Mission Statement Annual Assessment Report

Department: English Language and Literature  College: Liberal and Creative Arts

Degree Program(s): MA in English: Concentrations in Composition, TESOL and Linguistics

Mission Statement Rubric – developed and used by the University Academic Assessment Advisory Committee (UAAAC) to provide feedback to programs about their mission statement.

The program's mission statement concisely articulates its guiding purpose and identity, clarifies the educational value of its curriculum, and aligns with the university's broader public mission.

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<td>Clear statement of program's purpose and identity, the educational value of curriculum, and its link to university's mission</td>
<td>Mission statement articulates program's purpose but may lack broader context</td>
<td>Vague mission statement with little connection to specific program</td>
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1. What was your most recent mission statement prior to any revisions?

The English Department serves a diverse population on a flagship CSU campus that reflects the racial, cultural, and linguistic diversity of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Students who major in English have the opportunity to work with distinguished faculty who are actively engaged in research, who have published with major presses and journals, and who are the recipients of prestigious awards and grants.

As the Department that offers first and second-year composition courses as well as 4 undergraduate majors and 4 Master’s-level graduate degrees, we touch the lives of more students at SF State than any other.

2. Please describe the process of revising or developing your mission statement. What informed your discussions about your new or revised mission statement (e.g. changes in the profession, new focus of the department)? How were department faculty members involved? Was it developed in department meetings or other gatherings?

We revised our MA program in English: Concentration in Composition in order to come into compliance with EO 1071. Starting in AY 2016-17, and with support from the Teagle foundation, we began the process of redesigning the English BA and received final University approval for our new BA in Feb 2019. As part of the BA redesign process, we also engaged in early discussions about the redesign of our MA programs. These early discussions took part in meetings of the Teagle redesign subcommittee (comprised of 15 members, 13 faculty representing all programs within the department and 2 staff). A shift in focus from BA redesign to MA redesign began in earnest in AY 2017-18. In consultation with the Dean of Graduate Studies, we made the decision to revise the MA in English to consist of three concentrations, Composition, TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of
other Languages) and Linguistics. At the same time, the English faculty decided to elevate the concentration in Literature to its own MA degree. Once this decision was made in Fall 2017, the faculty from TESOL, Composition and Linguistics formed a committee to revise the MA in English. This committee met via Zoom throughout Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 to finalize the plans for the revised MA and submitted those plans to the full department for approval in Spring 2018. In Fall 2018, the revised MA in English with concentrations in Composition, TESOL and Linguistics was submitted to the College of Liberal and Creative Arts and to the University for Approval. The revised MA was approved by Academic Senate at its Feb 5, 2019 plenary.

3. What is your revised mission statement?
Since its founding, the MA Program in English at San Francisco State University has prepared skilled and dedicated individuals to be leaders, scholars, and advocates of change in the fields of Composition, Linguistics, and TESOL.

Our MA Programs in English represent a collaboratively-minded learning community where students critically evaluate scholarship, using knowledge of disciplinary history, foundational theories, epistemologies, and scholarly debates so they are prepared to respond to pressing questions and problems of practice in the fields of Composition, TESOL, and Linguistics. Working with faculty and peers, students become skilled investigators of the structure and characteristics of written and spoken language as it is used across genres and speech communities, all while placing a high value on linguistic diversity and social justice.

Throughout the Bay Area, when you meet a passionate and pioneering professional working in Composition, TESOL, or Linguistics, that person is most often a graduate of our MA Program in English at SF State: they are teachers in high schools and community colleges; they train teachers; they produce textbooks; they write for journals, magazines, and online publications; they go to earn PhDs; and they work for non-profits, foundations, and in fields such as computational linguistics, marketing, branding, and translation.

We believe in preparing students to use tools of principled inquiry and pedagogical decision-making to support linguistic diversity and promote equity for historically marginalized and underserved communities. Through our Master’s and Certificate Programs, we seek to support students to go on and make a difference in arenas as diverse as immigrant education, international development, California educational policy, neuroscience and cognitive linguistics, media, publishing, and technology.

4. Please post your revised mission statement on your department web page.

Given that this year you revised your mission statement, the next step would be to review your program learning goals next year.