

*Revised
May 2, 2003*

I. Assessment common to all degrees: Visual Arts Exit Survey

Criterion: 85% of graduates will respond "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" to the statement "I believe that my undergraduate training at SLU prepared me well for a life incorporating the visual arts" contained in an exit survey.

85% of graduates will respond "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" to the statement "I believe that my undergraduate training at SLU prepared me well for possible study at the graduate level, if I so chose" contained in an exit survey.

85% of those students who chose to apply to a Master's degree program, with a GPA of 3.75 or above, will be accepted to Graduate School.

Report Summary: The task of organizing and administering the exit survey was taken over by the Office of Institutional Research shortly after the departmental assessment instrument was written. Therefore, the questions listed above do not appear in the survey as such, but have been replaced by 31 specific questions relating to the entire range of the students' experiences with Southeastern, including satisfaction with advising, lab/computer/library facilities and equipment, availability of courses, friendliness of faculty and staff, and so on. Several things should be noted: Firstly, questions on the survey were changed in 1997 and methods of data compilation were changed. Secondly, the art education questions (32-41) were added to the survey in 1998-1999, at which time there were 4 respondents. Thirdly, an examination of survey data reveals that the number of respondents varies widely from section to section over the study period, therefore greatly impacts the fluctuation in numbers. See attached documentation for further breakdown.

A five-point scale was used—a 4 indicates "Agree" and a 5 indicates "Strongly Agree." Of the 46 BA in Art respondents in the last 4 years, approximately 33% indicated a 4, and 33% indicated a 5 in their exit surveys. Of the 32 respondents in the BA in Cultural Resource Management program, approximately 33% marked a 4 and, and 50% marked a score of 5 in their exit surveys. Of the 14 BA in Art Education respondents for the last 3 years we find that approximately 50% responded with a score of 4, and 25% with a score of 5.

Considering the average of all the questions asked since 1997-1998, it appears that the department is currently not meeting its objective of 85% of respondents delivering a score 4 or 5. However, the department has begun to put in place a variety of changes including development of new courses, some of which are geared toward practical workplace application. Additionally, a sophomore review and senior seminar are proposed as we work toward department accreditation.

That said, there are indications that students department wide are disgruntled with their education in terms of the following:

- Facilities and equipment - 74% were neutral or felt the current equipment and facilities were inadequate
- Availability of classes - 88% were neutral or felt the availability of classes was inadequate
- Library resources related to major - 65% were neutral or felt that library resources for their major were inadequate
- Overall quality of degree program - 55% were neutral or felt that the overall program was inadequate
- Accepted to or plan to go to graduate school immediately after graduating - 78% had no plans to go to graduate school immediately after graduating

Questions 32-41 were specific to the BA in Art Education. These questions were specific to points of pedagogy preparation, including learning to communicate with parents, pupils, and colleagues; developing instructional objectives and lesson plans; classroom management and infusing technology into the classroom. Of the 14 respondents, nearly 60% marked 4 or 5 for the questions pertaining to these issues.

Recommendation: Continue the exit survey assessment. Address concerns of students in terms of facilities, equipment, availability of classes, and library resources. The department is currently aggressively examining the curriculum, which includes implementing a sophomore review and a senior seminar, scheduled to begin in Fall 2003. All of the above changes are being examined with an approach to accreditation. Furthermore, the department will be adding several questions to the survey to discern current problem areas.

II. Assessment specific to the Art Education degree: NTE scores

Currently, art education majors are required to take both the Praxis I and II. As of 2005 these students will be required to pass an additional exam, that being the Art Core exam.

Criterion: 85% of BA students in art education taking the Professional Education and Art portions of the Praxis exam will pass both portions.

Report Summary: Students have consistently passed the Praxis exam.

Recommendation: Continue this assessment, checking for trends. To date, the number of students taking these tests has been small; with a larger number, more meaningful implications may be extrapolated. Also, students who do not pass the test on the first attempt are allowed to re-take the exam, which makes the data less meaningful.