# 2016-2017 Assessment Cycle COLA\_Strategic Communication BA - Public Relations

### **Mission (due 1/20/17)**

### **University Mission**

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette offers an exceptional education informed by diverse worldviews grounded in tradition, heritage, and culture. We develop leaders and innovators who advance knowledge, cultivate aesthetic sensibility, and improve the human condition.

### **University Values**

We strive to create a community of leaders and innovators in an environment that fosters a desire to advance and disseminate knowledge. We support the mission of the university by actualizing our core values of equity, integrity, intellectual curiosity, creativity, tradition, transparency, respect, collaboration, pluralism, and sustainability.

#### **University Vision**

We strive to be included in the top 25% of our peer institutions by 2020, improving our national and international status and recognition.

### College / Department / Program Mission

### **College Mission**

Provide the college mission in the space provided. If none is available, write "None Available in 2016-2017."

The College of Liberal Arts is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. The College teaches students to think critically, applying scientific principles and intellectual schema to understand human behavior and society in a diverse world, to express ideas and ideals in a variety of forms, and to understand themselves and others as members of regional and global communities. The intellectual and creative foundations of this enterprise are written and oral communication, analytical and reasoning skills, and the ability to solve problems creatively. Each departmental curriculum presents perspectives from the past, provides an understanding of the present and directs attention to the challenges of the future. As active researchers, faculty in the College work to advance the frontiers of knowledge and our understanding of humanity and the world we live in, and to use that knowledge and understanding to improve the human condition.

#### **Department / Program Mission**

Provide the department / program mission in the space provided. If none is available, write "None Available in 2016-2017".

#### Mission

The Department of Communication embraces the mission and values of ACEJMC and UL Lafayette, to provide students with an exceptional educational experience that is (a) informed by diverse worldviews; (b) grounded in understanding of historical tradition; and (c) engaged with an ever-broadening spectrum of cultural perspectives in modern global society. The Department executes its mission by developing leaders, innovators and scholars who are well equipped to take part in improving the human condition.

### **Assessment Plan (due 1/20/17)**

### Assessment List (Goals / Objectives, Assessment Measures and Criteria for Success)

### **Assessment List**

Goal/Objective		Graduating seniors should have the skills and abilities needed for entry-level work in public relations professions, as judged by internship supervisors.					
Legends	SLO - Student Le	SLO - Student Learning Outcome/Objective (academic units);					
Standards/Outcomes							
Assessment Measures							
	Assessment Measure	Criterion	Attachments				
	Direct - Internship Evaluation	Criterion: Public relations professionals who supervise interns fill out an evaluation form for each student.  Supervisors are asked to rate the overall competency of each student on a scale ranging from A+ to F. The collective GPA for all interns is calculated from these evaluation forms. The department expects 75% of students to score at least a "C" average on the internship evaluations Attachments:					

Goal/Objective	Students should punctuation.	Students should master Associated Press writing style and be proficient in grammar, spelling and punctuation.					
Legends	SLO - Student Le	SLO - Student Learning Outcome/Objective (academic units);					
Standards/Outcomes							
Assessment Measures							
	Assessment Measure	Criterion	Attachments				
	Direct - Pre/Post Test	Students will be given a standard grammar/spelling/punctuation Associated Press style pre-post test during the newswriting course (CMCN 212), which is mandatory. The pre-test is used for benchmarking purposes. The results of the post-test, which reflect students' writing skills at the end of the class will constitute the usable data for this measure. At least 75% of the students must average at least a B (80% of the points) in the post-test to consider this objective met. Attachments:					

Goal/Objective	Graduating seniors should build specialized portfolios that reflect their ability to apply the
	knowledge obtained in the program.

Legends			
Standards/Outcomes			
Assessment Measures			
	Assessment Measure	Criterion	Attachments
	Direct - Portfolio	As they enter upper-division course work within the field, students take a "Principles of Public Relations" course (CMCN 320). They begin compiling a portfolio of professional work that will include products developed in all subsequent skills courses, including their internship. In the capstone course (CMCN 425), students' completed portfolios are evaluated by public relations professionals. The evaluators use a rubric that assesses whether student work meets the professional standards appropriate to entry-level employment within the field. Number of students assessed = about 25 At least 80% of students will score a "B" or better on the portfolio review conducted by professional practitioners from the community.	

