



# 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 Religious 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).

The MA Religious Studies program has six student learning outcomes, with one outcome assessed each year. Faculty assess student learning outcomes using direct measures from embedded assignments (e.g. exams, quizzes, and projects using rubrics).

**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.

Referencing the MA in Religious Studies Program Assessment Plan on file with the University Assessment Team, one outcome is being assessed in this cycle. Student Learning Outcome #3: Demonstrate a critical appreciation for the approach, analysis, and comprehension of religion through the broader perspectives of various disciplines. The benchmark for success is to have at least 70% of the students earn a rubric equivalent score of a B or better on the research projects in RELS 5225 and RELS 5700.

**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
	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):

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.

85% of students in RELS 5225 received a rubric equivalent score of B or better on their final research project, which is above the 70% benchmark. Students demonstrated rubric assessed excellence in applying theories from the social sciences and literary studies (above 4 on a 5-point scale). 82% of students in RELS 5700 received a rubric equivalent score of B or better on their final research project. which is also above the 70% benchmark. Students demonstrated rubric assessed excellent in applying interdisciplinary perspectives utilizing race and gender informed critical approaches (above 4 on a 5 point scale).

**Attachment(s):**

None