

**Assurance of Student Learning
2018-2019**

Potter College of Arts and Letters

Department of Modern Languages

Arabic (609)_

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 Listening/Reading Comprehension Final Tasks

Instrument 2 ARBC 310 Reading Comprehension Tasks

Instrument 3 ARBC 418 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: Students will achieve the Intermediate-High level of proficiency in speaking Arabic.

Instrument 1 Oral Proficiency Interview

Instrument 2 300-400 level last semester oral exam

Instrument 3 300-400 level last semester presentational speaking requirement

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

Met

Not Met

Student Learning Outcome 3: Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Arabic culture

Instrument 1 Test of Arabic Culture Knowledge

Instrument 2 ARBC 323-324 Culture Writing Tasks

Instrument 3 ARBC 418 oral exam

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.)

Based on a review of this year's results, we have decided to change the assessment measures for the next AY slightly, by using the four-skill ACTFL STAMP test for graduating seniors in lieu of the OPI test. The STAMP will assess all skill areas and also enable us to ensure that all seniors are tested. The additional instruments, being based in courses, allow for some students to take more than one, and thus skew the results (e.g. a student in several 300 and 400 level courses will be tested by several instruments, whereas another student may be tested only once). To help alleviate this, in the future, we will identify each assessment that is the primary measure for that student and ensure that they know beforehand that a certain measure is counting for the ASL.

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 (Advanced Media Arabic) 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	82%
Methods	Student answers to sections A, B, C and D of the ARBC 437 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 new item.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	90%
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	ARBC 418 (Business Arabic) writing tasks on the final exam. Students are required to write a series of Arabic items including a job application and opinion piece. Typical student samples can range from the intermediate (series of complete sentences) level to the advanced (connected and organized paragraph).		
Criteria for Student Success	Student written production will achieve the Intermediate-Mid level of proficiency according to ACTFL standards.		

Program Success Target for this Measurement	90%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	91%
Methods	Questions H and I on the final exam are scored for all students in terms of proficiency level. This is a different criteria than the actual grading of the questions for points on the final exam, which takes into account other areas, such as content accuracy.		
Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 1.			Met
Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions planned for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)			
We have 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.			
Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)			
Beginning in Spring 2020, graduating seniors will take the externally administered STAMP test, which is aligned to ACTFL proficiency standards. This test has been administered to 100- and 200- level students in the program for the last five years and to seniors for two of those years. By adding this test, we will obtain objective, externally-judged, standards based data on student proficiency in all skills. The other instruments listed above will continue to be used, but we will also compare results from these with the STAMP data to ensure the instruments are accurately aligned with ACTFL standards.			

Student Learning Outcome 2

Student Learning Outcome	Students will achieve the Intermediate-High level of speaking proficiency		
Measurement Instrument 1	ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). Conducted by phone by a certified OPI tester.		
Criteria for Student Success	Student receives a rating of Intermediate-High on the OPI.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	70%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	** (see below)
Methods	Graduating seniors were administered OPI tests by phone from LTI, the approved testing service of ACTFL. The target is different for this instrument than the others because the format of speaking to an unidentified stranger by phone tends to be more intimidating than the other instruments.		
Measurement Instrument 2	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.		
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	80%
Methods	The final oral exam for graduating seniors in ARBC 324, 418 or 499 were assessed on the ACTFL scale. For students in more than one of these courses, the highest assessment was used, as it would not be possible for a student to perform above their capability on an oral exam.		
Measurement Instrument 3	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 2 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 type of speaking differs from the interpersonal speaking tested in Instruments 1 and 2 above.		
Criteria for Student Success	Students will perform at the Intermediate-High level or better.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	87%
Methods	Exercise 18A in ARBC 323 (Arabic Civilization I) and Speaking Assignment 3 May in ARBC 418 (Business Arabic) were assessed for proficiency level. For students in both courses, the highest score is used, since it would not be possible for a student to perform above their capability on a speaking assignment.		
Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 2.			<input checked="" type="radio"/> Met <input type="radio"/> Not Met
Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions planned for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)			
In SLO 2.1 above, the result ** for indicates that not a sufficient number of the graduating students were tested to give accurate data. Those taking the test were those that elected to do it, so this would further skew the results. The OPI continues to be a useful individual assessment for those who want to add it to their portfolio, but as a program assessment, we have decided to switch to the four-skill ACTFL STAMP test, which also includes speaking. This test can be administered more consistently and effectively.			
Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)			

In Spring 2020, we will test graduating seniors in the four-skill, external STAMP test as our standard assessment of all skills.

Student Learning Outcome 3

Student Learning Outcome	Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Arabic culture.		
Measurement Instrument 1	Test of Arabic Culture Knowledge. This test is an 80 question multiple choice (60) and matching (20) question test of factual information about Arabic culture (History, Religion, Literature, etc.). It is incorporated as part of the final exams for Arabic 323 (Arabic Civilization I) and ARBC 324 (Arabic Civilization II). Therefore, students do not get the entire test in one semester and some may only take part of it. Nonetheless, it is an objective measure of specific cultural knowledge about the Arab world and the aggregate results reflect the knowledge of cultural information in the program.		
Criteria for Student Success	Students achieve at least 80% on the test items.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	89%
Methods	The scores for answers of the items of the Test are extracted from the final exams and averaged. For this academic year, the course ARBC 323 (Spring 2019) was used.		
Measurement Instrument 2	ARBC 323 and 324 Writing Tasks from the Final Exam. The final exams for these courses also include short essay writing tasks in Arabic. The questions require interpretation and analysis of major cultural topics in Arab history and society. Student responses are assessed for accuracy and depth of understanding of Arabic culture. This assessment is different than the scores given for points on the exam, which also include writing proficiency.		
Criteria for Student Success	Student response assessed as “good” (of excellent-good-marginal-poor) or better.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	88%
Methods	Questions 33 and 34 of the Spring 2019 ARBC 323 Final Exam were assessed on the criteria above.		
Measurement Instrument 3	ARBC 418 (Business Arabic) Final Oral Exam. As part of the final oral exam, students are required to role scenarios including a job interview. As part of the interview, students are assessed on correct cultural behavior, in addition to language skill.		
Criteria for Student Success	Students are assessed as culturally proficient in the interview.		
Program Success Target for this Measurement	80%	Percent of Program Achieving Target	91%
Methods	All student performance in the ARBC 418 final oral interview in Spring 2019 was assessed, concurrently with the assessment for grade.		
Based on your results, circle or highlight whether the program met the goal Student Learning Outcome 3.			<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Met Not Met </div>
Actions (Describe the decision-making process and actions planned for program improvement. The actions should include a timeline.)			

The methods above will continue to be used. Writing assignments from ARBC 357 (Arabic for International Service) will be included as an alternative to ARBC 418 for students who are not enrolled in the latter course in their final year.

Follow-Up (Provide your timeline for follow-up. If follow-up has occurred, describe how the actions above have resulted in program improvement.)