



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 and 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).

The MA Liberal Studies has four learning outcomes:

1. To think critically, identifying, assessing and constructing arguments
2. To write in an organized and clear manner
3. To conduct interdisciplinary research
4. To understand the social, cultural and humanistic context of the world

Faculty assess student in connection with the learning outcomes in the MLS 5000 Introduction to Liberal Studies Course and again in the MLS 5060 Final Project.

4. **Student Learning Outcomes & Benchmarks** -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.

Learning outcome #3

Conduct interdisciplinary research

At least 75% of the students earned a rubric equivalent total score of C or better on the MLS 5060 Final Project



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

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

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

2025-2026

7. **Program Assessment Results** -Briefly summarize the assessment results and how they relate to benchmark(s).

There has been only one MLS 5060 Final Project, which is the capstone for the project. It was an education-based project that primarily made use of literature in that academic area, but made some use of literature from the social sciences. It was one of the weaker final projects in terms of meeting the interdisciplinarity requirement. The level of interdisciplinarity in previous years has been more intentional and nuanced in previous years.

8. **Planned Actions and/or Actions Taken in Response to Assessment Results** - Briefly summarize how you are using the assessment results to enhance student learning and improve program quality.

I use a textbook, Allen F. Repko, Rick Szostack (2025) Interdisciplinary Research: Process & Theory. Sage Publications. However, there is now a complementary text by the same authors, Allen F. Repko, Rick Szostack, Michelle Phillips Buchberger (2025). Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies. Sage Publications. I plan to integrate that into the next MLS 5000 Introduction to Liberal Studies cycle. I anticipate improvement since this term's MLS 5000 students are already doing better. Our core textbook this term is Robert Waldinger, Marc Schulz (2023) The Good Life: Lessons From the World's Longest Scientific Study of Happiness. Simon & Schuster. It integrates an empirical longitudinal study on happiness with philosophical and theological sources.