

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

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 students comments of the Southeastern Exit Survey, we find our French and Spanish Majors satisfied with the quality of their teachers overall, particularly the individual care and attention their teachers give. In the last Exit Survey (2003-2004) all the students are “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the degree of friendliness, helpfulness and accessibility of the foreign language faculty and with the effectiveness of the faculty as teachers.

Further, 90% of students are satisfied with facilities and equipment for courses in the major, as well as the technology in the classroom, and this is 40% increase over the previous year. This is a good reflection on our new Foreign Language Resource Center. The Survey also shows that students are satisfied or very satisfied with opportunities to collaborate with other students on class projects and that they appreciate the size of classes in their major.

Additionally, 87.5% of students are very satisfied with the extent to which foreign language courses have broadened their knowledge and understanding of different cultures, and the real-world experiences and exposure in or out of the classroom.

In accordance with our Major Field Assessment Plan (copy attached) 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. The results of the ACTFL OPI Interviews are classified as 1) Novice; 2) Intermediate; 3) Advanced. Those classified as “Novice” and “Intermediate” are further subdivided as a) Low; b) Medium; and c) High. Those classified as “Advanced” are subdivided as a) Advanced Plus and b) Superior.

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 and the Mediterranean area. This year we have also changed the Spanish program location, from Costa Rica to Mexico, in an effort to address one of the students’ comments about offering a variety of programs and destinations. The recent survey indicates that 100% of students who went to France or Costa Rica were satisfied of very

satisfied with study abroad. Lately, many students in the Department have also been initiated in the International Foreign Language Honor Society, Phi Sigma Iota.

The last survey indicates that only 40% of students of Spanish are satisfied or very satisfied in the area of practicum, internship and hands-on-experiences outside of the classroom, while 100% of students in French Education are dissatisfied. We addressed the need for more internship opportunities and created two new courses, FLAN 403 and SPAN/FREN 303, in which students obtain direct Service Learning experiences.

One student in French Education expressed disappointment toward the College of Education and Human Development due to the frequent changes occurred in this student's curriculum. These changes, however, were mandated by the state. We intend to work closely with the College of Education to avoid similar problems in the future.