

The University of Southern Mississippi

Detailed Assessment Report

2013-2014 Youth Services and Literature Graduate Certificate

As of: 1/13/2017 02:22 PM CDT

(Includes those Action Plans with Budget Amounts marked *One-Time, Recurring, No Request*.)

Mission / Purpose

This certificate prepares students for educational or library careers related to children and young adult literature, programs and services.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Associations and Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

SLO 1: Principles of Selection and Evaluation of Materials for Youth

Students will apply the principles of selection and evaluation to create an age-appropriate themed online pathfinder that is visually appealing and professionally annotated—object may be from LIS 517 or LIS 518.

Related Measures

M 1: Pathfinder

Using the tool of their choice, students will create the online pathfinder incorporating appropriate books, websites, and media; the project will be evaluated for content, writing and aesthetics using the Pathfinder Evaluation Rubric. Source of Evidence: Online Product (may be a website, wiki, blog, Google doc, Prezi, etc.) linked to the ePortfolio

Source of Evidence: Project, either individual or group

Target:

Using the Pathfinder Evaluation Rubric, 90% of students will be rated commendable or exceptional.

Finding (2013-2014) - Target: Met

100% (3/3) students seeking the certificate successfully completed the online pathfinder and scored exceptional (2/3) or satisfactory (1/3) using the Pathfinder evaluation rubric. (Fall 2013 1/1; Spring 2014 2/2)

SLO 2: Programming for Youth

Students will create a year's worth of programs, coordinating supplies and budget, advertisements, and select examples for a targeted youth population.

Related Measures

M 2: Youth Program Planning

The required assignments will be assessed using the appropriate rubrics paying special attention to incorporation of theme months, appropriate paid consultants/performers, age appropriate selection of materials and program. Source of Evidence: Rubric rating score for calendar, budget, advertisements, and examples.

Source of Evidence: Project, either individual or group

Target:

Using the Rubrics, 90% of students will be rated satisfactory or excellent.

Finding (2013-2014) - Target: Met

100% (3/3) of the students seeking the certificate were rated satisfactory or excellent using the rubrics. (Fall 2013 1/1; Spring 2014 2/2)

Details of Action Plans for This Cycle (by Established cycle, then alpha)

Additional elective choices

Review courses for possible additional electives for certificate plan.

Established in Cycle: 2013-2014

Implementation Status: Planned

Priority: High

Responsible Person/Group: Dr. Stacy Creel

Additional Resources: None

Compare to other programs

Compare our certificate course and assignment requirements with what other programs offer.

Established in Cycle: 2013-2014

Implementation Status: Planned

Priority: High

Projected Completion Date: 05/2015

Responsible Person/Group: Faculty

Additional Resources: None

Analysis Questions and Analysis Answers

What specifically did your assessments show regarding proven strengths or progress you made on outcomes/objectives?

This certificate is still relatively new with only a total of 4 completing to date and 3 being in this assessment year. The outcomes have been excellent and satisfactory. The 3 students were successful in completing the requirements and earned the Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature along with her MLIS degree. Students benefited from having an example of the ePortfolio (which was suggested previously).

What specifically did your assessments show regarding any outcomes/objectives that will require continued attention?

Even though this is still a relatively new certificate, based on student feedback, the SLIS Curriculum Committee has suggested seeking out additional courses that can be substituted as electives for the certificate since the course rotation is fairly spread-out. Additionally, the ePortfolio requirement needs to be made more prominent on materials since one student was "caught off guard" by the requirement.

Annual Report Section Responses

Program Summary

The Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature came into being in Spring 2013 and to date there have been 4 students to complete the requirements. The goal of the certificate is to prepare students for educational or library careers related to children and young adult literature, programs and services. Students will use this certificate for career development, advancement, and diversification. The certificate requires 15 hours with nine hours being required and six hours being elective.

Continuous Improvement Initiatives

There is still insufficient feedback for real improvement initiatives. The certificate has been advertised on national and international online resources and at face-to-face presentations. The advisor for the certificate continues to look for additional online courses at the master's level with the College of Education and Psychology that could be incorporated as electives and broaden the interest base.

Closing the Loop

This is still a new program with few completers at this point. Students seem to be generally satisfied with the certificate program and it adds a career option for students preparing to work in public and/or school libraries. In public libraries, youth services is a major department, usually with dedicated personnel. The curriculum committee continues to assess options for this certificate program and feedback from completers is being gathered.