

**Assurance of Student Learning
2019-2020**

Potter College of Arts and Letters

Department of Modern Languages

Arabic (609)

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Use this page to list learning outcomes, measurements, and summarize results for your program. Detailed information must be completed in the subsequent pages.

Student Learning Outcome 1: Students will achieve Intermediate-mid level of proficiency in all language skills.

Instrument 1 | ARBC 437/438 Listening/Reading Comprehension Final Tasks

Instrument 2 | ARBC 310 Reading Comprehension Tasks

Instrument 3 | ARBC 357 Writing Tasks

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1.

Met

Not Met

Student Learning Outcome 2:

Instrument 1 | 300-400 level last semester oral exam

Instrument 2 | 300-400 level last semester presentational speaking requirement

Instrument 3

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 2.

Met

Not Met

Student Learning Outcome 3:

Instrument 1 | ARBC 438/357 Writing Tasks

Instrument 2 | ARBC 438/357 oral exams

Instrument 3

Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 3.

Met

Not Met

Program Summary (Briefly summarize the action and follow up items from your detailed responses on subsequent pages.)

Due to the COVID-19 modifications in Spring 2020 (which is when the majority of program assessments occur), we were not able to conduct all the assessments planned and indicated above. We did, however, conduct assessments for each SLO sufficiently to determine the results above. We had originally planned for externally conducted Oral proficiency interviews (OPI) to be SLO 1, Instrument 1, but this was not possible do to proctoring requirements. Therefore, the number of oral exams in the 300-400 level courses was doubled due to the change in delivery modes and SLO 1, Instrument 1 changed. Also, the Test of Arabic Culture Knowledge, a written test, was not conducted, but additional oral exams were conducted in ARBC 438 and ARBC 357 and additional oral presentations required that dealt with cultural topics. Despite the modifications, we are confident that all outcomes were achieved.

Student Learning Outcome 1

Student Learning Outcome	Students will achieve Intermediate-mid level of proficiency in all language skills.		
Measurement Instrument 1	<p>ARBC 437/438 (Advanced Media Arabic/Topics in Arabic Media) Listening/Reading Comprehension Tasks on the final exam. Students are required to listen to recorded news broadcasts and read news excerpts and answer questions of comprehension and interpretation at the intermediate level.* The text levels range from Intermediate to Advanced and the questions are graduated from declarative comprehension to interpretation, thus testing both intermediate and advanced level comprehension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proficiency standards are established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), and specifically adapted for Arabic language proficiency at https://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012/arabic/arabic-consensus-project. These standards will be referenced throughout this document. The associated rubrics are available at the link given. 		
Criteria for Student Success	Students accurately identify the main point and/or details asked for in the questions.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	85.7% n=14
Methods	Student answers to sections A, B, C and D of the ARBC 437 or ARBC 438 Final exam are assessed for accurate understanding of the main and idea and facts. This assessment is different than that used to give points in the exam, which also includes grammar, structure and word choice of the responses.		
Measurement Instrument 2	ARBC 310 (Structure of the Arabic Language) Authentic Arabic Exercises. These reading comprehension exercises use authentic materials at the intermediate level (news excerpts). Students are required to answer short answer questions that test comprehension at the factual (not interpretive or abstract) level. The questions are designed to assess student understanding of specific words and phrases in their context and are thus at the intermediate level.		
Criteria for Student Success	Student answers identify the correct main idea and critical details of the news item.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	82.3% n=17
Methods	The comprehension questions (only) of Authentic Exercise 4 are scored for all students in regards to the accurate comprehension of the news items. The other questions in the exercise, which concern structure and individual vocabulary items, are not included in this assessment.		
Measurement Instrument 3	Writing tasks from ARBC 357 Test #1. Students write analysis and explanation of a political issue in the Arab world (in this case, forms of government).		
Criteria for Student Success	Students produce writing samples equal to or higher than the proficiency standards for Intermediate-mid on the ACTFL Scale (see instrument 1 for source). The assessment of proficiency is separate from the grade on the task included in the test grade, which also focuses on content knowledge.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	81.2% n=16

		Achieving Target	
Methods	Student writing samples are assessed on the ACTFL scale for writing proficiency (see instrument 1).		
Based on your results, highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1.			Met
Not Met			
Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)			
We decided to reinstitute the external STAMP test for seniors (see Follow-Up below). In addition to the minimum standards reflected above, we also have program goals of 80% of students achieving Intermediate-Mid proficiency in at least two of the four tested skills and at least 33% achieving Advanced proficiency. Due to the COVID pandemic and difficulty with proctoring the exams, we did not implement the STAMP as planned, but will in AY 2020-2021.			
Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)			
During Spring 2021, program seniors will take the externally administered STAMP test, which uses ACTFL proficiency standards. We have used this test in the past and received reliable results that correlate with other assessments. STAMP measures all four language skills (writing, reading, speaking, listening). We will still use the other instruments and will also compare results from these with the STAMP data to ensure the fidelity of all instruments to ACTFL standards.			
Next Assessment Cycle Plan (Please describe your assessment plan timetable for this outcome)			
This outcome will be assessed in Fall 2020 (Instrument 1), Spring 2021 (Instruments 2 and 3).			

