

2015-2016 IE Report



Admin (AA) - Maroon & Write

Unit Mission Statement: Maroon and Write’s goal is to improve student writing. Maroon and Write will encourage faculty to adopt writing pedagogies not only to improve students’ writing skills, but also to strengthen the institution’s writing across the curriculum program and writing-to-learn strategies. Maroon and Write will train faculty members (1) in a 3-week intensive workshop called Maroon Institute for Writing Excellence (MIWE) and (2) in faculty development seminars and workshops throughout the year.

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IE Plan Participants: Ann Spurlock, Deborah Lee, and Tracey Baham

Unit Type: Educational Support Service

Univ. Mission Linkage-Access & Opportunity: Mississippi State University is a public, land-grant university whose mission is to provide access and opportunity to students from all sectors of the state’s diverse population, as well as from other states and countries, and to offer excellent programs of teaching, research, and service.

Univ. Mission Linkage-Academic Programs: Enhancing its historic strengths in agriculture, natural resources, engineering, mathematics, and natural and physical sciences, Mississippi State offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate programs; these include architecture, the fine arts, business, education, the humanities, the social and behavioral sciences, and veterinary medicine.

State of Excellence-Goal 1: Foster Teaching and Learning

State of Excellence-Goal 5: Enhance Institutional Culture and Environment

Location(s): Starkville

<i>Expected Outcomes (Column 1)</i>	<i>Assessment Procedures (Column 2)</i>	<i>IE Results</i>	<i>Use of Results (Column 4)</i>
<p>Documents appropriately organized, well developed, and clearly worded. - Students will write documents that are appropriately organized, well developed, and clearly worded. Outcome Status: Currently Assessing Outcome Type(s): Student Learning Start Date: 07/01/2014</p>	<p>Each year, Maroon and Write trains faculty on writing pedagogy in a program called MIWE. Students taught by MIWE faculty will be assessed on a formal writing assignment. The rubric that will be used to assess the assignment has a scale of 1-5 with 1 being poor and 5 being superior. The following skill components from that rubric will be used for this criterion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problem 2. Thesis statement 3. Support for thesis 	<p>Assessment Result Year: 2015 - 2016 Criterion Met?: No-Criterion Not Met A total of 603 students participated in a MIWE course for FY16. For FY16, the students scored 4 or higher as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problem: 58.5% (353 out of 603) 2. Thesis statement: 49.8% (300 out of 603) 3. Support for thesis: 42.0% (253 out of 603) 4. Word choice: 42.8% (258 out of 603) <p>The criterion was met for 1 out of the 4 writing components (problem)</p>	<p>Use of Results (Column 4): Maroon & Write continues to grow in the number of students taught by MIWE faculty. Last year, 217 students were taught by MIWE faculty, and this year that number nearly tripled to 603. Although the program did not reach its benchmarks in all four writing areas, the program did improve students' abilities to provide a problem or context in their writing. This improvement</p>

Expected Outcomes (Column 1)	Assessment Procedures (Column 2)	IE Results	Use of Results (Column 4)
	<p>4. Word choice</p> <p>Criterion (Column 2) : In working toward its long-term goal, Maroon and Write has set annual benchmarks. For FY16, students taught by MIWE faculty will score 4 or higher as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problem: 56.2% 2. Thesis statement: 63.1% 3. Support for thesis: 54.6% 4. Word choice: 70.7% 		<p>could be related to the writing coordinators' efforts to work with faculty in developing writing assignments. That work on writing assignments continued through the May 2016 MIWE instruction. Furthermore, Maroon & Write has discussed developing CTL events during 2016-17 that focuses on helping students develop a thesis statement.</p>
	<p>Maroon and Write will collect formal writing samples from senior students. The rubric that will be used to assess the assignment has a scale of 1-5 with 1 being poor and 5 being superior. The following skill components from the rubric will be used for this criterion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problem 2. Thesis statement 3. Support for thesis 4. Word choice <p>Criterion (Column 2) : Senior students' mean scores will improve 2.5% annually. For FY16, the mean scores will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problem: 3.50 2. Thesis: 3.93 3. Support for thesis: 3.42 4. Word choice: 4.15 	<p>Assessment Result Year: 2015 - 2016</p> <p>Criterion Met?: No-Criterion Not Met</p> <p>For FY16, the students (n=850) scored as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Problem: 3.63 2. Thesis: 3.44 3. Support for thesis: 3.46 4. Word choice: 3.41 <p>The criterion was met for 2 out of the 4 writing components (problem and support for thesis).</p> <p>Related Documents:</p>	<p>Use of Results (Column 4):</p> <p>Improvement in student writing is a gradual one as the program expands to multiple departments on campus and becomes integrated across the curriculum. Because the number of students taught by MIWE faculty continues to expand, the proportion of seniors who have taken a class designated as a Maroon & Write class has also increased. Therefore, improvement in students' ability to provide context or craft a problem statement, as well as their ability to provide support for their arguments or thesis statements, could have been influenced by their participation in Maroon & Write. Maroon & Write continues to work with faculty both through the intensive MIWE program and through other faculty development events. In 2015-16, Maroon & Write sponsored or co-sponsored 13 events. The thesis statement is an area that</p>

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especially warrants attention, and Maroon & Write has considered developing a CTL event during 2016-17 that will help students in crafting a thesis statement.

