

Assessment of Student Learning Plan: **Fine Arts-Creative Writing**

Review of 2012-13 Academic Year

University of Southern Maine

A. College, Department or Program, Date

College CAHS
Department or Program Stonecoast MFA
Date June 6, 2013

B. Department or Program Chair: Annie Finch

**(person responsible for completing this form)*

C. Degree or other Program: MFA

D. Assessment of Student Learning

1: Has your department identified any Student Learning Outcomes? (What are students able to do by the end of your program?)

- a. *List the most important student learning outcomes (3-5) that have been agreed upon in your department. Then, identify which student learning outcome (1-2) was assessed this past year.*

1. Students should be able to write an effective critical essay about literature including a thesis statement, supportive evidence drawn from the text, and a conclusion.

2. Students should know how to produce effective creative writing in at least one genre.

3. Students should be familiar with major works in the traditions of their chosen literary genres as well as with important contemporary movements in their genres.

4. Students should have an understanding of the potential intersection of their writing life with other aspects of a literary career in terms of craft, criticism, pedagogy, social justice/community service, creative collaboration, and/or publishing

5. Students should have the skills to share their creative work during a public reading.

This was assessed the past year:

1. Students should be able to write an effective critical essay about literature including a thesis statement, supportive evidence drawn from the text, and a conclusion.

- b. *If your department/program does NOT have any student learning outcome statements yet, please check here_____.*

2: How and When will the Learning Outcomes be assessed?

- a. *Briefly describe the forms of evidence that were utilized this past year to demonstrate students' accomplishment of the learning outcome(s) selected, and when you implemented the assessment.*

1. To assess the first learning outcome, we developed a procedure called the "First Semester Writing Skills Assessment." Each first-semester student was asked to write a critical essay on literature which was assessed by their mentor according to these criteria: grammatical correctness, quality of thesis, effectiveness of supporting evidence. The mentor filled out a form for each student which was returned to the office.

- b. *If your department/program did NOT assess any outcomes in the past year, please check here_____.*

3: How did you use the Assessment results to Improve Student Learning?

- a. *Briefly describe your unit's process for using the assessment data to improve student learning, and state what improvements or changes are being planned based upon the assessment results.*

Of our 24 first-semester students, one did not meet the assessment. He was assigned to do intensive work on critical writing with a tutor in addition to his mentor, and he has since successfully met the assessment.

- b. *If your department has NOT reviewed any assessment results in the past year, please check here_____.*