

**Graduate Degree Program Assessment Progress Report Cover Sheet: 115**

**Degree: Master of Arts in Second Languages\_ For Calendar Year: 2009**

**(Date submitted to college committee: 2-26-10\_By: Dave McAlpine\_\_\_\_\_)**

**(Date posted on college assessment website:\_\_\_\_\_)**

**Overall Rating:\_\_\_\_\_**

Respond to all six parts following the “Degree Program Assessment Progress Report Instructions.” (NOTE: Parts 1 through 4 can be copied from the relevant sections of your assessment plan.) Attach additional pages as needed.

(1) Student learning goal(s) addressed this year: Goal 3

Engage in quality research in the discipline at the “acceptable” or higher level of achievement.

(2) Learning outcomes/objectives for those goals addressed this year:

3.1 Students demonstrate how to approach second language research and are able to design appropriate research projects

3.2 Students demonstrate the ability to interact with the literatures and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world

(3) Courses & activities where assessed:

See the attached highlighted (green) MASL Program Curriculum Map

(4) Methods used:

**3.1 Objective/Outcome 3.1** Students demonstrate how to approach second language research and are able to design appropriate research projects

There are various procedures for collecting evidence that students have met Objective/Outcome 3.1. All students in both tracks take two common courses LANG 7350 SECOND LANGUAGE RESEARCH and LANG 7699 SECOND LANGUAGE THESIS. LANG 7350 is the course that best meets this objective. By the end of the course, a student must complete Chapter II (Review of the Literature) of the thesis and have it approved by the thesis advisor and the Graduate Coordinator. A grade must be recorded for the course before the student is allowed to continue with the writing of the other thesis chapters. During this course the student is required to form a thesis committee, choose a chairperson, and propose and have approved a thesis topic. The thesis, LANG 7699, is visible proof of the student’s ability to conduct quality research.

**3.2 Objective/Outcome 3.2** Students demonstrate the ability to interact with the literatures and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world

There are various procedures for collecting evidence that students have met Objective/Outcome 3.2. The completion of course work at the 7000-level is the most obvious proof of students' ability to do academic work in the discipline of Spanish. The writing, defense, and publication of the thesis is the culminating project for the course LANG 7699 and is the last course taken by MASL students in the Spanish track.

(5) What are the assessment findings? How did you analyze them?

The following charts are the quantitative results of objectives/outcomes 3.1 and 3.2 of Goal 3 that were assessed for the 2009 assessment year. **Four** students completed the MASL degree during that period.

**OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME 3.1  
MASTER OF ARTS IN SECOND LANGUAGES PROGRAM RUBRIC**

**3.1 Objective/Outcome 3.1** Students demonstrate how to approach second language research and are able to design appropriate research projects

N = 4

Program Courses	Not Applicable	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Target
		Performance does not demonstrate the ability to approach second language research nor to design an appropriate research project	Major components of second language research and design are evident and observable in student writing	Second language research and design are fully implemented and integrated into Chapter II of the thesis
LANG 7350 Second Language Research				4
LANG 7699 Second Language Thesis				4

Assessment Results Goal 3, Objective/Outcome 3.1:

- All students performed at the Target level by submitting a completed Chapter II of their thesis, by receiving a passing grade from their thesis

advisors and the Graduate Coordinator, and by receiving permission to register for LANG 7699. All students completed the writing, defense, and publication of a thesis. Theses can be viewed in the University library or within DISLS.

- The data suggest that MASL students meet or exceed competency in researching and designing appropriate research projects.

**OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME 3.2**  
**MASTER OF ARTS IN SECOND LANGUAGES PROGRAM RUBRIC**

3.1 Objective/Outcome 3.2 Students demonstrate the ability to interact with the literatures and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world

N = 4

Program Courses	Not Applicable	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Target
		Performance does not demonstrate the ability to interact with the literatures and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world	Performance demonstrates reasonable ability to interact with the languages and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world	Performance fully demonstrates the ability to interact with the languages and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world
LANG 7313 (21 hours of 7000-level Spanish)				4
LANG 7699 Second Language Thesis				4

Assessment Results Goal 3, Objective/Outcome 3.2:

- All students performed at the Target level through work in Spanish 7000-level courses and the completion and defense of a published thesis.
- The data suggest that MASL students meet or exceed the ability to interact with the languages and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

(6) What conclusions were drawn and what decisions were made as a result? How were

stakeholder groups involved?