### Results & Improvements (due 9/15/17)

**Results and Improvement Narratives** 

Assessment List Findings for the Assessment Measure level for Graduating seniors should have the skills and abilities needed for entry-level work in public relations professions, as judged by internship supervisors.

Goal/Objective		Graduating seniors should have the skills and abilities needed for entry-level work in public relations professions, as judged by internship supervisors.					
Legends	SLO - Student Lea	SLO - Student Learning Outcome/Objective (academic units);					
Standards/Out comes							
Assessment Measures							
	Assessment Measure	Criterion					
	Direct - Internship Evaluation	Criterion: Public relations professionals who supervise interns fill out an evaluation form for each student. Supervisors are asked to rate the overall competency of each student on a scale ranging from A+ to F. The collective GPA for all interns is calculated from these evaluation forms. The department expects 75% of students to score at least a "C" average on the internship evaluations Attachments:					
Assessment							

Findings	Assess	Criterion	Summa	Attachments of the Assessments	Improve
	ment Measure	Gritorion	ry	Attachments of the Assessments	ment Narrative
	Direct - Internshi p Evaluatio	Has the criterion Criterion:	Forty- nine public relation	2016_2017_Public_Relations_Intern_Evaluation_For mResponsesxlsx	- Assessm ent Process:
	n	relations professio nals who supervis e interns	s student s complet ed		Continuo us monitorin g: Students
		fill out an evaluatio n form	internsh ips in the		are performin g well in
		for each student. Supervis ors are	Spring 2017 semest er.		internship s; both students and
		asked to rate the overall compete	Internsh ip supervi sors		organizati ons indicate the
		ncy of each student on a	were asked to evaluat		students receive strong preparatio
		scale ranging from A+	e their interns on a 5		n for internship s. This
		to F. The collective GPA for all	point scale ranging from		particular scenario is working well, but
		interns is calculate d from	F(0) to A(4.0). Thirty-		will continue to be
		these evaluatio n forms. The	eight student s receive		monitored .
		departme nt expects	d an A; ten student		
		75% of students to score at least a	receive d a score of		
		"C" average on the	B, and one student		
		internshi p evaluatio	receive d an F. Student		

to changes

		nts: been met yet? the met yet? Wat e f	verage 3.71; nerefor the riterion vas net.	
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# Assessment List Findings for the Assessment Measure level for Students should master Associated Press writing style and be proficient in grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Goal/Objective	Students show punctuation.							
Legends	SLO - Student	SLO - Student Learning Outcome/Objective (academic units);						
Standards/Outco mes								
Assessment Measures								
	Assessment Measure	Criterion						
	Direct - Pre/Post Tes	t Press style pre-post tes mandatory. The pre-tes post-test, which reflect constitute the usable da	st during the ne st is used for be students' writin ata for this mea	nmar/spelling/punctuation As wswriting course (CMCN 212 enchmarking purposes. The right skills at the end of the classisure. At least 75% of the stures) in the post-test to consider	2), which is esults of the s will dents must			
Assessment Findings	Assessme nt Measure	Criterion	Summary	Attachments of the Assessments	Improveme nt Narratives			

test ranged

class will constitute the

usable data for this from a in the measure. At least 75% of minimum of industry, the students must 68 to a public average at least a B maximum of relations has (80% of the points) in the 100, with a been combined post-test to consider this mode of 86 objective met. (n = 4) and with the a mean of Attachments: been met advertising vet? 85.67 (N = sequence Met 18). into a Analyzing strategic the top 75% communicati of the on major beginning in scores Fall 2017. revealed that the Students will no longer be average grade was required to 89.28%, take CMCN correspondi 212 but will ng to a be required high-range to take both B, which **CMCN 321** meets the (PR Writing), objective which will and the cover target for grammar, spelling, and this measure. punctuation (GSP) and Associated Press (AP) style, and **CMCN 421** (Advanced PR Writing). Faculty should meet to determine assessment means and criteria moving forward with the new program.

Assessment List Findings for the Assessment Measure level for Graduating seniors should build specialized portfolios that reflect their ability to apply the knowledge obtained in the program.

Goal/Objective Graduating seniors should build specialized portfolios that reflect their ability to apply the knowledge obtained in the program.

