introduction to Western Culture course.
3. To provide all the students of the campus with the best humanistic education thus contributing to the cultivation of professionals with a well-rounded, universal perspective.
4. To promote the importance of the humanities for science, business administration and engineering students through the philosophical study of their ethical and humanistic impact on society.
5. To promote the appropriate environment for the study of, respect for and dialogue about the intellectual, artistic and humanistic enterprise through excellence in teaching.
6. To promote knowledge of the humanities and the arts through research, publications, symposia, seminars, conferences, colloquia, and other special projects.
7. To promote and contribute to the cultural life of the Mayagüez Campus, of Puerto Rico, and the international community through theatrical and musical performances and art exhibitions.

SECTION II: Student Learning Assessment Results



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Mayagüez, Puerto Rico



Sub-section		Content
Focus of Assessment Project		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focus of the student learning assessment was the skill of critical thinking. Critical thinking is a skill necessary to be cultivated in all students in accordance with the departmental objective (graduating student profile) number 3: "To provide all the students of the campus with the best humanistic education thus contributing to the cultivation of professionals with a well-rounded, universal perspective."
Justification		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The skill was identified as an area of possible improvement through the evaluation of a survey questionnaire administered to students of the department's core course (HUMA 3111-3112). In this questionnaire of students questions related to critical thinking scored noticeably lower than other types of questions.
Population		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project involved a group of 8 professors and a group of 25 students The project aimed for the involvement of a small group representative of the department's diversity.
Assessment	Pre-intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A preliminary critical thinking exercise was administered. The results were analyzed afterward
	Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An interactive workshop involving presentations by 6 professors took place, with much student involvement. This event took place the 14th of November, 2006.
	Post-Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A second and distinct critical thinking exercise but with an equal level of difficulty was administered. The results were analyzed afterward
Results		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The evaluation of the results indicates an improvement in the deployment of critical thinking skills. The test scores were 4 % higher in the post-intervention exercise and there was a larger number of perfect scores. The results were substantively similar across student groups (based on year of studies, program major, and departmental or non-departmental enrollment).
Possible Reasons or Hypotheses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of the test, and much positive feedback after the event, indicate that the form of the workshop was appropriate for the improvement of critical thinking skills.
Course of action		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials related to the event were posted on the departmental assessment website, http://uprm.info/huma/, to foment further intervention to improve critical thinking. The impetus of the event was to create a culture of continuous improvement of the skill of critical thinking, which can be facilitated through the website. Should the department choose to focus future closing the loop projects on critical thinking again, similar events can be organized in the future, building on the experience of this event.
Next learning assessment closing the loop project		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next learning assessment will be oriented toward the development of collective tools, such as techniques of evaluation, portfolios, use of multimedia, and internet resources, useful for the teaching of the Humanities basic course, pending departmental consideration and eventual approval.
Appendices		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of the critical thinking exercises and their evaluation. Material from the departmental assessment website is available at: http://uprm.info/huma/.



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