- The data suggest that MASL completers in 2009 (N=4) perform at the Acceptable or higher level on the two objectives/outcomes measured in this assessment year. There are other students enrolled in the program that participated in the assessments this year but will be reported upon completion of the thesis (LANG 7699) and graduation with the MASL degree during the year they are awarded the degree. The results suggest that substantive changes are not required for Goal 3.
- MASL faculty are still concerned about low numbers in the Spanish track. Only one student completed the program in that track this year. Several ideas have been discussed, including the elimination of the Spanish track, in order to concentrate resources on the more productive SLAP track. The MASL faculty will continue the discussions in 2010.
- The four completers meets the required number of completers by the ADHE.
- The four theses completed in 2009 are:
  - *Twenty-Seven Authentically-Based ESL Grammar Supplements Shifting From Form to Function*
  - *Hybrid Latina Chick Lit: The Expression of Sexuality in the Works of Alisa Valdes Rodríguez*
  - *Fifteen Integrated Performance Assessments for the Spanish Textbook Panorama*
  - *Perceptions of Introductory Foreign Language College-Level Students About Their Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing Skills Development Through a Distance Education Course*
- The four graduates are all employed at UALR IELP, Cathedral High School, Southwest Missouri Community College, and Phillips County Community College (AR)
- MASL completers provide the program with information through a survey completed after their thesis defense. The results for the 2009 assessment year are found in the table below:

N=4

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The MASL program prepares its graduates to demonstrate knowledge of current second language theory and be able to apply the theory to novel second language situations.	3	1			
The MASL program prepares its graduates to work with individuals in a socially/culturally diverse environment and be able to enhance learning of different cultural/linguistic groups through skills attained in the program.	4				
The MASL program prepares its graduates to learn and know how to approach second language research and be able to design applied research projects.	2	2			
The MASL program prepares its graduates to clearly and confidently demonstrate the second language skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture based on current second language methodology.	4				

The MASL program prepares its graduates to know how to design, implement, and assess language instruction and demonstrate this through the use of the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines, National Standards in ESL/FL, and content-valid assessment instruments.

3 1

When asked to rank their overall experience in the program, 3 completers rated it “Excellent” and 1 rated it “Good”.

Goal 1 will be assessed during the 2010 assessment year and the program will move to Goal 2 in the 2011 assessment year as per the MASL approved Assessment Plan.

### Curriculum Assessment Map: Master of Arts in Second Languages (MASL)

		Goal 1: Demonstrate knowledge of current language theory and practice in the planning and delivery of second language instruction in a variety of language settings		Goal 2: Meet national standards of the American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at the “acceptable” level of achievement		Goal 3: Engage in quality research in the discipline at the “acceptable” level of achievement	
Courses & Activities	How Outcomes are addressed and assessed	Outcome 1: Knowledge of Theory and Practice	Outcome 2: Social/Cultural/Linguistic Environments	Outcome 3 Methodology	Outcome 4 Design, implementation, assessment of instruction	Outcome 5 Second language research	Outcome 6 Interaction with literatures/cultures
LANG 5322	Emphasis: Assessed:	Extensive Digital portfolio	Somewhat Lesson plans	Extensive Digital portfolio	Extensive Digital Portfolio	None Not assessed	None Not assessed
LANG 5323	Emphasis: Assessed:	Extensive Digital portfolio, acquisition project	Somewhat Comparison of L1/L2 project	Little Other	None Not assessed	Somewhat Papers/Projects	None Not assessed
LANG 5324	Emphasis: Assessed:	None Not assessed	Extensive Digital project/case study	None Not assessed	None Not assessed	Somewhat Papers	None Not assessed
LANG 5325	Emphasis: Assessed:	Extensive Assessment Instruments/Rubrics	Little Assessment Instruments/Rubrics	Extensive Assessment Instruments/Rubrics	Extensive Test design	Somewhat Test Analysis	None Not assessed
LANG 7311	Emphasis: Assessed:	Extensive Digital Portfolio	Somewhat Digital portfolio	Extensive Digital Portfolio	Extensive Digital Portfolio	Somewhat Exam	None Not assessed
LANG 7312	Emphasis: Assessed:	Extensive Digital portfolio	Somewhat Digital Portfolio	Extensive Digital Portfolio	Extensive Digital Portfolio	Somewhat Exam	None Not assessed
LANG 7313	Emphasis: Assessed:	None Not assessed	None Not assessed	None Not assessed	None Not assessed	Somewhat Papers	Extensive Thesis
LANG 7314	Emphasis: Assessed:	Extensive Practicum	Somewhat Practicum	Extensive Practicum	Extensive Practicum	None Not assessed	None Not assessed
LANG 7350	Emphasis: Assessed:	None Not assessed	None Not assessed	None Not assessed	None Not assessed	Extensive Chapter 2 of Thesis	Extensive Thesis
LANG 7699	Emphasis: Assessed:	Extensive Thesis	Extensive Thesis	Extensive Thesis	Extensive Thesis	Extensive Thesis	Extensive Thesis