2026 – 27 Departmental Assessment Plan

Department/Program/Unit: Theology, Philosophy, and Biblical Languages **Date: October 14, 2026**

Members involved with development of Plan: Paul Holtorf and Daniel Lewis

Departmental/Program/Unit Student Outcome: *What student outcome from the departmental matrix will be assessed? (It is suggested that you cut and paste directly from the matrix. Outcomes should represent the absolute priorities for learning- students must be able to do [this] when they finish our program).*
State as follows: Students should be able to [action verb] [something].
Students will articulate and use theological constructs relevant to the field (e.g., proper distinction between Law and Gospel, historical background of the text, translation and commentary analysis, etc.).

Background: *What factors caused you to choose this particular assessment outcome? If you chose this outcome because of a perceived problem, please explain*.
With the increase of Lutheran Teacher Diploma students, the department will expand its offerings regarding the Interpretational courses. The courses are Theo 242, Theo 251, and Theo 252. While these courses are different in subject matter, what is consistent for them is the exegetical paper. The exegetical paper will be the focus of the department assessment plan. Using this approach will give the instructors opportunities to evaluate the consistency of the teaching and evaluating of the exegetical paper.By using the exegetical paper and the rubrics of the paper for assessment will ensure consistent parameters and evaluative criteria for the departmental assessment plan.

Question: *What specific question(s) are you attempting to answer through assessing this student outcome? (What are you trying to find out? There may be more than one question, but no more than three.)*
1. What is the historical-grammatrical hermeneutical method of interpretation?
2. How do the circles of context influecne the understanding of a Biblical text?
3. What are the life applications of a Biblical text having completed the steps of interpretation in the exegetical paper?

Methodology:

1. *OBJECT* - What data (i.e. artifact, exam score, detailed description of assignment) will be collected?* The exegetical paper
    a. *How does this data address the assessment question?* The data will demonstrate to what degree the student has gained the ability to understand the basic interpretation of a Biblical text, to demonstrate a competency of research of a Biblical text and explain life applicaitons ithat can be supported according to the Biblical text..
        i. *Include/attach a description/example of assessment tool to be used*.
2. *How will data be collected?* Theexegetical paper will be collected from the following courses during the academic year 2026-27: Theo 242 (Fall 2026) and Theo 251 and Theo 252 (Spring 2027)

Analysis of Artifacts: *PERFORMANCE CRITERIA* - Discuss:*
1) *How the artifacts will be analyzed (attach rubrics/scoring tools if used):* A statiistical analysis of student submissions for Theo 242, Theo 251, and Theo 252, arriving at a mean score for the assignment.
2) *How you will know if it is good (i.e. score required by % of students):* A score of 80% or better will be required of 70% of the students in the class.

Submitted by: Paul Holtorf **Date: October 14, 2026** **Assessment Committee Reviewed (Date):**

Department Chair notified of approval/or additional action needed: 10/27/26