

Using results to introduce new assessment methods

Communication Studies

- “To further enhance the communication skills of our students, we are currently exploring the use of video-based technology in our applied courses including public speaking and small group communication. The use of video-based technology will give students the opportunity for self-feedback, self-reflection and improvement in using communication competently in a variety of settings. It will help our students understand their strengths and weaknesses as communicators, and further enable our students to apply successfully the principles of effective communication to various speech settings.”
- “First of all, equipment checkout could be suspended the night before a project is due, thus forcing students to plan and shoot their videos earlier and leaving them with more time to edit... A second and better solution would be to have a preliminary screening of the project built into the grade. Upon screening the projects, the instructor can offer suggestions on what elements need improvement before the final submission, and then give students one additional week to complete the assignment with the changes suggested by the instructor.”
- “Of the areas evaluated in the chase scene, editing and audio techniques met the instructor's expectations. Scene coverage and lighting need to be improved. Most of the problem seems to revolve, again, around students not allocating the time to give attention to good lighting and adequate scene coverage. Perhaps the preliminary screening strategy will help as the instructor may require reshoots of projects that do not attempt adequate lighting and fail to shoot sound scene coverage.”
- “Based on these preliminary findings, the Department of Communication Studies will initiate the use of video-based technology in all communication skills courses for the Spring 2008 semester (project approval pending). Training involving the use of this technology will be completed during the Fall 2007 semester for all faculty...To determine the effectiveness of this technology with our students, we will retain the same Competent Speaker evaluation form as used in the past and expect these public speaking competencies to improve. Too, we will develop a questionnaire for our students to measure their attitude toward the use of this technology and its value in developing their communication skills.”

Theatre Arts

- “Faculty members found the standardized assessment tool very helpful and implemented it fully in the Spring of 2007. One discovery made by the faculty was that the tool was most effective in evaluating students following each year after their first three years of undergraduate study. It was determined that graduating students would benefit more from individual mentorship

sessions and exit interviews. The faculty is looking forward to using the STARs report assessment tool to follow a single class through to completion before evaluating the tool's overall effectiveness."

- "The department has set standard expectations of documentation by adopting a universal "Daily Crew Report" form. Though the performance of the students is undoubtedly satisfactory, the consistent and thorough documentation of that success is lacking. The new universal standards of reporting results in each area should solve this problem. Following the evaluation of the instruments being used for assessments, the department will fine tune the instruments to use clear and consistent terminology for areas of evaluation that reflect the departmental goals."

Economics

"...Both instructors teaching Eco 3306 plan to consider or make changes designed to increase student motivation to learn the material. One instructor plans to write new problem set questions and to restructure lectures, both with the aim of incorporating more contemporary... The other instructor plans to explore the possibility of introducing "clicker" technology in the class. This technology allows immediate measurement of student understanding."