Makiko Imamura and Ellen Rigsby

Our current curriculum is designed to expose students to the methodologies used in the discipline of communication by requiring both quantitative and qualitative method courses to be compulsory. These two independent courses prepare students for their capstone research projects, and thus they play a critical role in the department curriculum. To better reflect the interdisciplinary academic culture and to emphasize the strength of mixed method approaches, we are restructuring the method courses from the current two-course model to a two-semester sequence model. As we move forward with the new model, this assessment project aims to explore whether students in the current model demonstrate comprehension and application skills as well as adequate knowledge on the selected areas of quantitative and qualitative methods in communication. Results of this project will be used as a comparison base for students’ learning in the new model. Overall, this project aims to help establish a sustainable infrastructure for evaluation of students’ learning and the effectiveness of the curriculum on methods courses.