

Student learning outcomes assessment plan, Theatre, M.F.A.

From 2016-2017 program review self-study report (page 25)

D. Student Learning Outcome Assessments

The current method of assessment is detailed below. The M.F.A. faculty have been deeply involved in the creation of the new assessment plan at the undergraduate level and are currently working to develop a similar formal assessment plan for the M.F.A. This will be completed by December 2016 and will address the questions detailed on Page 5 of the Guidelines for Academic Program Review.

In the M.F.A. program, there are very specific assessment tools used by the faculty to evaluate graduate students. Typically, each student progresses through a series of artistic steps to ensure appropriate learning and growth. Students begin in supporting roles or as assistant designers and directors, and then move to principle roles or greater positions of authority in larger venues. Only when the area faculty is satisfied with a student's outcome, the student will move on.

The M.F.A. Portfolio Committees meet with their students at least twice a semester to discuss their progress. Topics include coursework, assistantship duties, and artistic growth in production. At the end of the semester, the Committee votes as to the student's retention in the program for the following semester. A vote can be either full retention, retention with probation, or non-retention. This vote is then passed on to the student's area faculty, who will vote to agree or disagree. The area faculty can overturn a committee's vote by a two-thirds majority. The head of the area then delivers these results to the Graduate Faculty, who meet at the end of the semester and agree or disagree with the area's findings. Again, the Graduate Faculty can overturn the area's vote by a two-thirds majority. The Committee also places a written semester evaluation for each student in his/her file, to maintain documentation on the career of each student. Ultimately, the dialogue between the faculty and the student ensures that a student can succeed.