

Student outcome assessment report

2015-16

Linguistics Outcomes Assessment Coordinator: Sean Fulop

Undergraduate program

We revised our Student Outcomes Assessment Plan (SOAP) this year.

We assessed the following outcomes directly:

Analyze historical linguistic data.

Demonstrate knowledge of English grammar (phonology, morphology and syntax) and how it has changed over time.

Assessment methods:

Exam scores in LING 145 and 146

Results:

LING 145: Of 8 students in the Spring section, 4 students scored above 80 percent on the final; however, 2 scored below 60 percent.

LING 146: Of 29 students in one section, 23 students scored above 80 percent on the final exam.

Discussion: The difficulty that some students are having with LING 145 Historical Linguistics is noteworthy, and is really an ongoing problem. The regular instructor, S. Fulop, is trying various strategies to get through to the “lower” half of the class with this challenging analytical material. We are not certain that significant improvement should ever be expected. LING 146 English Grammar, meanwhile, seems to be serving its target audience very well overall.

Graduate program

We assessed the following objectives from the MA program SOAP:

Goals 1 and 2; seven objectives therein pertain to knowledge of linguistics and ability to do linguistic analysis.

Assessment methods:

The comprehensive exam scores were examined, for all students who took the exam during 2015-16. Only scores on questions in general linguistics pertain to these objectives.

Results

Sociolinguistics: Pass 3 Fail 1

Phonology: Pass 2

Phonetics: Pass 1

Syntax: High Pass 1

Discussion

It is useful to see that one student failed to fathom the basic tenets of Sociolinguistics. The results from direct assessment are satisfactory, so no program or procedure changes are indicated at this point in time.