

Review of the MFA Results and Report on Curricular Change
BA Liberal Arts Studies
Spring 2006

The results of student comments on the 2004-2005 Southeastern Exit Survey indicate that our Liberal Arts Studies (LAS) majors are satisfied with the quality of their degree program: 100% of the nine respondents rated themselves along the range of "Satisfied" to "Very Satisfied" with the overall quality of the English Department. In the area of opportunities to interact with faculty outside of class, 88.9% of English majors fell along the spectrum of from "Satisfied" to "Very Satisfied." 100% were "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with faculty interest in students' academic development, with the effectiveness of faculty as teachers, with the effectiveness of beginning courses in preparing students for advanced courses, with the availability of required majors courses, and with faculty treatment outside of the classroom. 88.9% were pleased with the quality of instruction in their advanced courses. 100% judged themselves "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with their advisor's concern for their academic goals.

The LAS degree requires students to take 27 hours of English (generally 15 hours at the upper level) and 24 hours in a second field in the humanities. The complexity of the program requirements has resulted in only 55.6 of graduates expressing satisfaction with the clarity of the degree requirements in the catalogue and curriculum sheet. During 2005-2006 the department's Curriculum Committee revised the four-year course sequence in the catalogue so as to combine some footnotes and to clarify how the 30-33 hours of electives tie into both the English and humanities portions of the major. Despite some dissatisfaction with the materials defining the program, 88.9% of LAS graduates are, however, "Satisfied" to "Very Satisfied" with the overall quality of the degree program.

Further providing assessment of our majors' competency in language and literature, the English Department maintains the policy that all Liberal Arts Studies majors must maintain at least a C average in all major classes in order to graduate. 100% of the LAS majors fell in the range of "Satisfied" to "Very Satisfied" with their knowledge of literary theory, history, major literary works, and components of the English language. Likewise, they all felt that they had improved in their ability to write coherent essays.

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. 100% of our English majors judged themselves "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with their ability to use library resources in the field of English. 100% were "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with the global perspective of their courses.