

**REVIEW OF MAJOR FIELD ASSESSMENT RESULTS
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**

December 2007

The following narrative applies to the following programs in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures:

- a. B.A. in French (AHSS)**
- b. B.A. in Spanish (AHSS)**
- c. B.A. in French Education**
- d. B.A. in Spanish Education**

Reviewing results of student comments on the 2005-2006 Southeastern Exit Survey, we find that our French and Spanish Majors are satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of the department and the effectiveness of the faculty as teachers. 100% of students in Spanish rated themselves “Very Satisfied” with the opportunities to interact with faculty outside class, and the degree of friendliness, helpfulness and accessibility of the foreign language faculty. 100% of students in French have rated themselves “Very Satisfied” with the extent to which foreign language courses has broadened their knowledge and understanding of different cultures.

The Survey also shows that students in French and Spanish are satisfied or very satisfied with the opportunity to interact with faculty in research or other scholarly activities, and the quality of instruction regarding standards and ethics in their major field. Furthermore, students in Spanish rated themselves satisfied or very satisfied with opportunities to collaborate with other students on class projects while both French and Spanish majors appreciate the size of their classes.

In accordance with our Major Field Assessment Plan all students completing a baccalaureate in French or Spanish or French or Spanish Education must take the Oral Proficiency Interview in French or Spanish, and 80% of these students must attain at least a score of Intermediate High. The results of these interviews are quite gratifying in that our goal was surpassed. ACTFL, our SPA accreditation agency has however changed the minimum requirement for the oral interviews from Intermediate High to Advanced Low and the new catalogue, 2008-2009, will reflect these changes.

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 foreign language and cultural studies to add to research and classroom experience. Our Department has expanded its offering adding interdisciplinary programs in France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. Last summer students enjoyed a new location in South America, Quito, Ecuador, in an effort to address students’ comments about offering a variety of programs and destinations. The recent survey indicates that 66.7 % of French students and 85.7% of Spanish students were very satisfied with opportunities to experience summer study abroad. Lately, we have added a mini study abroad program

in Germany to be completed during spring break. This cultural program will be more affordable, giving our students a greater opportunity to experience study abroad.

As far as our Foreign Language Education program, only Spanish Education majors graduated during the 2005-2006 survey. This survey indicates 100% satisfaction in the degree to which Spanish courses have improved the student's ability to communicate and write effectively on a basic level. The largest improvement with respect to past surveys, however, is in the area of practicum, internship and hands-on-experiences outside of the classroom. In the 2004-2005 survey students in Foreign Language Education were 100% dissatisfied in this category, but in the 2005-2006 survey students were 100% satisfied. The creation of two new courses, which include field experience and internship, are the reasons for this improvement. In addition, this year we made other changes due, in part, to the NCATE/ACTFL report. We have created a new curriculum for education majors which will appear on the new catalogue. We do not have any doubt that these changes will further improve our program.