Expected Outcomes:

Students in the ENGL 4240, the creative writing capstone, will demonstrate effective written communication skills in the form of a substantial portfolio of quality creative work of fiction and poetry, in which they:

1. use formal techniques of point of view, description, and dialogue in fiction and creative nonfiction;
2. use formal techniques of sound, line-breaks and metaphor in poetry;
3. demonstrate the effective use of English;
4. demonstrate an engaging and original voice.

Related typical general education outcomes:

- Analytical and Critical Reading
- Written Communication
- Aesthetic Appreciation and Engagement

Assessment methods

Method:

A rating sheet assessing the learning outcomes was developed by the creative writing faculty. During the capstone course, 18 students developed portfolios of creative work. The portfolios were assessed by six faculty members of the Undergraduate Studies Committee. Two committee members evaluated each paper with yes/no responses to the five questions above. If the raters disagreed on a question, a third rater judged the portfolio. Initial inter-rater reliability was 78.4.

Findings:

1. 88.8 percent (16/18) demonstrated use of formal techniques in fiction and creative nonfiction.
2. Not all students submitted poetry; those who did not were judged as not meeting this objective. 72.2 percent (13/18) demonstrated use of formal techniques of in poetry.
3. All (18/18) of the students demonstrate effective use of English.
4. 94.4 percent (17/18) demonstrate an engaging and original voice. Looking at the data another way, the results indicate that fifty-five percent of the students met all five criteria. Students doing well with respect to deployment of formal techniques in fiction and creative non-fiction. All students demonstrate effective use of English and nearly all produce an engaging and original voice. Fewer students demonstrated the effective use of formal techniques in poetry, in part. Because not all portfolios contained poetry.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Results were communicated to faculty who will continue to teach to program objectives. Faculty were asked to insure that all students submit appropriate materials for evaluation.

Additional comments:

None