

**Framingham State University**  
**Program Assessment Plan for Liberal Studies (2018-2023)**

Assessment Plan developed by:	Dr. Lorna Rinear
Program Coordinator:	Dr. Kelly Matthews
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**1) PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT**

The Liberal Studies program allows students to design a unique interdisciplinary program of study in the traditional arts and sciences, not available within the existing curricular structure of FSU. This major links common intellectual ground across academic disciplines and fosters critical thinking, disciplined and ethical research and writing, and communication skills. Although flexible, this program requires students to complete five 300-level courses in which they will identify and apply the approaches, skills, and methodologies of at least two, but no more than three, academic disciplines. Students in the Liberal Studies degree program may choose to apply for Prior Learning Assessment credit, which may be granted for substantive learning that has occurred outside the classroom.

**2) PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students will:

1. Write substantive, source-based, thesis-driven papers, using lucid prose, which demonstrate critical and creative thinking based on relevant evidence and analytical reasoning
2. Appropriately and effectively employ the research methods, terminology, and citation style of their field of research
3. Locate bibliographic resources including electronic databases and/or other emerging technologies as appropriate to the respective interdisciplinary program
4. Analyze the significance of the evidence as appropriate to the audience and purpose

**3) LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

- LIBS 250 Research paper (15 pages / 3,750-4,500 words)
- LIBS 450 Research paper (20-25 pages / 5,000-6,250 words)

#### 4) ASSESSMENT METHODS AND TIMELINE

Indicate when and how program learning objectives will be assessed. Refer to the curriculum map to draft a student learning objective assessment timeline. It is recommended that you outline a 5-year plan for assessment in which you will assess all of your PLOs.

<b>Academic Years</b>	<b>Objectives(s)</b>	<b>Course(s)</b>	<b>Assessment Evidence (direct/indirect)</b>	<b>Assessment Method</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
WHEN	WHICH Objectives(s) will you examine in each period (Use number)?	WHERE will you look for evidence of student learning (i.e., list course(s) that will generate evidence for each objective.	WHAT student work or other evidence will you examine in order to assess each objective?	HOW will you look at the evidence; what means will you use to analyze the evidence collected for each objective	WHO will oversee collecting, analyzing, reporting, results? List names or titles.
<b>Year 1 (2018-19)</b>	4	LIBS 250; LIBS 450	Research paper	Rubric	LIBS coordinator
<b>Year 2 (2019-20)</b>	3	LIBS 250; LIBS 450	Research paper	Rubric	LIBS coordinator
<b>Year 3 (2020-21)</b>	2	LIBS 250; LIBS 450	Research paper	Rubric	LIBS coordinator
<b>Year 4 (2021-22)</b>	1	LIBS 250; LIBS 450	Research paper	Rubric	LIBS coordinator
<b>Year 5 (2022-23)</b>	4	LIBS 250; LIBS 450	Research paper	Rubric	LIBS coordinator

**Program Size and Sampling Technique**

State the number of students in the program or the number who graduate each year.

- 89 students in program as of 9/15/2017

Describe the sampling technique to be used.

- All final research papers in all sections of LIBS 250 and LIBS 450 will be assessed using goal-specific rubrics for each year of the assessment plan.

**5) PLAN FOR ANALYZING RESULTS**

List who is responsible for distributing results and who will receive results.

- The Liberal Studies coordinator will receive and distribute assessment results.

State how and at which forums discussion of results will take place.

- Discussion of results will take place at one meeting per semester of the Liberal Studies advisory group.

**6) DISTRIBUTION.** The program will distribute or publish these items in the following ways:

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>Distribution Method</i>					
	<b>FSU Catalog</b> (provide section title)	<b>Website</b> (provide URL)	<b>Annual Reports</b>	<b>Brochures</b>	<b>Course Syllabi</b>	<b>Other</b> (please describe, e.g. department meeting, advising session)
Program Mission		<a href="https://www.framingham.edu/academics/colleges/arts-and-humanities/liberal-studies/learning-outcomes/index.html">https://www.framingham.edu/academics/colleges/arts-and-humanities/liberal-studies/learning-outcomes/index.html</a>			LIBS 250 and LIBS 450	
Program Learning Objectives		<a href="https://www.framingham.edu/academics/colleges/arts-and-humanities/liberal-studies/learning-outcomes/index.html">https://www.framingham.edu/academics/colleges/arts-and-humanities/liberal-studies/learning-outcomes/index.html</a>			LIBS 250 and LIBS 450	
Learning Opportunities (Curriculum Map)						Liberal Studies advisory group meetings
Assessment Plan						Liberal Studies advisory group meetings

**Attach any rubrics or instrumentation that you plan to use for assessment of Program Learning Objectives**

- To be developed for 2018-19: rubric assessing Goal 4, Analyzing the significance of evidence

<sup>1</sup> If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Dr. Mark Nicholas, Executive Director of Assessment at [mnicholas1@framingham.edu](mailto:mnicholas1@framingham.edu) or 508-626-4670

<sup>2</sup> Accredited programs can provide supplemental documents that indicate the answers to these questions as long as specific page references are provided in each cell of the tables in this form. When the answers are not accessible in that way, please cut and paste into your assessment plan.

*Credits: This Template was developed using ideas from templates developed at University of Rhode Island and University of Hawaii in Manoa.*