

Revised
May 2002

Review of the MFA Results and Report on Curricular Change B.A. English

Reviewing results of student comments on the SLU Exit Survey, we find our English Majors well satisfied with the quality of their teachers overall, particularly the individual care and attention their teachers give. In the last Exit Survey (1998-1999), over 90% of English Majors judged themselves "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with the effectiveness of the faculty as teachers, and 81.8% were "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with the interest shown by faculty in the student's academic development. In preparation for advanced courses, 77.3% judged themselves "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied," and 95.5% were "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with the quality of instruction in advanced courses. The Exit Survey also indicates that 86.4% of our Majors are "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with the overall quality of their degree program. As one student commented on the Survey, ". . . I have had some wonderful teachers that have really given me a love for English and certain literary works."

Further providing assessment of our Majors' competency in language and literature, the English Department maintains the policy that all English Majors must maintain at least a C average in all major classes in order to graduate.

In the area of scholarly research and criticism, the department continues to require a thorough knowledge of research and MLA documentation format beginning in English 102. Critical papers and/or research papers are required at every level of the major courses, and these are also evaluated for correct use of MLA documentation. Well over 80% of our Majors anticipating graduation in the next two semesters have a B or better in LS 102, also demonstrating research competency.

In the area of plans after graduation, 18.2% of those taking the 1998-1999 Exit Survey indicated they already had full-time jobs before graduation, while 31.8% were beginning to seek employment. Over 50% of our Majors were either accepted or were awaiting acceptance into graduate school immediately after graduation, meeting our assessment goal.

Improving our English Majors' global awareness and multicultural knowledge, the English Department has recently hired two new tenure-track professors, one specializing in World Drama and the other in Literature of the Americas. They will only add to the many courses specified in our Assessment Plan focusing on literature and culture from a global perspective. Meanwhile, our faculty encourages students to take advantage of the several Study Abroad programs offered by SLU which will provide valuable real-life encounters with the places and people inspiring our literary studies to add to research and classroom experience.

One possible area for improvement, according to student ratings in the Exit Survey, is availability of required courses. In this area, 36.4% gave a rating of "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied," indicating our department must evaluate the types of course offerings each semester to assure required courses are readily available. This problem can also be addressed through careful academic advising, so that the student might plan future semesters with course availability in mind.