

Assessment Grant Initiative Implementation Report

Awardees of all grants are asked to share their assessment projects/pilots and results with the greater UMaine community. Therefore, we are asking awardees to submit a brief summary of their findings to OIRA the year following their award. Please complete the form below and give a summary of your findings. This summary should be less than 500 words.

If you were funded for an assessment project, please report on the results of the project, any challenges encountered during implementation, and future plans.

If you were funded for a Brightspace course pilot, please reflect upon the experience, including the benefits and challenges of implementation, and future plans for rolling out your use of the learning outcomes tools. These summaries will be posted on the OIRA website.

Title of Proposal: **Course-Based and Comprehensive Assessment of Graduate Students in Communication Sciences and Disorders**

Department or Program: **Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD)**

Faculty Member(s) or Staff Member(s): **Jessica Salley Riccardi, PhD CCC-SLP**

Academic Rank or Title: **Assistant Professor**

Email Address and Campus Phone Number: Jessica.riccardi@maine.edu, 207-581-2036

Project Summary (500 words or less):

please report on the results of the project, any challenges encountered during implementation, and future plans.

Our assessment project focused on two areas: 1) identifying and aligning course-based assessments to a curriculum map, and 2) researching, recommending, and organizing a portfolio-based comprehensive examination that utilizes course-based assessments as evidence. Both components were approached collaboratively by both research and clinical faculty members in CSD.

As related to the curriculum map, we successfully analyzed the curriculum and identified opportunities to modify the curriculum, participated in a departmental training regarding using rubrics to increase the consistency of graduate assessment in the department, and discussed how undergraduate outcomes align with the graduate curriculum. Given the accreditation standards that have become our learning outcomes, the greatest challenge related to the curriculum map was allocating enough time for faculty to contribute and engage with the map. Due to overlap in existing graduate courses, this required all faculty to participate in a group discussion. Fortunately, we dedicated our winter faculty retreat (4 hours) to this discussion, as well as subsequent faculty meetings to build upon the initial ideas. Over Summer 2023, a committee was formed on graduate curriculum and the committee is proposing curriculum changes to the larger faculty group in September 2023.

Our department exceeded our expectations related to comprehensive examination. We not only researched, recommended, and organized a portfolio-based comprehensive examination, we also piloted the process with our students who graduated in Spring 2023 and rolled out a more formal version with our students planning to graduate in Spring 2024 and Spring 2025. Our greatest challenges were related to organization of student portfolios and administrative processes to support this examination process. In October 2023, we are

formalizing these processes and investigating better management systems for the portfolios. Overall, all students and faculty felt this was a major success and was a much-needed change to enhance our graduate program.

Overall, CSD greatly appreciated the dedicated funds and associated time to allocate towards these important graduate assessment efforts. This grant increased the conversations around our graduate program, including goals and expectations. This project started the momentum that the department is capitalizing on to make other much-needed updates to our curriculum and processes. We anticipate continued progress that will lead to more consistent and accurate assessment of our graduate students in clinical and academic coursework.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessien S Riccardi". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Signature of Applicant:

Date: 9/21/2023