1) Have formal learning outcomes been developed? What are they? (What specific sets of skills and knowledge does the department expect its majors to have acquired before they graduate?)

It is the goal of the Communication Department that students majoring in Communication develop skills in:

- Graduates will understand the major theories in the areas of Interpersonal Communication, Rhetorical Theory and Media Studies.
- Graduates will have an understanding of the research skills necessary for their area of study.
- Graduates will have the skill necessary to organize and write a coherent paper examining current theoretical topics in communication.
- Graduates will develop skills to analyze and articulate logical arguments.
- Graduates will have the ability to express themselves both verbally and in writing.
- Graduates will understand the ethical issues inherent in sending and receiving messages.
- Graduates will have an in-depth understanding of the ideas and methods of one of the three major subfields in Communication.

2) Where are these learning outcomes published? Be specific. (Where are the department’s learning expectations accessible to potential majors: on the web or in the catalog or in your dept major handouts?)

Department website:
http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/communication/learning-outcomes.html

3) Other than GPA, what data/evidence is used to determine whether graduates have achieved the stated outcomes for the degree? (What evidence and analytical approaches do you use to assess which of the student learning outcomes are being achieved more or less well?)
Papers from seven writing intensive classes were evaluated by two faculty members, and on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) the total average is a 4.02. The highest average, 4.5, was for “Mature Sentence Structure”, and the lowest, 3.7, was for “Opinion Supported by Adequate Evidence”. A copy of the rubric and the results can be found in Appendix A.

4) **Who interprets the evidence? What is the process?** (Who in the department is responsible for interpreting the data and making recommendations for curriculum or assignment changes if appropriate? When does this occur?)

The results of both the written assessment and student feedback will be distributed to the faculty in the Communication Department. In particular, the Curriculum Committee will be asked to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses conveyed by the results with the goal of determining the method of improvement that must be made by the department.