Western Washington University
Western CEDAR

Office of Survey Research

Institutes, Centers, and Offices

2-1-1991

Summary Report of Admissions and Graduation Requirements of Selected Units and Programs at Western Washington University

Joseph E. Trimble
Western Washington University

Gary (Gary Russell) McKinney
Western Washington University

Robert M. Thorndike
Western Washington University

Recommended Citation

Report 1991-03: Summary Report of Admissions and Graduation Requirements of Selected Units and Programs at Western Washington University

For this report, a survey and interviews of academic department and unit heads were performed to ascertain the sorts of self-generated admissions and graduation requirements were being utilized at Western. The report was published in 1991 and since then many departments' requirements have changed, as well as departments having no previous requirements having instated them. This will probably continue to be the case, yet the reports delineation of the kinds of techniques departments use will remain germane for a few more years anyway. Indeed, departments that had self-generated admissions requirements utilized the following kinds: 1) overall Western gpa; 2) completion of foundation courses; 3) gpa within foundation courses; 4) credit completion; 5) audition, portfolio, or resume review. Some departments had multiple admissions requirements.

Capstone experiences used by departments as graduation requirements included the following: 1) overview courses; 2) senior theses, project, performance or portfolio; 3) internships or student teaching; and 4) state accrediting test. A few departments used two capstone experiences.

Some departments used standing committees to evaluate, to varying degrees, the quality or content of their programs. Some departments had graduation requirements evaluated by more than one faculty member, or by outside professionals.

Departments were asked how many courses requiring a substantial production of written English a "typical" graduate in the major might take. For the purposes of this report, "substantial" was defined as having at least two of the following criteria: 1) mid-term and/or final essay exam; 2) one lengthy (10+ pages) term paper or report; 3) multiple short

(1-10 page) papers or reports; and 4) opportunities for students to revise papers written under either item 2 or 3.

The number of such courses "typical" graduates might take varied widely, from 1 to 27. Evaluation of these courses was based usually on the first three criteria; generally, the opportunity to revise was reserved for course specifically offered as writing intensive.