Memorandum

To: Department Chairs and Program Directors supporting concentrations

From: Suzanne Keen Dean of Faculty and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Date: August 27, 2019

Subject: Senior Program Assessment 2018-19

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, over the last academic year we conducted our first direct assessment of the Hamilton College Senior Program as a graduation requirement in relation to the eight educational goals of the institution. This memorandum shares the results with you so that your department or program can begin a conversation. I am especially interested in your ideas on how your students may be fulfilling those educational goals that received a high number of N/A (not applicable) scores in your Senior Program, for example, through your SSIH offering.

Please recall the instructions on the assessment form: *The answers to the following questions are meant to be a reflection of how the student realized the goal, not whether the goal pertained to the project. A mark of N/A is an acceptable choice to indicate the senior project in your department or program provides no opportunity to assess this general educational goal. N/A should not be chosen to avoid a low score on an expected element of the work.*

The form also has this disclaimer: *The information acquired through this outcomes tool is solely collected to assess the College's senior program. All data will be reported in the aggregate. The data will not be linked to individuals, used for student or faculty evaluation, or be directly considered in the distribution of College resources.*

Summary of Findings

The class of 2019 graduated 491 students in 37 concentrations. There was a reporting rate of 33 out of 37 concentrations (87% completion) that graduated students. After the dataset was cleaned (cases where the data was not complete or the form not filled out correctly), we received data from 513 student assessments (some students were assessed twice because they had double concentrations).

The summary of results indicate that the Senior Program realizes the educational goals *Intellectual Curiosity, Analytic Discernment, Disciplinary Practice, Creativity, and Communication and Expression,* as well as the goal of the *Department or Program.* The three educational goals that received a high number of N/A scores include *Aesthetic Discernment, Understanding of Cultural Diversity,* and *Ethical and Engaged Citizenship* (Figure 1).
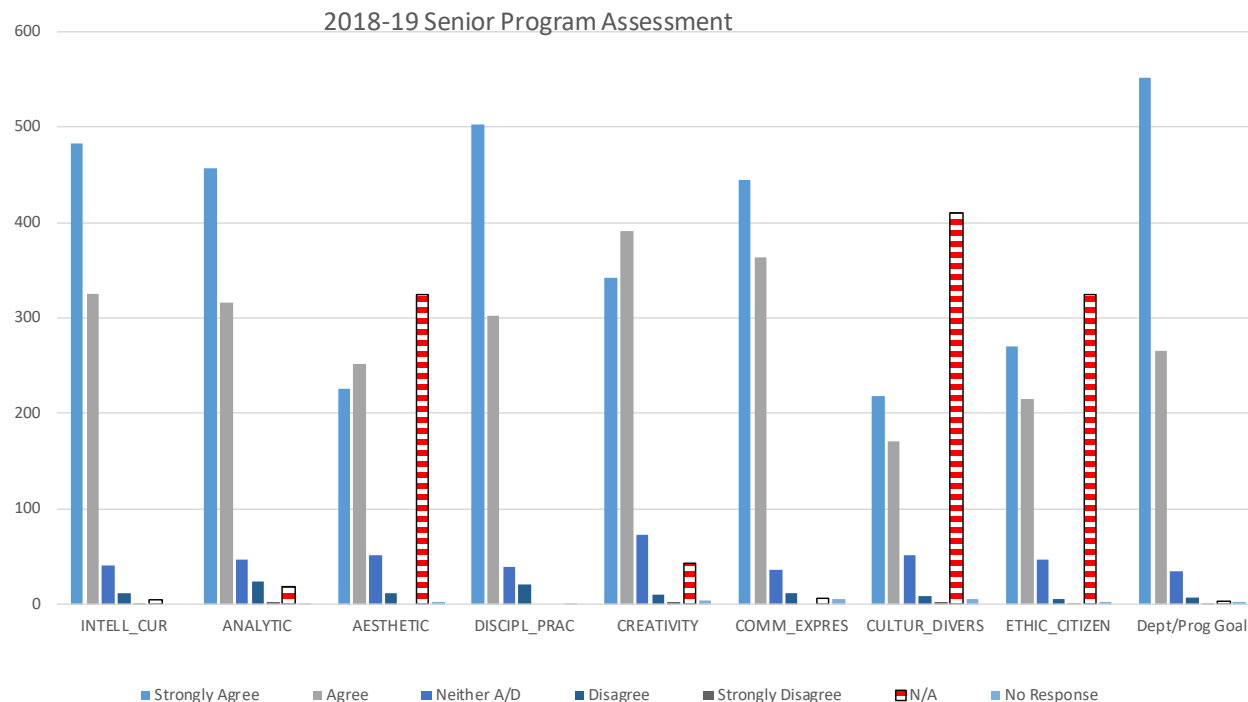

