



# Annual Assessment Report for Academic Programs

The University Assessment Team advocates for the enhancement of student learning through purposeful, meaningful, and feasible student-outcomes assessment practices. The Assessment Team seeks to collaborate with programs, departments, and units to ensure that effective assessment of student learning occurs across the University. To assist in meeting this goal, the Team requests that you complete this Annual Assessment Report form to document student learning in your program. A PDF version of this completed form will be posted to the Academic Affairs Assessment website. Please note that this Annual Assessment Report form should only be completed after you have an Assessment Plan for Academic Programs forms on file with the University Assessment Team. The plan is completed once and only updated when revisions have been made to components of the plan.

**1. Degree Level and Program Name:** MA Liberal Studies

**2. College/School:** College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

**3. Assessment Overview** - Briefly share how student learning outcomes assessment is conducted within your program/department (e.g. number of outcomes, examples of assignments used, and frequency of assessment).

Final Projects (MLS 5060) are used to assess program learning outcomes. Under the direction of a faculty mentor, the student produces a substantive, interdisciplinary project that takes the form of a research paper or creative project.

**4. Student Learning Outcomes** -Which student learning outcome(s) from the assessment plan filed with the University Assessment Team is/are being reported on in this report? Include the corresponding benchmark(s) for each outcome.

Final Projects measure all four Learning Outcomes:

1. To think critically, identifying, assessing and constructing arguments.

Benchmark: B on Final Project

2. To write in an organized and clear manner.

Benchmark: B on Final Project

3. To conduct interdisciplinary research.

Benchmark: B on Final Project

4. To understand the social, cultural and humanistic context of the world.

Benchmark: B on Final Project



**Institutional Outcomes** - For which institutional outcome(s) do the reported student learning outcome(s) align?

SLO Outcome Alignment	Institutional Outcome
	I. Jesuit & Mercy Values
Yes	II. Diversity & Cultural Awareness
Yes	III. Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
Yes	IV. Communication
Yes	V. Professionalism
Yes	VI. Lifelong Learning

**6. Assessment Period:** Select the academic year for which you are reporting results (i.e. when data were collected):

2023-2024

**7. Results, Planned Actions, and/or Actions Taken** -Briefly summarize the assessment results, how they relate to benchmark(s), and how you are using them to enhance student learning and improve program quality.

Last year there were no students graduating from the program. Final Projects are still being assessed according to the 4 program outcomes. The program is currently broadening its recruiting strategy by targeting Pre-Health undergraduates looking to take a gap-year to bolster their applications to professional schools (e.g., medical school). To this end, the program has proposed a 12-credit health care concentration (currently under review with the CHASS Curriculum & Standards Committee). With senior privilege, students could begin the program as undergraduates and complete the MA in one academic year.

On a related note, the program is awaiting final approval on a name change from Master of Arts in Liberal Studies to Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies. The programs outcomes remain the same, but with a more intentional highlighting of the Outcome 3 re: interdisciplinarity.

**Attachment(s):**

None