

Institutional Effectiveness Report

Assessment Summary

Department or Division: International Programs

Degree Program: Minor in International/Intercultural Studies

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Assessment Cycle (academic or calendar year): 2008

Mission (related to VSU mission): **The minor in International/Intercultural Studies at Valdosta State University will provide students with a fundamental understanding of international issues and concerns as well as providing them with substantial exposure to a specific world region, culture, and transnational problems and issues impacting that nation in its relationship to the global community**

Assessment History (discuss here how and when the program developed its current assessment program, what it used prior to starting that program to assess its effectiveness, etc.):

The minor, in its present form, was revamped in spring 2006 after an assessment period involving input from faculty across the VSU campus that have taught in the field of international studies as well as taught in VSU and USG study abroad programs. That assessment revealed the need for a revamped minor that was more flexible in nature and could be molded to fit individual disciplinary and student requirements in order to help better prepare the student for work in the global community. The current minor was implemented in fall 2007. Courses the lead toward the minor are taught in the various departments on campus as well as the introductory seminar which is taught through the International Studies program.

Students in the minor represent a broad cross-section of the VSU academic community. Presently, the minor has students from the Social Sciences (Political Science, Criminal Justice, and Anthropology), Humanities (History, Philosophy, and Religion), Fine Arts (Music and Art) and Business (Management and International Business) enrolled with research foci ranging from Europe, Asia and Central and South America.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes:

1. To clearly describe the parameters of international studies as a field of inquiry and practice, both in historic perspective and current usage.
2. To evaluate career possibilities that are international in nature as well as the most suitable educational paths to those careers.

3. To appreciate the complexities of cultural differences and the impact of these differences on cross-cultural understanding.
4. To apply the tools of research to a major international and inter-disciplinary problem, issue or phenomenon.
5. To express thorough knowledge of a particular international problem, world region, or international dimension of an academic discipline.

Assessments (include when and to whom these are administered, and align goals with specific assessments):

2005-2006—N/A

2006-2007—Program revised (see above for details)

2007-2008

1. Since students take courses from various disciplines that count towards the major the assessment data of those courses is housed within the various departments across campus. In undertaking these courses the student will be exposed to items 1-5 above as they relate to that individual course and or discipline.
2. One of the main assessment models will be the capstone project (INTL 4800) in which the student works directly with a professor on a project relating to a specific nation and international issue as it relates to the student's major field of study. Since the minor is only in its second year there has not been a student who has completed this course yet. Data for this will be submitted in next year's evaluation of the program.
3. At the end of spring 2009 the program will undergo a review assessing the first two years of the minor and its overall effectiveness. This review will be undertaken by the Program Coordinator in consultation with the Director and Assistant Director of International Studies as well as faculty teaching in the program. At that time the future direction and goals as they relate to the overall mission of Valdosta State University will be discussed.

Dept. Head/ Director	Date	Dean	Date	VPAA	Date
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Adapted from: University of Alabama SACS site (<http://sacs.ua.edu/degreeInfo2.cfm?college=2&dept=50>);

University of Western Kentucky SACS Accreditation Review Process (<http://www.wku.edu/sacs/assessmentmanual.htm>) ; and

Mrs. Marila D. Palmer, VP-Executive Affairs & Planning, LeTourneau University, Presentation to 2008 SACS-COC Institute