Figure 1. Aggregate results of the 2018-19 Senior Program assessment. Red stripe bars indicate N/A responses where there was no connection between the senior project and that particular educational goal. Blue/gray bars represent a connection between the educational goal and how well the student realized that particular goal.

We are also providing you with the averaged data by concentration (Table 1). This is to help you understand where your Senior Program aligns with all other concentrations combined. Remember, this is not meant to be evaluative for a department/program, its students, or faculty. It may be entirely appropriate to differ from the aggregate.

The organization of data in Table 1 is as follows: Column 1 = Concentration, Column 2 = Total Number of Responses (students could be assessed more than once), Column 3 = The Total Number of Students reflected in the Total Number of Responses, Columns 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, and 20 are the averaged data from the Total Number of Responses (Column 2) for the eight educational goals and the department/program goals. Columns 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 21 are the total number of N/A scores from the Total Number of Responses (Column 2) for each educational goal and department/program goal.

Table 1. Aggregate data by concentration for the 2018-19 Senior Program assessment.

DEPARTMENTPROGRAM	N=TOTAL RESP	N=TOTAL STUDENTS	AVG INTELCU	N/A	AVG ANALYTI	N/A	AVG AESTHETI	N/A	AVG DISCIP_PRAC	N/A	AVG CREATI	N/A	AVG COMM	N/A	AVG CULTURDI	N/A	AVG ETHIIC_CI	N/A	AVG DEPAR	N/A
Africana Studies	10	6	4.50	0	4.40	0	4.22	1	4.40	0	3.90	0	4.30	0	4.60	0	4.50	0	4.50	0
Anthropology	21	12	3.67	0	2.60	1	3.27	6	3.15	0	3.38	0	4.29	0	4.19	0	4.19	0	3.33	0
Art	15	15	3.87	0	4.08	2	4.13	0	4.20	0	4.27	0	4.27	0	4.21	1	4.00	3	4.20	0
Art History	20	15	4.35	0	4.10	0	4.25	0	3.95	0	4.30	0	4.25	0	4.12	3	4.20	5	4.30	0
Asian Studies	9	3	4.33	0	4.22	0	4.00	1	4.44	0	3.89	0	4.44	0	4.44	0	4.00	0	4.56	0
Biochemistry / Molecular Biol	65	19	4.55	0	4.62	0	4.36	6	4.60	0	4.45	0	4.52	0	4.67	59	4.78	47	4.72	
Biology	88	21	4.60	0	4.55	0	4.37	8	4.61	0	4.34	1	4.36	0	3.38	80	4.19	72	4.78	0
Chemistry	49	11	4.76	0	4.65	0	4.78	9	4.76	0	4.48	0	4.80	0	5.00	45	4.90	38	4.70	1
Chinese	24	10	4.21	0	4.21	0	4.00	23	4.13	0	3.96	0	4.25	0	4.75	0	4.50	0	4.67	0
Cinema and Media Studies	1	1	5.00	0	0.00	1	5.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	0	4.00	0	0.00	1	3.00	0	5.00	0
Classics	7	7	4.71	0	4.57	0	4.25	3	4.43	0	4.14	0	4.86	0	3.67	1	3.71	0	4.29	0
Computer Science	42	18	4.14	0	4.55	0	3.93	0	4.40	0	4.54	0	4.15	0	3.67	38	4.00	27	4.46	0
Dance and Movement Studies	1	1	5.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	0	4.00	0	5.00	0
