

The Department of Mathematics Assessment Report

2007 – 2009

We reviewed the available data to see how well the department was meeting its goals as reflected in the Goal Attainment Frameworks for Mathematics Majors and Mathematics Education Majors on pages three and four of this report.

B.S. in Mathematics

- The percentage of mathematics graduates scoring above the 40th percentile on the Major Field Achievement Test in Mathematics could be improved. The primary recommendation here is to continue emphasizing the concepts in 300- and 400-level mathematics courses. By encouraging faculty to focus on basic proof-writing in all 400-level courses, this percentage could undoubtedly be increased.
- Results of our Exit Surveys indicate that our graduates are comfortable asking for letters of recommendation and for the opportunities/support for attending professional meetings.
- All graduates during the reporting period either obtain employment in a mathematics-related field or gained admission into graduate school.

B.S. in Mathematics Education

- The percentage of mathematics education graduates scoring above the 40th percentile on the Major Field Achievement Test in Mathematics needs improvement. The primary recommendation here is to strongly emphasize the concepts in 300- and 400-level mathematics courses. By encouraging faculty to focus on basic proof-writing in all 400-level courses, this percentage could undoubtedly be increased.
- In exit interviews, many math education students report a lack of connection between upper-level mathematics coursework and the material they are expected to teach at the high-school level. They are insecure about their ability to teach certain topics effectively.
- Results of our Exit Surveys indicate that our graduates are comfortable asking for letters of recommendation and for the opportunities/support for attending professional meetings.
- Since it is a requirement for graduation, all of our math education graduates passed the Praxis Exam. However, some did not pass it on their first attempt, and the scores of some who passed should be improved. The Department needs to focus on emphasizing topics in all math courses that will help develop the students' facility with these skills and concepts.

GOAL ATTAINMENT FRAMEWORK

B.S., Mathematics
Department of Mathematics

Academic Years 2007 – 2008 & 2008 – 2009

Expected Outcome	Much Less than Expected	Less than Expected	Expected	More than Expected	Much More than Expected
% of graduates scoring above the 40th percentile on the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Mathematics			80%		
% of graduates satisfied with their mathematics instruction, as indicated on the SLU Exit Survey. (Item #7)			90%		
% of graduates who feel comfortable asking for letters of recommendation from at least three professors in the Mathematics Department as evidenced by the SLU Exit Survey. (Item #40)			100%		
% of graduates who feel they were given opportunities and support for attending professional mathematics meetings while a student at SLU as evidenced by the SLU Exit Survey. (Item #41)			80%		
% of graduates who have career employment or will be enrolled in graduate school as evidence by the SLU Mathematics Post Exit Survey.			60%		

GOAL ATTAINMENT FRAMEWORK

B.S. in Mathematics Education
Department of Mathematics

Academic Years 2007 – 2008 & 2008 – 2009

Expected Outcome	Much Less than Expected	Less than Expected	Expected	More than Expected	Much More than Expected
% of graduates scoring above the 40th percentile on the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Mathematics			80%		
% of graduates satisfied with their mathematics instruction, as indicated on the SLU Exit Survey. (Item #7)			90%		
% of graduates who pass the National Teachers Exam			100%		
% of graduates who feel comfortable asking for letters of recommendation from at least three professors in the Mathematics Department as evidenced by the SLU Exit Survey. (Item #40)			100%		
% of graduates who feel they were given opportunities and support for attending professional mathematics meetings while a student at SLU as evidenced by the SLU Exit Survey. (Item #41)			80%		
% of graduates who have career employment or will be enrolled in graduate school as evidence by the SLU Mathematics Post Exit Survey.			60%		