

Program Assessment Plan BLA Updated 11/2024

Overview: The Bachelor of Liberal Arts (BLA) is a multidisciplinary degree program and its students take classes from faculty in multiple fields (Humanities, Social Science, Alaska Native studies, Math, Languages, Natural Science, Business Studies, etc.). Faculty from multiple fields serve on the BLA faculty committee and the committee is led by faculty co-coordinators in Juneau and Ketchikan.

Program Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the BLA degree, students will be able to:

1. Articulate ideas, content, and personal goals through purposeful written or artistic expression.
2. Demonstrate competency in chosen field(s).
3. Critically engage assumptions, presuppositions and gaps in thought, social discourse, and creative expression within their chosen field(s).
4. Engage with their environment and local cultures.

Assessment of Program Student Learning Outcomes:

Students assemble an academic portfolio as part of the Hum 499 Capstone class or as a graduation requirement. Those are now stored on Google Drive. Materials collected in the portfolio (which includes a CV, goals essay, academic writing and creative work samples, diversity statements, and student capstone work (from HUM 499 or other course, independent study, Alaska Native language apprenticeship, internship, or practica)) are evaluated by the BLA faculty committee using the portfolio evaluation rubric on an annual basis. Exact details are in each annual report, but generally the process is as follows: faculty meet to go over the SLOs and portfolio rubric, portfolios are then divided amongst the faculty and assessed (ideally with some overlap to ensure that the criteria are assessed in a similar way by all faculty), and the BLA co-coordinators average the scores and summarize student exit survey data.

It is anticipated that the BLA designated emphasis in Alaska Native Languages and Studies will be discontinued by Fall 2025 and replaced by the BA Indigenous Studies. The BLA designated emphasis in Outdoor Studies is assessed separately, please see the assessment plan for the Outdoor Studies programs.

Faculty assign scores to the following fields using a 5- point scale:

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| Outcome 1: BLA Outcomes Essay |
| Outcomes 1, 3 and 4: Language Competency and Diversity Statement |
| Outcome 1 & 4: Professional C.V. or resume |
| Outcome 1: Professional Portfolio Overall |

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| Outcomes 2 & 3: Competency in designated Emphasis, independent design or primary field (if interdisciplinary) |
| Outcome 2 & 3: Competency in secondary field (if interdisciplinary) |
| Outcome 1 & 2: Overall quality of writing in samples |
| Outcomes 1-3: Example of Research or Creative Work |
| Outcomes 1 & 2: Overall quality of the upper division sample |
| Outcome 3: Evidence of thoughtful examination of issues from multiple perspectives and reflection on assumptions, etc. |
| Outcomes 1-4: Student Capstone Work |

5-point scale

0 = Nothing (no or incorrect materials)

1 = Minimal Evidence (inadequate)

2 = Some Evidence (underdeveloped)

3 = Meets Expectations (satisfactory)

4 = Exceeds Expectations (above average)

5 = Superior (high-level presentation, analysis, critical thinking and/or synthesis)

The BLA coordinators also conduct an exit survey each semester along with an exit interview, and these are also saved to Google Drive. The exit survey is available here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOWrsw6zU5MpSjooI0ODKsPr12kEpMoPULFU3aN77nkB4sWw/viewform?gxids=7628>

Development of Future Plans

The faculty in the BLA working group meet on email and during work sessions to assess student portfolios and generally discuss program learning outcomes, course learning outcomes and descriptions, student advising, and other issues throughout each academic year. Staff advisors participate in these meetings when they are available. These BLA discussions result in changes to the curriculum for the BLA-specific courses HUM 210 and HUM 499, updated training for faculty and staff advising, and proposed revisions to BLA coursework. A summary of meeting topics and decisions is provided in the annual report.