

2021 ANNUAL ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FORM
(Due October 15 to the dean)**PROGRAM SECTION (Due to the dean on October 15)****Submission date:** 10/12/2021**Submitted by:** Bill Myers, Assessment Coordinator for INTL BA, wlmyers@alaska.edu**Program(s) covered in this report:** International Studies BA

If you selected "Other" above, please identify. (100 characters or less)

College: College of Arts and Sciences**Campuses where the program(s) is delivered:** ☒ Anchorage ☐ KOD ☐ KPC ☐ MSC ☐ PWSC**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):** Select Specialized Accrediting Agency or N/A.**If explanation is necessary, such as only some of the certificates and degrees are covered by the specialized accreditation, briefly describe:** N/A**INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING CORE COMPETENCIES**

In 2020, UAA launched a consensus-based, deliberative process to identify the key skillsets that help students achieve academic and post-graduation success. After a year-long process that included students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and employers, the UAA community identified four "core competencies" at the heart of a quality UAA education. Students develop mastery of these competencies through curricular (e.g., courses), co-curricular (e.g., internships, conferences), and extra-curricular (e.g., student clubs) learning experiences.

After the stakeholder-based process in AY20, UAA conducted a pilot project focusing on the core competency of Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility (PPCR). This decision was based on input from the 2020 Annual Academic Assessment Retreat.

Question #1 below is designed to engage program faculty in thinking about how they can or already do promote student learning in this core competency.

1. Personal, Professional, and Community Responsibility: The knowledge and skills necessary to promote personal flourishing, professional excellence, and community engagement.

- **What would you hope a student would say if asked where in your program or support service they had the opportunity to develop proficiency in this Core Competency? (500 characters or less)**

INTL majors are provided multiple, layered opportunities to develop proficiency in this Core Competency. Our Foundational Courses introduce questions of ethical, professional, and/or community responsibility. For example, INTL/GEOG A101 investigates the intersections of local, national, and international human responses to geographic and environmental factors. INTL Core and Master courses deepen this student investigation (e.g., PHIL 301 Ethics develops students' moral reasoning).

- **Do you have an example that could be a model for the university of an intentionally designed course, assignment, or activity that showcases the student learning in this core competency? ☐Yes ☐No**

If yes, please briefly describe. (500 characters or less)

Example 1) HIST 390 explores various themes in World History. In one such course on Comparative Genocides, students wrote a final paper in which they reflected on what is genocide, why it happens, and how individuals, communities and states should respond. Example 2) Study Abroad experience broadens student perspectives, forges empathy, and builds cross-cultural connections, especially in an often polarized world.

- **Do you have any ideas about where your program or the university might develop other intentionally designed opportunities for students to develop proficiency in this core competency? ☒Yes ☐No**

If yes, please briefly describe. (500 characters or less)

Continued support and development for study abroad opportunities for non-traditional students. Short-term summer, Maymester or January-mester programs might be worth exploring. Also, extended support for various community and state internship programs (INTL majors have been active in various internships).

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

2. Please list the Program Student Learning Outcomes your program assessed in AY21. For each outcome, indicate one of the following: Exceeded faculty expectations, Met faculty expectations, or Did not meet faculty expectations.

Example: Communicate effectively in a variety of contexts and formats – Exceeded faculty expectations.

a. Demonstrate cross-cultural understanding through language study--met expectations.

b. Demonstrate critical thinking and reflection about values, attitudes, and practices in an

international context--met expectations.

c. Demonstrate an ability to analyze international issues and challenges and apply integrative multi-disciplinary skills to describe and explain them--met expectations.

d. Demonstrate effective written skills--met expectations.

3. Describe your assessment process in AY21 for these program student learning outcomes, including the collection of data, analysis of data, and faculty (and other, e.g., advisory board) conversations around the findings. (750 characters or less)

3 INTL faculty assessed cross-cultural understanding skills in 4 different Language classes: SPAN 202 and 302, GER 490A, and JPN 202 (proficiency exams in speaking, listening, and writing; essay assignments and exams). Another 3 INTL Faculty assessed analytical and integrative thinking abilities, and effective communication skills in 5 different Core/elective courses (HIST 316, HIST 390 Anarchy, HIST 390 Genocide, SOC 307 Demography--2 secs). Faculty assessed student performance on key research projects or analytical essays from each of the courses. The INTL Faculty Curriculum Committee reviews and discusses the annual assessment findings.

