

**Mass Communications Department and Center for New Media
Student Learning Outcome Assessment Plan**

Mass Communications Department and Center for New Media

Colorado State University - Pueblo

Updated assessment plan (6/1/2017)

Department assessment contact is: Department Chairwoman/Professor Leticia Steffen

Department of Mass Communications, Program Assessment Plan Summary

Date: June 1, 2017

Student Learning Outcome	Measure description (direct or indirect?)	Expected level of student proficiency (definition and percentage)	Timeline or cycle
SLO1 Critical Thinking: Students will display critical thinking skills, conveying complex ideas related to current issues and ethical expectations of mass media and related disciplines.	Measure 1 (direct) Rubric used to score student work from portfolios	All students are expected to be proficient in critical thinking.	Each year
SLO2 Writing/Communication: Students will write with clarity and organization, utilizing the proper format, writing mechanics and audience focus, in a manner that is professionally competitive for an entry-level position in the discipline.	Measure 2 (direct) Rubric used to score student work from portfolios	All students are expected to be proficient in writing/communication.	Each year
SLO3 Application of Technology: Students will demonstrate technological expertise related to the specific emphasis area that is professionally competitive for an entry-level position in their discipline.	Measure 3 (direct) Rubric used to score student work from portfolios	All students are expected to be proficient in application of technology.	Each year
SLO4 Presentation: Students will demonstrate command of subject, organization of thoughts, and skill at interpersonal presentation in front of an audience (live or for broadcast).	Measure 4: (direct) Rubric used to score student work from portfolios	All students are expected to be proficient in the presentation outcome.	Each year (starting 2017-2018)

Mass Communications Department and Center for New Media

Mission: To offer a pragmatic and professionally oriented program aimed at preparing majors for successful careers in the media and related areas and to prepare students for graduate study. The Mass Communications major supports the mission of the university by offering a marketable and professionally credible program; a student-centered experience for learning and advising; an applied learning environment utilizing cutting-edge technology and incorporating Experiential Education; and a more than 50-year tradition for excellence.

Department Program Assessment

The department has numerous methods of direct and indirect program and curriculum assessment in which evidence is reviewed and analyzed by faculty. This occurs informally throughout the academic year as faculty interact with students and each other. Formal discussions occur at regular department meetings held throughout the calendar year.

Assessment methods include:

- *Senior portfolio (used to assess the program's student learning outcomes)
- *MCCNM 493 Senior Seminar exit survey each semester
- *Student course evaluations each semester
- *Alumni survey conducted every five years
- *Survey and grade reporting from professionals who oversee students in internships
- *Anecdotal insight from alumni and guests who present in courses

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes are necessary to department assessment as they relate directly to evidence gathering and evaluation of what students have learned in their experience as mass communications majors. These include student competence in analytical thinking and communication, specific writing relevant to the professions represented in the major, and knowledge of technology relevant to the student's emphasis area of study.

Such ongoing student learning assessment insures the department remains adaptable, current, and strategic, thereby continuing to produce outstanding graduates who are successful in a media-oriented profession or graduate school.

Assessment of the SLOs occurs in the Senior Seminar course, MCCNM 493, which provides a capstone experience for students, with curriculum focused on preparation, review, analysis, and evaluation of the media and its role in society.

The course curricula includes examination of media and popular culture, ethics in the professions, standards of professional conduct in the disciplines, and preparation for job interviews and resume writing. Student performance in the course is evaluated through various written papers, oral presentations, in-class participation, and a final cumulative portfolio of the student's work in the Mass Communications major. Therefore, this course is the appropriate forum for evaluating student learning in the MCCNM Department.

All students in the Senior Seminar course gather salient work related to all of the MCCNM Department learning outcomes in a portfolio. A random selection of eight students is chosen each semester for assessment of all four learning outcomes (16 students total in an academic year). Department faculty

voluntarily serve as assessment judges using department-developed rubrics (see Appendix A) to evaluate the SLOs.

Learning Outcome One: Critical Thinking

Student will display critical thinking skills, conveying complex ideas related to current issues and ethical expectations of mass media and related disciplines.

Assessment Method

Written word essay on a media-related topic required each semester in MCCNM 493. Sixteen students are chosen randomly and annually (eight from fall semester; eight from spring semester) from the course for assessment of writing samples by two faculty members on a rotating basis.

Performance Criteria

Student work will be evaluated and placed into one of the following categories: proficient or not proficient. Students who are proficient will demonstrate either sophisticated or developing abilities to display critical thinking skills, and to convey complex ideas related to current issues and ethical expectations of mass media and related disciplines. Students who are not proficient will either fail to demonstrate or demonstrate underdeveloped abilities to display critical thinking skills or to convey complex ideas related to current issues and ethical expectations of mass media and related disciplines.

