

Written & Oral Communication USLO Assessment Pilots

Goals

- Decide how the AACU rubric (measurement tool) should be adapted for Washburn University USLO Assessment.
- Decide how the student assignments (the learning artifacts) should be adapted.
- Decide how the assessment procedure should be adapted.

Context

- AACU rubrics were selected by committees as the assessment tools for the Written and Oral Communication USLOs.
- **Written:** Advanced Composition (EN300) instructors volunteered and asked their students to submit papers to a D2L dropbox.
- Paper samples followed these criteria: thesis-driven, argumentative assignments; referenced outside sources.
- We received 157 student papers.
- **Oral:** Eight departments volunteered and videotaped their Senior Capstone presentations and uploaded them to the video server.

We received 35 useable videos.

Process

- English faculty reviewed papers & Communication faculty reviewed presentations and selected models to be used as “anchor papers and presentations.”
- University faculty participated in orientation to the AACU Rubrics.
- Faculty practiced assessing with anchor papers/presentations to gain inter-rater reliability.
- Assessed the sample student papers/presentations.
- Reflected throughout process.
- Participants debriefed with closing table discussions, filled out on-line surveys.

Feedback for Future Assessment

- **Written:** Adjust wording of rubric, especially under category “Content Development.”
- Clearly define terminology within rubric.
- Continue to provide time for discussion among assessors during training and during the process.
- **Oral:** Clearly define terminology within rubric.
- Improve quality of presentation recordings.
- Identify which types of presentations are the best fit for oral communication assessment.
- Define a more standardized presentation length for assessment.
- Discuss how to evaluate group presentations.
- Ensure oral communication rubric is shared with Department Chairs and Capstone faculty.
- Continue to provide time for discussion among assessors during training and during the process.