4. What are the findings and what do they tell the faculty about student learning in your program? (750 characters or less)

Since EPR and Covid interrupted the INTL normal cycle of assessment, we gathered assessment data from Language 202 courses for the linguistic and cross-cultural understanding PSLO, and assessment data from several of our Core courses for the critical thinking, integrative analysis, and effective written communication PSLOs. Assessment data show good to excellent student performance on all 4 PSLOs. 7 INTL students were assessed in the Languages courses, and those students showed good to excellent language proficiency and strong cross cultural competency skills. A total of 54 INTL students were assessed in several of the Core courses, and they performed at a high B average on all three of the PSLOs, with a number of students excelling.

5. Based on the findings, did the faculty make any recommendations for changes to improve student achievement of the program student learning outcomes? Please describe the recommended action, what improvement in student learning the program hopes to see with this change, the proposed timeline, and how the program will know if the change has worked. If no recommendations for changes were made, please explain that decision. (750 Characters or less)

Overall, INTL students continue to perform at high levels on the PSLOs. There are anomalies. For example, several INTL students who took Incompletes for the HIST 390 Anarchy course in Spring 2020, but that could be Covid related due to the rapid "pivot" that was required that Spring. INTL faculty are pleased with the curriculum design, but continue to tweak and experiment with their

own course and assignment designs in order to maximize student success (e.g., faculty pivoting to enhanced learning through Zoom and BB delivery). The main challenge is to insure programmatic, timely delivery of the required and elective courses, given there is no "home" INTL faculty lines. Many thanks to the continued volunteerism of the INTL faculty!

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSING IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING

6. In the past academic year, how did your program use the results of previous assessment cycles to make changes intended to improve student achievement of the program student learning outcomes? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Course curriculum changes
- ☐ Course prerequisite changes
- ☒ Changes in teaching methods
- ☐ Changes in advising
- ☐ Degree requirement changes
- ☐ Degree course sequencing
- ☐ Course enrollment changes (e.g., course capacity, grading structure [pass/fail, A-F])
- ☐ Changes in program policies/procedures
- ☐ Changes to Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)
- ☐ College-wide initiatives (e.g., High Impact Practices)
- ☐ Faculty, staff, student development
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No changes were implemented in AY21.

If you checked "Other" above, please describe. (100 characters or less)

7. Do you have any information about how well these or other past improvements are working? Are they achieving their intended goals? Please include any data or assessment results that help you demonstrate this. (750 characters or less)

Assessment shows that INTL students meet or exceed expectations on the INTL PSLOs. INTL students have been consistently some of the better students in the various classes. INTL majors who lag on performance measures receive additional support through advising, referral to language tutors and the Writing Center, and personal work with instructors. That said, the majority of INTL students thrive; in fact, two INTL students wrote final papers in HIST 390 Genocide, Fall 2020 that were some of the best ever seen by that faculty member.

STUDENT SUCCESS AND THE CLOSING OF EQUITY GAPS

8. Programs are not required to respond to question #8 below for their report due on October 15, 2021. Question #8 will be required for the next round and moving forward.

9. **Do you have any examples of post-graduate success you want to highlight? For example, major scholarships, the percent of students who pass licensure examinations, the percent of students accepted to graduate programs, the percent in post-graduation employment in the field or a related field. (750 characters or less)**

A UAA INTL BA graduate successfully defended her M.Ed. thesis from UAF on March 12, 2020. Her thesis is titled, "Aspirations, Motivations and Needs of Russian Far East International Students Pursuing Higher Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Fall 2018-Spring 2020."

One INTL minor who won an USTA teaching aide position in Graz, Austria.

DEAN SECTION (Due to the program on January 15)

1. **Based on the program's responses above, what guidance and support do you have for the program moving forward? Is there a particular area the program should focus on?**

The Dean agrees that the department should pursue continued support and development for study abroad opportunities for non-traditional students, and that short-term summer, May-mester or January-mester programs would also be worth exploring.

It is recommended that all programs review their Program Assessment Plan to ensure clear inclusion of the new UAA Core Competencies and in particular to address the closing of any equity gaps in the program.

2. **Is there something the program is doing particularly well in terms of its processes for the assessment and improvement of student learning, including the closing of equity gaps, that might serve as a model for other programs? If yes, please explain. You may skip this question. (750 characters or less)**

This department has a proven assessment method that is well defined and produces clear results.

Dean's signature: *Jenny McNulty*

Date: December 14, 2021