Student Learning Outcome 2			
Student Learning Outcome	Students will achieve the Intermediate-High level of speaking proficiency		
Measurement Instrument 1	300-400 Level Final Oral Exam. The last upper division Arabic course that a graduating major takes will vary based on the year and semester. All 300 and 400 level electives (except ARBC 310) have a final oral exam, administered by the instructor. Although students receive a numerical grade as part of their course grade, those graduating are also assessed in terms of the proficiency level on the ACTFL scale. This exam measures Interpersonal speaking.		
Criteria for Student Success	Student receives an assessment of Intermediate-High or better on the final oral exam.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	78.2% n = 18
Methods	The highest oral exam grade for graduating seniors in ARBC 357, 438 or 499 (depending on which course they were enrolled in) was assessed on the ACTFL scale.		
Measurement Instrument 2	300-400 Level Oral Presentational Speaking Requirement. The last upper division Arabic course that a graduating major takes will vary based on the year and semester. As in Instrument 1 above, all 300 and 400 level electives (except ARBC 310) have presentational speaking requirements, wherein the student must record themselves speaking on an assigned topic for a designated (maximum) length of time. This instrument measures Presentational rather than the Interpersonal speaking tested in Instrument 1 above.		
Criteria for Student Success	Students perform at the Intermediate-High level or higher on the ACTFL scale.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	82.6% n=17

Methods	The oral samples are assessed on the ACTFL criteria for proficiency in Presentational Speaking (see SLO 1, Instrument 1). This assessment is separate from the grade included in the student's course grade, which includes factors such as content knowledge.		
Measurement Instrument 3			
Criteria for Student Success			
Program Success Target for this Measurement		Percent of Program Achieving Target	
Methods			
Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 2.			Met
Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions planned for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)			
The results for all instruments are consistent with past results, although a bit lower (with the exception of Instrument 1, which is slightly below the goal). Due to the changes brought about by COVID-19, with all classes moving to Zoom, the quality of speaking and listening practice was degraded. While usable for interpersonal speaking, Zoom for a large class that depends on small group speaking activities is not. This, combined with the stresses put on students to support families during the virus, we believe accounted for part of the decline. The return to in-person class in Fall 2020 will improve this situation.			
Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)			
Starting with Spring 2021, we will administer the four skills STAMP test to 200- level and program senior students. This will provide external assessment and validation of speaking proficiency.			
Next Assessment Cycle Plan (Please describe your assessment plan timetable for this outcome)			
Instruments 1 and 2 will be assessed in ARBC 437 for seniors graduating in December and in ARBC 418 / 438 for those graduating in Spring.			

Student Learning Outcome 3			
Student Learning Outcome	Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Arabic culture.		
Measurement Instrument 1	ARBC 438/357 Final Exam Writing Tasks. In the final exams for both courses students analyze texts on real events in the Arab world. These requirements involve students understanding and expressing different points of view of the events, based on their Historical, Cultural and Political knowledge of the region.		
Criteria for Student Success	Students convey a proficient understanding and ability to communicate cultural perspectives on the issues involved.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	81.25% n=16
Methods	Cultural knowledge and understanding is assessed on the writing tasks as one criterion in the overall assessment for grade. This individual factor is measured as proficient or not and used for this measure.		
Measurement Instrument 2	ARBC 438/357 Final Exam Speaking Tasks. In the final exams for both courses students discuss events in the Arab world from different		

	perspectives. In one task, students role play a specific perspective. ts, based on their Historical, Cultural and Political knowledge of the region.		
Criteria for Student Success	Students convey a proficient understanding and ability to communicate cultural perspectives on the issues involved.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	87.5% n=16
Methods	Cultural knowledge and understanding is assessed on the speaking tasks as one criterion in the overall assessment for grade. This individual factor is measured as proficient or not and used for this measure.		
Measurement Instrument 3			
Criteria for Student Success			
Program Success Target for this Measurement		Percent of Program Achieving Target	
Methods			
Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 3.			<input checked="" type="radio"/> Met <input type="radio"/> Not Met
Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)			
Other than the implementation of the Test of Arab Cultural Knowledge (below), no other measures were necessary.			
Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)			
This year, the Test of Arab Cultural Knowledge, a written test, was not conducted due to the COVID measures during the Spring. This test has been administered every other year and will be continued in the future.			
Next Assessment Cycle Plan (Please describe your assessment plan timetable for this outcome)			
Instruments 1 and 2 will be assessed in AY 2020-2021, with ARBC 437 in the Fall and in ARBC 438 or 418 in the Spring.			