***Effective Written Communication was assessed from 2016-2017***

***One-page summary***

**Direct assessment:** We gathered writing samples (papers written for a class assignment during their senior year) from all graduating seniors in the department during Fall 2017 and then evaluated them using our Written Communication rubric.

**Results**: Four major findings: 1) We see great improvement in student writing (compared with 2011) as there were very few “flawed” marks for student writing; 2) Half the papers were end of term papers (semester long or multiple draft), showing the importance of revision and long term engagement as part of a good writing process/practice; a longer process and multiple drafts illustrates what we know – that good writing doesn’t happen in first drafts off the top of the head; 3) students scored highly on “research” as we might expect with term papers; and 4) We believe much of the improvement is also due to the implementation of the “make an argument” worksheet (previous assessment work revealed student weakness in articulating and defending an argument) in several courses (6, 15, 30), including two courses required of all majors (6 & 15).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | ***Outstanding*** | ***Adequate*** | ***Flawed*** |
| **Content** | *Ideas* | 50 | 41 | 9 |
| *Claims* | 55 | 41 | 5 |
| *Reasons* | 57 | 43 | 0 |
| *Support* | 50 | 41 | 9 |
| *Research* | 73 | 18 | 9 |
| **Organiza-**  **tion** | *Introduction* | 59 | 41 | 0 |
| *Clarity/Flow* | 48 | 48 | 5 |
| *Transitions* | 36 | 55 | 9 |
| *Conclusion* | 41 | 55 | 5 |
| **Style** | *Voice/Tone* | 59 | 41 | 0 |
| *Word Choice* | 50 | 45 | 5 |
| *Sentences* | 36 | 55 | 9 |
| *Creativity* | 36 | 64 | 0 |
| **Conven-**  **tions** | *Mechanics* | 50 | 36 | 14 |
| *Citation* | 52 | 38 | 10 |
| *Editing* | 45 | 41 | 14 |
| *Appearance* | 68 | 32 | 0 |

**Indirect assessment**: We also compiled supervisor evaluations of our interns on their writing effectiveness within the context of the internship. Our form asks supervisors to evaluate how well the intern “writes clearly and compellingly.” We included all intern evaluations from Spring 2014-Summer 2017.

**Results:** Overwhelmingly, the interns were rated as exceptional in their writing ability.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Unsatisfactory*** | ***Uncomplimentary*** | ***Fair*** | ***Commendable*** | ***Exceptional*** |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 75 |