Performance Expectations

All students are expected to be proficient in critical thinking skills.

Learning Outcome Two: Writing/Communication

Students will write with clarity and organization, utilizing the proper format, writing mechanics and audience focus, in a manner that is professionally competitive for an entry-level position in the discipline.

Assessment Method

At least two samples of student work related to one's discipline of study. The writing samples are included in the student portfolio, which is submitted during the final week of the MCCNM 493 course.

Performance Criteria

Student work will be evaluated and placed into one of the following categories: proficient or not proficient. Students who are proficient in writing/communication will demonstrate sophisticated or developing abilities to write with clarity and organization, to utilize proper format and writing mechanics, to convey appropriate audience focus and to write in a professionally competitive manner for an entry-level position in the discipline. Students who are not proficient will either fail to demonstrate or demonstrate underdeveloped abilities to write with clarity and organization, to utilize proper format and writing mechanics, to convey appropriate audience focus and to write in a professionally competitive manner for an entry-level position in the discipline.

Performance Expectations

All students are expected to be proficient in writing/communication.

Learning Outcome Three: Application of Technology

Students will demonstrate technological expertise related to the specific emphasis area that is professionally competitive for an entry-level position in their discipline.

Assessment Method

At least one sample of work will be assessed based on technological proficiency and competence. The sample is included in the student portfolio, which is submitted during the final week of the MCCNM 493 course.

Performance Criteria

Student work will be evaluated and placed into one of the following categories: proficient or not proficient. Students who are proficient in application of technology will demonstrate sophisticated or developing abilities of technological expertise related to the specific emphasis area that is professionally competitive for an entry-level position in their discipline. Students who are not proficient will either fail to demonstrate or demonstrate underdeveloped abilities of technological expertise related to the specific emphasis area that is professionally competitive for an entry-level position in their discipline.

Performance Expectations

All students are expected to be proficient in application of technology.

Learning Outcome Four: Presentation

Students will demonstrate command of subject, organization of thoughts, and skill at interpersonal presentation in front of an audience (live or for broadcast).

Assessment Method

One 10-minute interview or presentation on a media-related topic or related to student's emphasis area will be assessed based on command of subject, organization and presentation skills.

The sample will be included within the student portfolio, submitted in the MCCNM 493: Senior Seminar course.

Performance Criteria

Student work will be evaluated and placed into one of the following categories: proficient or not proficient. Students who are proficient in presentation will demonstrate sophisticated or developing command of subject, organization of thoughts, and skill at interpersonal presentation in front of an audience (live or for broadcast). Students who are not proficient in presentation will either fail to demonstrate or will demonstrate underdeveloped command of subject, organization of thoughts, and skill at interpersonal presentation in front of an audience (live or for broadcast).

Performance Expectations

All students are expected to be proficient in the presentation outcome.

The department's learning outcomes are included in the course catalog and are incorporated into course syllabi. The department chair also introduces the course outcomes in the first course of the major, MCCNM 101: Media and Society. Faculty discuss the outcomes during regular department meetings held each year. At this time, any curricular changes based on the results of the assessment will be discussed and determined.

Curriculum

See separate curriculum map (Appendix B).

Assessment results/Continuous processes

The Mass Communications Department and Center for New Media prioritizes informal and formal feedback and structured assessment in its ongoing effort to accomplish its goals and produce outstanding student graduates prepared for work in media-related disciplines and in graduate school.

Evidence from all methods of information gathering and assessment provide the foundation for department strategic planning related to planning decisions in such areas as curriculum, faculty hiring and evaluation, student performance and evaluation, teaching and media laboratory technology and facilities.

Appendix A: Rubrics used to evaluate MCCNM SLOs

Mass Communications Department Assessment Rubric Student Learning Outcome 1: Critical Thinking 2017

Paper Number: _____

Scorer: _____

MCCNM Department Learning Outcome 1: Students will display critical thinking skills, conveying complex ideas related to current issues and ethical expectations of mass media and related disciplines.

	0	1	2	3
Proficiency Levels	Not proficient		Proficient	
A. Identify and convey complex ideas related to current issues in mass media				
B. Analyze and evaluate arguments and positions				
C. Make informed and logical conclusions and judgments				
D. Evaluate ethical implications related to the mass media				

Total: _____

A. Identify and convey complex ideas related to current issues in mass media

3: The paper demonstrates sophisticated abilities to identify and convey complex ideas related to current issues in mass media.

2: The paper demonstrates developing abilities to identify and convey complex ideas related to current issues in mass media.

