

Mission Statement for Outcomes Assessment
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
College of Arts and Sciences

Revised July 2005

A. The Department offers majors in French, German, Russian, and Spanish. Our graduates, for the most part, are preparing themselves for careers in teaching, business and government, or continuing education at the graduate level.

B. The desired outcomes for the French, German, Russian, and Spanish majors include the following: 1) Students should have achieved an intermediate level of proficiency in all four of the basic language skills (reading, writing, listening, comprehension, speaking); 2) They should have a significant familiarity with the literary history and culture belonging to the countries where those languages are spoken.

C. The student outcomes for this program shall be assessed using three different methods:

1) Student performance will be monitored in the advanced language acquisition courses for the major in each language. Only 3000 and 4000 level courses will be monitored as this limits assessment to students who are primarily either majors or minors in the program.

2) Student performance will be monitored in all advanced literature and civilization courses offered each academic year.

3) Since a significant number of our majors go on to teach in public schools, the pass rates for the state teacher certification exams in French, German, and Spanish will be monitored. There is no teacher certification program for Russian. NOTE: This last method of assessment encompasses both of the desired outcomes stated above, and will therefore be referred to twice in the annual report.

D. The P.O.A.C. will annually review the assessment data with the Department Head and, when necessary, with the coordinator of each of the four languages to discuss what changes will occur, if any, in the program as a result of the assessment.