

Oral Communication Assessment

Spring 2018

Introduction:

In lieu of the standard assessment of Oral Communication skills through the collection of samples of student work, an assessment of course requirements was undertaken in order to provide a more accurate pool of courses from which to sample in future Oral Communication assessments. Previous Oral Communication assessments had suffered from overreliance on Communication courses as well as the inclusion of courses that did not have a standardized oral presentation requirement. Thus, the assessment aimed to identify courses offered college-wide that included an oral presentation requirement, with the goal of better assessing oral communication skills as presented by students in a variety of courses representing many college programs.

Method:

An online survey was developed using Qualtrics survey software. The survey first asked respondents if they taught a course with an oral presentation requirement. All remaining questions were determined by participants' responses to this and subsequent questions. Qualifying participants could be asked if the oral presentation requirement was in Communications courses, the name of the course(s) with oral presentation requirements, and how grading was determined in the course(s). Participants could report on up to three courses with oral presentation requirements.

The survey was distributed via email to all full-time and part-time faculty members. The email notified faculty members of the purpose of the survey, and that it was being conducted in place of the regularly scheduled oral communication general education assessment. Participants were also informed that the survey should take approximately five minutes to complete. Participants accessed the survey by clicking on a link in the email. The email notifications were sent out to faculty members within the first month of the Spring 2018 semester. A reminder email was sent about three weeks later. Data was downloaded and analyzed following the spring semester break, approximately a month following the reminder email.

Results:

Five-hundred faculty members completed the survey out of approximately 2,836 full-time and part-time faculty members, a 17.6% response rate. Of these 500 responses, 222 (44.4%) reported teaching a course with an oral presentation requirement. Of respondents teaching a course with an oral presentation requirement, 29 (5.8%) were reported as being a requirement only in Communications courses. The remainder of the survey asked respondents to report the names and grading requirements of courses that required an oral presentation.

One hundred and thirty individual courses were reported as requiring an oral presentation. Of these courses, 91 include oral presentations that are graded based upon presentation skills. Finally, 72 courses used a rubric to grade oral presentation skills.

The 72 courses using a rubric to grade oral presentation skills are shown in Table 1 below. Of these courses, FS 100 was reported by the largest number of respondents, with 18 reporting instances. ENGL 102 had the second largest number of reporting instances, with 10.

Table 1. Courses with an oral presentation requirement with presentation skills graded by rubric

	Reporting Instances	Percent
AH 213	1	.7
ANTH 205	1	.7
ASTR 103	1	.7
BUSI 101	3	2.0
BUSI 230	1	.7
CVT 215	2	1.3
DA 171	1	.7
DMS 130	1	.7
DMS 270	1	.7
EDUC 111	3	2.0
EDUC 260	1	.7
EDUC 270	1	.7
EDUC 290	1	.7
EMS 243	1	.7
ENGL 001	2	1.3

ENGL 002	2	1.3
ENGL 003	4	2.6
ENGL 007	1	.7
ENGL 027	4	2.6
ENGL 028	4	2.6
ENGL 029	2	1.3
ENGL 050	2	1.3
ENGL 051	8	5.2
ENGL 057	1	.7
ENGL 101	9	5.9
ENGL 102	10	6.5
ENGL 104	4	2.6
ENGL 106	2	1.3
ENGR 102	1	.7
ENV5 201	1	.7
FS 100	18	11.8
FS 101	1	.7
FS 102	3	2.0
FS 103	1	.7
FS 107	2	1.3
GP 201	1	.7
HIST 101	1	.7
HIST 102	3	2.0
HIST 103	1	.7
HIST 201	1	.7
HLTH 101	1	.7
HTMT 101	1	.7
HTMT 122	1	.7
HTMT 213	1	.7
HTMT 269	1	.7
HUM 201	1	.7
HUMS 100	1	.7
HUMS 109	1	.7
HUMS 215	1	.7
HUMS 219	1	.7
MGMT 201	4	2.6
MGMT 203	1	.7
MGMT 221	1	.7

MKTG 201	5	3.3
MKTG 212	2	1.3
MKTG 218	2	1.3
MLT 220	1	.7
MUS 104	1	.7
NUTR 104	1	.7
PHSC 114	1	.7
PLGL 210	2	1.3
PSYC 209	1	.7
PSYC 216	1	.7
PSYC 221	1	.7
PSYC 242	1	.7
PSYCH 101	1	.7
RADT 102	1	.7
RADT 105	1	.7
RADT 201	1	.7
RADT 205	1	.7
SPAN 104	1	.7
THTR 110	1	.7
Total	150	100.0