

Major Field Assessment Plan
B.A. Liberal Arts Studies
November, 2007

The Strategic Mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to lead the educational, economic, and cultural development of the southeast region of the state known as the Northshore.

The purpose of the B.A. in Liberal Arts Studies is to develop effectiveness in communication, provide cultural and social background, and prepare students for entrance to postgraduate studies and/or a variety of professions and vocations.

Goal 1

Liberal Arts Studies majors will have broad knowledge of the English language and literature.

A. Expected Outcome

Liberal Arts Studies majors will have adequate knowledge of literary theory, literary history, and major literary works.

Assessment

Liberal Arts Studies majors will earn at least a C average in their major courses.

B. Expected Outcome

Liberal Arts Studies majors will have adequate knowledge of the English language, including grammar, rhetoric, and composition.

Assessment

In each of the major courses, at least one written work will be evaluated for expertise in grammar, rhetoric, and composition. Liberal Arts Studies majors will earn at least a C average in their major courses.

Assessment

In evaluation of collected research papers from 400-level classes, 80 % of graduating seniors will score at least a 2 (“Adequate”) or above on the following criteria:

1. Focused topic
2. Clear thesis/argument structure

3. Organization: development, transition, coherence, supporting evidence
4. Sense of audience
5. Sentence sophistication/effective use of voice and diction
6. Mechanics/Grammatical correctness

C. Expected Outcome

LAS majors will express satisfaction with the quality of instruction and the overall learning environment provided by the Department of English.

Assessment

SLU Exit Survey

D. Expected Outcome

LAS majors will satisfy knowledge goals for the second field.

Assessment

LAS majors will earn at least a C average in their minor field courses.

Goal 2

Liberal Arts Studies majors will have the necessary skills to engage in scholarly research and criticism.

A. Expected Outcome

Liberal Arts Studies majors will be able to use the major indices and library resources pertinent to research in English and in other appropriate fields.

Assessment

60% of the Liberal Arts Studies majors will earn B or better in LS 102.

B. Expected Outcome

LAS majors will be able to analyze intelligently and critically both prose and verse.

Assessment

LAS majors will successfully complete at least twelve hours of English courses which emphasize critical analysis of prose and poetry and will compose a critical research paper in all of these courses.

Assessment

In evaluation of collected research papers from 400-level classes, 80 % of graduating seniors will score at least a 2 (“Adequate”) or above on the following criteria:

- 1 Focused topic
- 2 Clear thesis/argument structure
- 3 Organization: development, transition, coherence, supporting evidence
- 4 Sense of audience
- 5 Valid interpretation of primary text

C. Expected Outcome

LAS majors will acquire thorough knowledge and skill in the use of MLA or other formal documentation format.

Assessment

Every paper assigned in the major classes beginning with English 102 will be evaluated carefully for correct use of MLA documentation; in addition, students must demonstrate correct MLA citation form in the English Proficiency Exam.

Assessment

In evaluation of research papers gathered from 400-level classes of each graduating senior, 80% will score 2 (“Adequate”) or above on the following criterion: Correct incorporation of secondary sources / Use of MLA or other formal documentation style.

Goal 3

LAS majors will be prepared for postgraduate studies and/or a variety of professions and vocations.

Expected Outcome

At least 50% of LAS majors will be accepted to programs of postgraduate studies and/or will be employed in a profession utilizing their language and literature skills within six months after graduation.

Assessment

SLU Survey of Undergraduate Degree Alumni

Goal 4

LAS majors will possess cultural knowledge and global awareness through reading, research, and field experience.

A. Expected Outcome

LAS majors will acquire knowledge of world governments, cultures, peoples, language, and histories through a study of literature

Assessment

Students have the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of multi-cultural and ethnic literatures, including English 121H (Ancient Epic), 122H (Modern Epic), 230 (World Literature), 231 (British Literature), 291H (Tragedy and Comedy), 292H (Modern Fiction), 301 (British Literature to 1789), 303 (British Literature after 1789), 310 (African Diaspora), 316 (The Bible as Literature), 317 (Folklore and Oral Literature), 351 (Early World Literature), 352 (Modern World Literature), 373 (Film Criticism), 374 (Literature and Film), 392 (Native American Literature), 428/528 (African American Literature Since 1900), 429/527 (Gender Studies and Literature), 435/535 (Shakespeare: Comedies and Romances), 436/536 (Shakespeare: Tragedies and Histories), 437/537 (Major Periods in Drama), 438/538 (Interdisciplinary Approaches to Literature), 457/557 (Medieval England), 458/558 (Major British Authors), 459/559 (19th Century British Literature), 471/522 (Chaucer), 472/523 (Milton), 475/575 (Introduction to Contemporary Criticism), 487/587 (Major World Authors), and 489/589 (Postmodern and Contemporary Literature).

B. Expected Outcome

LAS majors will have more opportunity and encouragement to acquire knowledge of other countries, governments, peoples, languages, and histories through field experience.

Assessment

Student participation in study-abroad programs will increase because of greater information on present programs, teacher encouragement to participate in these programs, and dissemination of information about scholarships and other inducements to student travel.