Form E-1-A for Boston College Departments/Programs

Department/Program  Theology

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?)

Demonstrate knowledge of scripture, creeds, major developments, leading thinkers, and spirituality of Christian theological tradition, with proficiency in one or more such areas, and with particular attention to the Roman Catholic tradition

Reflect theologically on contemporary social, cultural, and ethical dimensions and implications of Christian faith

Mount cogent, constructive theological arguments in dialogue with other disciplines.

Engage articulately in some aspect of both ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue and learning.

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?)

The general learning goals are posted on the Department Website.
http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/theology/undergrad/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?)

All theology majors have to take the Majors seminar. This seminar offers the opportunity to determine whether students have attained the stated outcomes, since it involves two major papers which requires students to use their general knowledge in theology and focus this knowledge on a particular theological issue.

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 faculty member teaching the Majors seminar reports to the chair on the quality of student work and the degree to which she or he feels that students have met the learning goals. In addition to the writing requirements, the professor teaching the majors seminar is also asked to conduct some exit interviews with students, and to report the results of this to the department chair.