Legends						
Standards/Outc omes						
Assessment Measures						
	Assessme Measure	nt Criter	ion			
	Direct - A Portfolio "  Portfolio "  s  e  p		As they enter upper-division course work within the field, students take a "Principles of Public Relations" course (CMCN 320). They begin compiling a portfolio of professional work that will include products developed in all subsequent skills courses, including their internship. In the capstone course (CMCN 425), students' completed portfolios are evaluated by public relations professionals. The evaluators use a rubric that assesses whether student work meets the professional standards appropriate to entry-level employment within the field. Number of students assessed = about 25 At least 80% of students will score a "B" or better on the portfolio review conducted by professional practitioners from the community.			
Assessment Findings						
·	Assessm ent Measure	Criterion	Summary	Attachments of the Assessments	Improvem ent Narratives	
	Direct - Portfolio	Has the criterion As they enter upperdivision course work within the field, students take a "Principles of Public Relations" course (CMCN 320). They begin compiling a portfolio of profession al work that will include products	The goal of at least 80% of students scoring a B or better on their public relations' portfolios was achieved in Spring 2017. Of the 31 portfolios submitted, 86% scored a B or better. Therefore, the criterion was met. Students are now required to turn in the hard copy of a traditional portfolio, but also an electronic	Portfolio_evaluationsSP17statistics2docx PR_Portfolio_evaluationsSP17statistics cs3docx	Curricular Change: Remediati on: Be sure writing instructor( s) in CMCN 321 and 421 teach AP Style writing. Create new portfolio requireme nts that focus on printed portfolio as well as online web site and portable drive/USB.	

developed in all subseque nt skills courses, including their internship. In the capstone course (CMCN 425), students' completed portfolios are evaluated by public relations profession als. The evaluators use a rubric that assesses whether student work meets the profession al standards appropriat e to entrylevel employme nt within the field. Number of students assessed = about 25 At least 80% of students will score a "B" or better on the portfolio review conducted profession al

version on a portable/USB drive and on the Internet/web site. Of the six students, who earned Cs (4), one D and one F, most earned those grades because they failed to turn in a portable drive and/or prepare a web site. The professional reviewers checked all three versions of the portfolios. A computer was set up during the portfolio review sessions so that professionals could check both the portable drive and the Internet portfolio/web site. Improvement s in portfolio grades are due in part to students taking CMCN 337, a portfolio design course, which will be a required part of the curriculum beginning

Fall 2017.

Require students to have a portfolio "buddy" to check for common typographi cal errors, spelling, grammar and AP Style errors. Be sure students explain portfolio projects that are not easily understoo d. Require students to turn in a draft portfolio prior to submitting final to profession als.

 1			,	
	practitione	Presently,		
	rs from the	portfolios are		
	communit	submitted		
	y. been	during the		
	met yet?	capstone		
	Met	campaign		
		management		
		course,		
		CMCN 425,		
		and count as		
		25% of the		
		student's		
		overall		
		grade.		
		Another		
		improvement		
		in grades		
		may also be		
		due to at		
		least one		
		portfolio		
		workshop		
		guest taught		
		by previous		
		students who excelled at		
		portfolio		
		creation.		
		Students pay		
		attention to		
		their peers'		
		suggestions.		
		2- SP17 –		
		PR Portfolio		
		Evaluations		
		Helpful		
		comments		
		from the		
		professionals		
		were both		
		positive and		
		negative		
		(constructive		
		criticism):		
		"Very		
		thorough!		
		Great job.		
		Just make		
		sure your AP		
		Style is top		
		notch in case		
		you hired		
		some place		
		that uses it."		
		"I loved the		
		creativity and		

clean design of this portfolio. There is wide variety shown, which I appreciate. However, there are several reoccurring errors of AP style." "Liked the cover letter and resume, but needs to follow AP Style. I would change up some of the descriptions of job work to more action oriented." "Would prefer the USB to have individual examples instead of just one PDF. Watch typos!" "Add website to the USB. Social media is empty." "Always proof read all of your materials carefully before submitting. I found some errors. As an employer, I notice this. Overall, your portfolio was very organized and easy to look at."

