Outcomes Assessment Plan for M.F.A. in Creative Writing

Program Outcomes:

1. Students should be able to produce material in their chosen discipline of a quality that is comparable to the material being published in contemporary literary magazines and journals. The M.F.A. thesis will be the final demonstration of this level of accomplishment.

2. Students should have a broad theoretical and technical understanding of their chosen discipline and of at least one secondary creative discipline.

3. Students should be able to write clearly and engagingly about literature and be able to produce sustained and coherent critical papers at an appropriate level of sophistication.

4. Students should complete their courses of study in a rigorous and timely manner.

5. Students should be adequately prepared for a career in writing, including an ability to recognize the strengths and weaknesses in their own work, a sense of the literary marketplace, and a plan for seeking publication.

6. Students should consider their graduate program at UAF to be of high quality.

Assessment Criteria (matched by number to above outcomes):


2. Successful completion of the Forms courses in the chosen secondary disciplines with a grade of B or better in each.

3. Comprehensive Examination.

4. Completion of required coursework and thesis within a period of 3-5 years (depending on financial support), with grades of B or better (as recorded in Advancement to Candidacy form).

5. Exit survey results.

6. Exit survey results.

Implementation Procedure:
Every October a committee of three faculty, including two creative writing professors and one literature professor, will hold a workshop to address assessment. Prior to this workshop they will have reviewed the following assessment materials (gathered by English Department staff) for each M.F.A. student who graduated in the previous calendar year (fall through summer):

1. Exit survey results (see attachment), collected by department secretaries.
2. A portfolio consisting of the student’s M.F.A. thesis and comprehensive examinations, collected by department secretaries.
3. Advancement to Candidacy form.

This committee will also have available the reports written by the four previous committees (once the program has been in place). This committee will discuss the assembled materials, and draft a report to be submitted to the English Department. The report will include a summary assessment of both the last year’s achievements and problems, and trends in the program over the previous four years. It may also include recommendations for program or staffing changes. After the English Department has had an opportunity to respond and perhaps amend the report (by no later than November 15), a final version will be submitted to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and the Provost.