French Students' Communication Skills
French BA - College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Step 1: Student Learning Outcome

Communicate orally and in writing in the target language in an effective and culturally appropriate manner, in a variety of academic, social, and professional circumstances.

Step 2: Methods and Measures

Assessment takes place in upper-level courses via a research paper assignment. Full-time French faculty consult to discuss norming and the assessment process and apply a rubric to score students' papers into three categories: "Exemplary", "Satisfactory" and "Unsatisfactory".

Step 3: Criteria for Success

To demonstrate appropriate progress towards oral and written communication competence, 75% of students will receive either "Exemplary" or "Satisfactory".

Step 4: Results

A total of 24 student projects were assessed in FREN 470, a senior seminar on "French Literature and Power.

Distribution of scores for 24 projects follow:

- Exemplary = 7 (29%)
- Satisfactory = 15 (63%)
- Unsatisfactory = 2 (8%)

Overall, the data revealed that 92% of students performed in the "Exemplary" or "Satisfactory" range, which exceeds the established criteria for success (75%).

This is the first time that this SLO was assessed. In the future, the same standard procedures will continue, however, other assessment instruments such as FREN 485 capstone projects or PPT presentations may be used.

Step 5: Improvement Actions

Continue working to improve the percentage of students achieving an "Exemplary" rating, and explore remediation for those earning an "Unsatisfactory" rating.

The program will also strive to develop pedagogical approaches and feedback that help French majors reach a near-native level of written and oral communication, with focused attention on the following:

- conceptual organization of research
- rhetorical tools and logical connectors
- vocabulary and culturally appropriate expressions
- syntax and accurate use of verb modes and pronouns
- phonetics and oral expression
- stylistic registers and adaptation to a variety of audiences (academic vs. social)