Economics	70	70	4.44	0	4.50	0	4.49	7	4.44	0	4.33	8	4.36	3	4.45	7	4.43	3	4.43	
Environmental Studies	42	20	4.55	0	4.29	0	4.60	27	4.31	0	4.35	5	4.33	0	3.83	23	3.93	1	4.55	0
Foreign Languages	1	1	5.00	0	4.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	0	4.00	0	4.00	0	4.00	0
French and Francophone Studi	4	4	4.60	0	4.40	0	4.00	0	4.60	0	3.80	0	4.20	0	4.40	0	5.00	3	4.60	0
Geosciences	39	11	4.39	3	4.36	0	4.19	12	4.44	0	4.03	1	4.31	0	4.36	11	4.18	6	4.18	0
Government	68	54	4.45	1	4.30	1	3.00	67	4.28	0	4.28	7	4.44	0	4.45	10	4.83	4	4.72	0
Hispanic Studies	26	26	4.23	0	4.17	2	4.40	1	4.54	0	4.23	0	4.58	0	4.31	0	4.19	5	4.50	0
History	15	15	4.60	0	4.47	0	3.00	0	4.73	0	3.93	0	4.20	0	3.93	1	4.27	0	4.79	1
Mathematics	59	59	4.52	0	4.80	0	4.00	45	4.90	0	4.35	19	4.74	1	3.00	57	4.53	42	4.83	0
Music	4	2	4.25	0	4.50	0	5.00	0	4.75	0	5.00	0	5.00	0	4.00	1	3.00	2	5.00	0
Neuroscience	32	15	4.56	0	4.47	0	4.10	12	4.72	0	4.38	0	4.59	0	4.22	9	4.59	17	4.69	0
Philosophy	20	20	4.65	0	4.62	7	4.75	12	4.65	0	4.56	2	4.45	0	4.11	11	4.47	5	4.65	0
Physics	18	17	4.94	0	4.94	0	4.00	16	4.83	0	4.00	0	4.06	0	0.00	18	0.00	18	4.89	0
Psychology	47	20	4.49	0	4.21	0	4.03	22	4.40	0	4.23	0	4.49	0	4.27	9	4.40	14	4.58	0
Public Policy	12	12	4.75	0	4.50	0	0.00	12	4.75	0	4.58	0	5.00	0	4.73	1	4.83	0	4.83	0
Religious Studies	17	6	4.71	0	4.38	4	3.83	11	4.47	0	4.59	0	4.71	0	4.47	0	4.57	3	4.35	0
Russian Studies	2	2	4.50	0	4.00	0	5.00	1	4.00	0	5.00	0	4.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	1	5.00	0
Sociology	8	8	4.88	0	4.75	0	0.00	8	4.88	0	4.75	0	4.75	0	4.50	6	5.00	5	4.75	0
Theatre	10	9	4.90	0	4.60	0	4.70	0	4.70	0	4.40	0	4.50	0	4.13	2	4.71	3	4.56	1
Women's and Gender Studies	3	3	4.00	0	4.50	1	3.67	0	4.33	0	4.00	0	4.50	1	4.67	0	4.00	0	4.67	0

The results of the Senior Program assessment exercise will be introduced at the September Faculty Meeting. Topics we will consider during this year, in Committee of the Whole discussions scheduled for October, February, and March, will include: *Aesthetic Discernment, Understanding of Cultural Diversity,* and *Ethical and Engaged Citizenship* (the goals attracting large numbers of N/A evaluations)*;* how curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular experiences contribute to fulfillment of our educational goals; next steps in the Senior Program assessment process for 2019-20, with the objective of attaining evaluations of 100% of all concentrations' graduating students.

Please share this memo with your department members to begin the conversation. I want to thank all of you who took the time to participate in the assessment and for your efforts moving forward.

All the best,

Suzanne Keen
DOF