Mission / Purpose

The Department of Religious Studies promotes learning and research through descriptive, comparative, and analytical studies of cross-cultural beliefs and practices, both past and present. Within the University, the Department is one of the principal settings in which students critically engage the history, diversity, and ingenuity of human collections of beliefs and rituals. This disciplined study fosters intellectual development that strengthens the abilities of faculty and student scholars to critically, actively, and effectively engage the issues confronting a technologically changing and interconnected world.

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

SLO 1: Discipline-Specific Knowledge
We expect our students to recognize and use key terms, texts, theorists, and traditions in the study of religion.

Connected Document
Religious Studies BA Curriculum Maps

Relevant Associations:
Student Learning Outcome #1 Improvement Action(s) to be advanced: Prof. Jacobs will implement the pre- and post- "Judaism Literacy Survey" again the next time he teaches REL 223 "Introduction to Judaism" to evaluate both the survey itself and student results. Further, the "Survey of Religious Knowledge" will be implemented during the Fall 2011 advising period, and the results will be used to determine what additional courses students should take.

Standard Associations
SACS 3.3.1  Educational programs, to include student learning outcomes

General Education/Core Curriculum Associations
6 Humanities - SLO is related to students' ability to deal with questions of values, ethics, or aesthetics as they are represented in literature, philosophy, religion and the arts
10 Social and Behavioral Sciences - SLO is related to human behavior, social structures or economics

Strategic Plan Associations
University of Alabama
1.1 Promote and enhance areas of academic, scholarship, and research excellence.

Related Measures

M 1: Religious Knowledge
Upon declaration of the major, students will take a "Survey of Religious Knowledge" (SORK) multiple choice examination that tests for key terms, texts, theorists, and traditions with embedded questions dedicated to determining departmentally agreed-upon "crucial" knowledge. Average percent correct will be calculated. This test will be offered each fall as a student progresses through the program to monitor improvement (or lack thereof).

Source of Evidence: Faculty pre-test / post-test of knowledge mastery

Target:
All majors are required to take the Survey of Religious Studies Knowledge test upon admission to the program. This test should be taken yearly. For 2011-12, our target is to have the test up and running and available on e-Learning.

Finding (2011-2012) - Target: Partially Met
The Department successfully created the test. The test was successfully administered to 11 of 30 majors. High score out of 50 was 46; low 18; average 35.

Related Action Plans (by Established cycle, then alpha):
For full information, see the Details of Action Plans section of this report.

enforce conformity
Established in Cycle: 2011-2012
We will enforce conformity with the requirement to take the test by linking successful completion of the test to clearance for r...

M 2: Summary of Courses Taken
The religious studies courses that students have taken at the time they declare will be summarized during the fall advising period to create a context for the survey results.

Source of Evidence: Academic indirect indicator of learning - other

Target:
We intend to implement this phase of advising activity in fall 2012.

Finding (2011-2012) - Target: Met
No findings to report at this time. Existing data will be analyzed by the curriculum committee in the fall.

Finding (2011-2012) - Target: Met
No findings to report at this time. Existing data will be analyzed by the curriculum committee in the fall.