

Southeastern Louisiana University

Department of History and Government

TO: Dr. Michelle Hall, Research Associate
Institutional Research & Assessment

DATE: 7/7/97

FROM: Roman J. Heleniak, Head
Department of History & Government

RJH

RE: 1997-98 Major Field Assessment Reassessed

I am returning to your office the Estimated 1997-98 Major Field Assessment Funding form with some major changes. I have decided to abandon the Major Field Assessment Test because it is not a reliable instrument to measure the quality of our program.

I have to confess that, despite the statement in the University's General Catalogue that students are required "to complete all assessment procedures related to general education and/or major field assessment," it is next to impossible to FORCE our seniors to take the test. And, some of those taking the test just go through the motions. I have had students score in the first percentile, and while I do not consider our program the equal of some of the University's glamor programs, WE AIN'T THAT BAD.

We have not abandoned major field assessment. HIGO's Social Studies Education majors will continue to take the NTE, because students have to take the test and do the best that they can do on NTA to get a job. That is a built in inducement. Senior faculty members have indicated to me that we should use "capstone" courses to assess our majors in government and history. History 497 (Seminar for Undergraduates in Major Problems in American History) will be used to assess history majors. Details on how this will be done will be forthcoming during the Fall Semester when HIGO will be back to full staff. And the faculty can work on a new plan.

The government majors will also be required to take a capstone course, a course yet unnamed because revamping the government curriculum will be a major activity of the department this year. The rewriting of the history curriculum which is now in the General catalogue and the proposed changes in government are examples of the internal assessment this department has been using for years.

Therefore, I am returning the estimated major field assessment funding form informing you I will not need any money budgeted for major field assessment tests.

RJH/jrr

Attachment