Provide an example of the program’s most interesting or important assessment finding that demonstrates the program’s success associated with a program learning outcome.

The department is encouraged that of the students taking their qualifying exams, which involve submission of the dissertation proposal, all have met and more than half have exceeded expectations. We feel that this success reflects the effectiveness of the new DQE format (in place for a few years now), and shows that students are well prepared to position themselves within a specific scholarly conversation.

Describe an assessment result that indicates an opportunity for improvement and identify the specific actions the program will take to improve student learning.

The department will continue the work of developing the professionalism of our PhDs, by discussing as a department how dissertation directors might best mentor our students as they complete their degrees, and by holding special workshops sponsored in cooperation with the Association of English Graduate Students. This year we look forward to helping students complete and defend their dissertations, graduate, and undertake job searches competitively.