1: The paper demonstrates underdeveloped abilities to identify and convey complex ideas related to current issues in mass media.

0: The paper fails to identify and convey complex ideas related to current issues in mass media.

B. Analyze and evaluate arguments and positions.

3: The paper demonstrates sophisticated abilities to analyze and evaluate arguments and positions.

2: The paper demonstrates developing abilities to analyze and evaluate arguments and positions.

1: The paper demonstrates underdeveloped abilities to analyze and evaluate arguments and positions.

0: The paper fails to analyze and evaluate arguments and positions.

C. Make informed and logical conclusions and judgments.

3: The paper demonstrates sophisticated abilities to make informed and logical conclusions and judgments.

2: The paper demonstrates developing abilities to make informed and logical conclusions and judgments.

1: The paper demonstrates underdeveloped abilities to make informed and logical conclusions and judgments.

0: The paper fails to make informed and logical conclusions and judgments.

D. Evaluate ethical implications related to the mass media

3: The paper illustrates sophisticated abilities to evaluate ethical implications related to the mass media.

2: The paper illustrates developing abilities to evaluate ethical implications related to the mass media.

1: The paper illustrates underdeveloped abilities to evaluate ethical implications related to the mass media.

0: The paper fails to evaluate ethical implications related to the mass media.

**Mass Communications Department Assessment Rubric
Student Learning Outcome 2: Writing/Communication
2017**

Paper Number: _____

Scorer: _____

MCCNM Department Learning Outcome 2: Students will write with clarity and organization, utilizing the proper format, writing mechanics and audience focus, in a manner that is professionally competitive for an entry-level position in the discipline.

	0	1	2	3
Proficiency Levels	Not proficient		Proficient	
A. Write with clarity and organization				
B. Utilize proper format and writing mechanics				
C. Convey appropriate audience focus				
D. Write in a professionally competitive manner for an entry-level position in the discipline				

Total: _____

A. Write with clarity and organization

- 3: The paper demonstrates sophisticated abilities to write with clarity and organization.
- 2: The paper demonstrates developing abilities to write with clarity and organization.
- 1: The paper demonstrates underdeveloped abilities to write with clarity and organization.
- 0: The paper fails to demonstrate abilities to write with clarity and organization.

B. Utilize proper format and writing mechanics

- 3: The paper demonstrates sophisticated abilities to utilize proper format and writing mechanics.
- 2: The paper demonstrates developing abilities to utilize proper format and writing mechanics.
- 1: The paper demonstrates underdeveloped abilities to utilize proper format and writing mechanics.
- 0: The paper fails to utilize proper format and writing mechanics.

C. Convey appropriate audience focus

- 3: The paper demonstrates sophisticated abilities to convey appropriate audience focus.
- 2: The paper demonstrates developing abilities to convey appropriate audience focus.
- 1: The paper demonstrates underdeveloped abilities to convey appropriate audience focus.
- 0: The paper fails to convey appropriate audience focus.

D. Write in a professionally competitive manner for an entry-level position in the discipline

- 3: The paper illustrates sophisticated abilities to write in a professionally competitive manner for an entry-level position in the discipline.
- 2: The paper illustrates developing abilities to write in a professionally competitive manner for an entry-level position in the discipline.
- 1: The paper illustrates underdeveloped abilities to write in a professionally competitive manner for an entry-level position in the discipline.
- 0: The paper fails to write in a professionally competitive manner for an entry-level position in the discipline.

Mass Communications Department Assessment Rubric
Student Learning Outcome 3: Application of Technology
2017

Paper Number: _____

Scorer: _____

MCCNM Department Learning Outcome 3: Students will demonstrate technological expertise related to the specific emphasis area that is professionally competitive for an entry-level position in their discipline.

	0	1	2	3
Proficiency Levels	Not proficient		Proficient	
A. Demonstrate technological expertise				
B. Work clearly connects to a specific emphasis area				
C. Demonstrate professionally competitive work				
D. Work is suitable for entry-level position in discipline				

Total: _____

A. Demonstrate technological expertise related to specific emphasis area

- 3: Student demonstrates sophisticated technological expertise.
- 2: Student demonstrates developing technological expertise.
- 1: Student demonstrates underdeveloped technological expertise.
- 0: Student fails to demonstrate technological expertise.

B. Work clearly connects to a specific emphasis area

- 3: Student demonstrates sophisticated abilities connected to a specific emphasis area.
- 2: Student demonstrates developing abilities connected to a specific emphasis area.
- 1: Student demonstrates underdeveloped abilities connected to a specific emphasis area.
- 0: Student fails to demonstrate abilities connected to a specific emphasis area.