"Find a better way to attach your USB. Work on your writing – AP style was lacking and some language was too simple/cliché . However, your writing for sports was much better. Overall, design of the portfolio is not very impressive. Needs more variety and organization. What does photography have to do with the rest of your work. How does it all come together to set you apart?" "Great at design. Need to work on grammar, spelling and overall messaging of writing materials." "Identify your strengths: promote that more throughout your portfolio. Can't get a sense of that right now." "Excellent work overall. You have

shown some great skill in application across a number of platforms, which is great! If I had one critique, it would be of some of the picky points of the written pieces, ie format, punctuation, et. Overall, very great work. You definitely have a lot of promise!" "A repetitive logo and blue type is not enough to set yourself apart. Small errors will add up and hurt you in the end." The lack of AP Style knowledge is concerning to me. I wish more time was put into this - more proofreading, more creativity, etc." 3- SP17 – PR Portfolio Evaluations "Put the link to your website on the flash drive. Minor grammar and spelling errors. Some

very rough designs. Why should I care about your photos? Tell me." "This portfolio needs work with the brochure layouts... the deliverables. **Great looking** resume." "Be sure to edit letters and copy. Too many grammatical and formatting errors. **Brochures** need more time and attention." "Great work good design! Just wish the online component worked. Bet it was fabulous." "Make sure your links work for your website. I would even buy your own domain for easy access. Writing was great, but remember to be diverse and creative. Overall beautiful design and portfolio. Great job! Make sure to security

attach your USB!" "Overall a beautiful and professional presentation. Very nice and consistent fonts and branding throughout. Beautiful creative and functional writing. When viewing digital portfolio (portable drive), it was obvious that the headings were inconsistentl y centered." "Best portfolio in this room!" "Buy domain to shorten URL. Needs more examples of your work in all areas. Sometime fonts were so small difficult to read - like on business cards. No need for mailing address anymore." "Student clearly does not use AP Style. Front cover needs work. First page should be resume,

this is not an audition for theatre or film. No online portfolio given. No portable drive turned in. This portfolio was a complete failure." "The font is too small for old/imperfect eyes. Put dates on press releases. Missing drive." "Proofread and correct spelling/gram mar errors throughout. I like the captions describing projects, ie web design elements." On the student's portable drive: "Try to have some interactive elements, clickable links, videos, etc." "Your visuals are stunning. Portfolio was hard to follow. Awesome website." "Too much writing that was conversation al or started with 'I.'

Would like to see more typeset visuals in social media, using something like Canva." 4- SP17 -PR Portfolio Evaluations "Very wellorganized portfolio. I can see you being a huge asset with your design skills." "Magazine articles are really good. Blog posts are a bit boring. Minor spelling and grammar problems throughout." "Pay attention to typos. Images were not good... formatting." "Attention to detail is important. Have someone else proofread. Multiple typos." The student's portable drive: "Contained all working files and was poorly organized."

### Reflection (Due 9/15/17)

### Reflection

### 1) How were assessment results shared in the unit?

Please select all that apply. If "other", please use the text box to elaborate. Distributed via email

Presented formally at staff / department / committee meetings

Discussed informally (selected)

Other (explain in text box below) (selected)

Results are shared with sequence chairs for corrections and additions to reports.

### 2) How frequently were assessment results shared in the unit?

Frequently (>4 times per cycle)
Periodically (2-4 times per cycle)
Once per cycle (selected)
Results were not shared this cycle

### 3) With whom were assessment results shared?

Please select all that apply.

Department Head (selected)

Dean / Asst. or Assoc. Dean

Departmental assessment committee (selected)

Other faculty / staff (selected)

## 4) What were the measurable or perceivable effects on your current (2016-2017) findings based on prior action plans (created in 2015-2016)?

Students performed well in all areas of assessment; the Department must continuously monitor for any changes that may manifest as results of curricular or other changes.

### 5) What has the unit learned from the current assessment cycle?

Moving forward with the new strategic communication major, the Department must develop new means of writing assessment in response to curricular changes beginning in Fall 2017.

### **Attachments**

### **Attachments**

Upload any supporting documents related to your assessment plans, results, or improvements. Documents may include rubrics, survey questions, reports, etc. There is no limit to the number of documents you can upload.

Click "Select File" to upload document(s)

Agency\_Evals\_By\_Intern\_PR.sav
Exit\_Surveys.sav
GSP POST TESTS BY SEQUENCE AND MAJOR.sav

PR\_Portfolio\_evaluations\_\_\_SP17\_\_\_statistics\_\_3\_.docx