<p>Standard English used correctly - Students will use Standard English correctly, avoiding errors in syntax, grammar, and usage Outcome Status: Currently Assessing Outcome Type(s): Student Learning Start Date: 07/01/2014</p>	<p>Students taught by MIWE faculty will be assessed on a formal writing assignment. The rubric that will be used to assess the assignment has a scale of 1-5 with 1 being poor and 5 being superior. The skill component for correctness from the rubric will be used to assess this criterion. Criterion (Column 2) : For FY16, 63.8% of students taught by MIWE faculty will score a 4 or higher on the correctness component.</p>	<p>Assessment Result Year: 2015 - 2016 Criterion Met?: No-Criterion Not Met For FY16, the students scored 39.9% (241 out of 603) on correctness.</p>	<p>Use of Results (Column 4): In 2015-16, Maroon & Write expanded its MIWE offerings to include distance and Meridian courses. The Meridian courses only included 12 students, which is not enough to affect the scores; however, 136 (22.2%) of the students taught by MIWE were also classified as distance students. Furthermore, these distance courses had large sections of students, making the process of providing feedback on correctness more difficult. For 2016-17, Maroon & Write has incorporated a GA to assist along with writing coordinators with grading student papers in an effort to provide more feedback on students' correctness.</p>
	<p>Maroon and Write will collect formal writing samples from senior students. The rubric that will be used to assess the assignment has a scale of 1-5 with 1 being poor and 5 being superior. The skill component for correctness from the rubric will be used to assess this criterion. Criterion (Column 2) : Senior students will improve the mean</p>	<p>Assessment Result Year: 2015 - 2016 Criterion Met?: Yes-Criterion Met For FY16, the mean score for correctness was 3.3 (n=863).</p>	<p>Use of Results (Column 4): Research suggests that to improve correctness, students must write more frequently. Maroon & Write cannot turn all classes into writing classes, and cannot expect to embed grammar exercises into the curricula. Through collaborations with CTL, Maroon & Write has offered faculty</p>

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	<p>scores by 4% each year on the correctness component. For FY16, students will score 3.3 or higher.</p>		<p>development sessions geared toward scaffolding writing assignments and offering perspectives on how to utilize writing to learn exercises into the existing coursework. The Co-Directors also participated in the search for a Writing Center Director. The search failed and will be re-initiated during 2016-17. The Co-Directors have already contacted the interim director to discuss ways to collaborate during 2016-17.</p>
	<p>The ETS Proficiency Profile national examination will be administered to a sample of MSU seniors each spring semester. This criterion focuses on the writing portion of the exam, which assesses students' writing proficiency across three levels, identified as Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3. These 3 levels correspond with certain writing competencies. Each level is evaluated in terms of Proficient, Marginal, or Not Proficient.</p> <p>Criterion (Column 2) : For FY16, the following percentages of students will score Proficient in the writing component of the ETS Proficiency Profile: Level 1: 76.0% Level 2: 26.5% Level 3: 14.5%</p>	<p>Assessment Result Year: 2015 - 2016 Criterion Met?: Yes-Criterion Met For FY16, the following percentage of students scored Proficient: Level 1: 74.0% Level 2: 27.3% Level 3: 15.5%</p> <p>Two of the three criteria were met (Level 2 and Level 3). The levels increase in difficulty.</p>	<p>Use of Results (Column 4): Although Maroon & Write missed the target for Level 1, the university did see improved scores in the two more difficult levels. Maroon & Write continues to make strides in incorporating writing across the curriculum.</p>
<p>Engagement of writing activities - Students will be more engaged in writing activities. Outcome Status: Currently Assessing</p>	<p>Starkville - Seniors will complete the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) in the spring</p>	<p>Assessment Result Year: 2015 - 2016 Criterion Met?: Yes-Criterion Met For FY16, 43.0% (341 out of 792) of the senior students</p>	<p>Use of Results (Column 4): During the MIWE faculty training in summer 2015, the writing</p>

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<p>Outcome Type(s): Student Learning Start Date: 07/01/2014</p>	<p>semester. Students will be assessed on the survey item “Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in.” The response choices for this question will consist of Never, Sometimes, Often, and Very Often. Criterion (Column 2) : The percentage of senior students responding Often or Very Often will increase over FY15 (40.5%).</p>	<p>responded Often or Very Often on this question.</p>	<p>coordinators worked specifically with faculty on assignment development. This process encouraged faculty to require multiple drafts before turning in a final report. Additionally, one writing coordinator lead a CTL seminar about how to scaffold writing assignments so that students have multiple opportunities to writing on their final topic.</p>
	<p>Starkville - Seniors will complete the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) in the spring semester. Students will report that faculty “Provided feedback on a draft or work in progress” in terms of Very little, Some, Quite a bit, and Very much. Criterion (Column 2) : The percentage of senior students responding Very much or Quite a bit will increase over FY15 (60.4%).</p>	<p>Assessment Result Year: 2015 - 2016 Criterion Met?: Yes-Criterion Met For FY16, 61.1% (447 out of 731) of the senior students responded Very much or Quite a Bit on this question.</p>	<p>Use of Results (Column 4): Three writing coordinators worked with multiple past and current MIWE faculty members to help them evaluate and provide feedback on writing assignments related to students' correctness.</p>
	<p>Starkville - Students will be offered the opportunity to compete in the university’s Maroon Edition essay competition for both freshmen and upperclassmen. Criterion (Column 2) : The number of essay submissions will be greater than or equal to the number of submissions from FY15. FY15 had 102 (90 freshmen and 12 upperclassmen).</p>	<p>Assessment Result Year: 2015 - 2016 Criterion Met?: Yes-Criterion Met In FY16, 127 (115 freshmen and 12 upperclassmen) students participated in the competition, which is an 24.5% increase over FY15.</p>	<p>Use of Results (Column 4): Maroon & Write continues to promote the Maroon Edition competition during summer orientations and for New Maroon courses.</p>