



## Faculty Summary of Student Learning

<b>Academic Program:</b>	<b>Symbolic Systems BS</b>	<b>Department:</b>	<b>Symbolic Systems</b>
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### Program-Level Student Learning Outcome

*At the completion of the Bachelor's degree in Symbolic Systems, students will be able to communicate in written form using APA style formatting guidelines to document evidence-based sources and arguments in the development of research papers.*

	<b>Course</b>		<b>Measure</b>
1.	SYS 428	1.	Capstone Project – Final Paper

### Strengths:

Before students submitted their final research papers, I reviewed the format of the research papers. Students were also able to meet in individual sessions with the teaching assistants to help answer any follow-up questions on researching and writing original research papers. In reading the papers, many of the students crafted strong introductions that included: a central theme, sub-themes, central arguments, and evidence to support the paper's claims. The students were creative in their approach, and I noted that five students exceeded the assignment expectations and paper requirements. In terms of the program-level student learning outcome students could use evidence based sources and arguments in the development of their research papers.

### Weaknesses:

Students were neither able to apply APA formatting to properly cite works within their research papers nor create a works cited page. Students also did not proofread their papers for grammar and syntax.

### Suggestions for Improvement

I attempted to address these weaknesses in the course; but to ensure that our students are graduating from our program with fully developed skills, we'll need a coordinated effort across our program's curriculum. To meet the program's competency level in regards to our research outcome, we'll also have to examine other courses that require research papers to ensure APA style formatting is introduced and practiced/reinforced. Perhaps we could also engage the library to see about training for our students on the specific software available to students to aid in their research and source documentation.

Perhaps we could also examine additional writing assignments in other courses in the major?