C. Demonstrate professionally competitive work

- 3: Student demonstrates sophisticated abilities to create professionally competitive work.
- 2: Student demonstrates developing abilities to create professionally competitive work.
- 1: Student demonstrates underdeveloped abilities to create professionally competitive work.
- 0: Student fails to create professionally competitive work.

D. Work is suitable for entry-level position in discipline

- 3: Student illustrates sophisticated abilities to create work suitable for entry-level position in discipline.
- 2: Student illustrates developing abilities to create work suitable for an entry-level position in discipline.
- 1: Student illustrates underdeveloped abilities to create work suitable for an entry-level position in the discipline.
- 0: Student fails to create work that would be considered professionally competitive for an entry-level position in the discipline.

Mass Communications Department Assessment Rubric

Student Learning Outcome 4: Presentation

2017

Mass Communications Department Assessment Rubric Presentation Evaluation Sheet

Presentation: _____ Scorer: _____

MCCNM Department Learning Outcome 4: Students will demonstrate command of subject, organization of thought and skill at interpersonal communication in front of an audience (live or for broadcast).

Criteria	0	1	2	3
Nonverbal Skills				
Eye Contact	Does not attempt to look at audience at all. Reads notes the entire time	Only focuses attention on one particular part of the class. Does not scan audience	Occasionally looks at someone or some groups during presentation	Constantly looks at someone or some groups at all times
Gestures	No gestures are noticed	Few gestures or distractive gesturing	Occasional gesturing but not natural	Natural hand gestures are demonstrated
Appearance	Total lack of attention to appropriate attire and grooming	Slight attention to appropriate attire and grooming	Generally appropriate attire and grooming	Exceptional attention to attire and grooming; quite professional
Vocal Skills				
Enthusiasm	Shows absolutely no interest in topic presented	Shows some negativity toward topic presented	Occasionally shows positive feelings about topic	Demonstrates a strong positive feeling about topic during entire presentation
Vocalized Pauses (uh, well uh, um)	Excessive pauses are noticed	Many are noticed	Some are noticed	Few vocalized pauses noticed
Content				
Organization	Audience is unable to follow the presentation	Weak organization of content	Organization is present, but not effective use of organizing structure	Clearly explains the subject using effective organizational structure
Visual Aid	Poor, distracts audience and is hard to read	Adds nothing to presentation	Thoughts articulated clearly, but not engaging	Visual aid enhances presentation, all thoughts articulated and keeps interest
Completeness of Content	One or more points left out	Majority of points glossed over	Majority of points covered in depth, some points glossed over	Thoroughly explains all points

Total: _____

Appendix B: Department of Mass Communications and Center for New Media Curriculum Map

Department of Mass Communications and Center for New Media
Student Learning Outcomes Curriculum Map (Mass Communications core courses) - May 2012

Mass Communications Learning Outcomes													
	Students will display critical thinking skills, conveying complex ideas related to current issues and ethical expectations of mass media and related disciplines. (Outcome 1)			Students will write with clarity and organization, utilizing the proper format, writing mechanics and audience focus in a manner that is professionally competitive for an entry-level position in the discipline. (Outcome 2)						Students will demonstrate technological expertise related to the specific emphasis area that is professionally competitive for an entry-level position in their discipline. (Outcome 3)±±	Students will demonstrate command of subject, organization of thoughts, and skill at interpersonal communication in front of an audience. (Outcome 4) ±±		
Mass Communications Core Courses*	1a. Critical thinking skills	1b. Convey complex ideas related to current issues of mass media	1c. Convey complex ideas related to ethical expectation of mass media	2a. Write with clarity	2b. Write with organization	2c. Utilize proper format	2d. Utilize proper mechanics	2e. Utilize proper audience focus	2f. Professionally competitive for entry-level position		4a. command of subject	4b. organization of thought	4c. interpersonal skills in front of audience
MCCNM 101: Media and Society	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B				
MCCNM 201: Intro to Journalism	B	B	B	I	I	I	I	B	B				
MCCNM 210: Intro to Integrated Comm	B	B	B	I	I	I	I	B	B				
MCCNM 220: Intro to Electronic Media	B	B	B	I	I	I	I	B					
MCCNM 411: Media Law and Ethics	I	I	I	I	I	I	I				I	I	I
MCCNM 493: Mass Media Seminar	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		A	A	A

*Levels of proficiency indicated by B (beginning), I (intermediate), A (advanced)

±± Technological expertise and beginning presentation skills are developed in courses outside of the core but within individual emphasis areas; future iterations of the curriculum map will flesh this out