

Division of General Studies – SLU Box 1672 – Hammond, LA 70402
Phone (985) 549-3755 FAX (985) 549-3879

Review of MFA Results and Report on Use of Results
Bachelor of General Studies
March 1, 2011

Reviewing the results of the 2008-09 assessment responses indicates areas of strength and weakness within the Bachelor of General Studies program. One area of strength is in the number of graduates who feel satisfied with their general education knowledge, such as reading, writing, and speaking. Another strength is overall satisfaction with the degree plan, and with the advisors and office staff within the Division. Of concern is the percentage of students who desire more assistance in seeking employment after graduation.

The survey results reported in 2008-09 show a high degree of satisfaction with the development of “ability to write well” (95.8%), “ability to speak effectively” (96.8%), and “ability to use logic and critical thinking skills” (96.5%). Additionally, graduates are satisfied with the “overall quality of the department” (96.9%) and the “overall quality of the degree program” (97.6%).

Students expressed 92.8% satisfaction with the “interest shown by faculty” in their academic development, and 91.1% satisfaction with their exposure to “real-world experiences in or out of the classroom.” However, one area of concern is how many of the 294 respondents were dissatisfied with help from faculty “with regard to further educational activities” (8.2%) and help “with regard to finding employment” in their field (10.6%). This is an issue that can be addressed through advising. And although 91.8% expressed satisfaction with the “accessibility” of their advisor and 50.3% reported meeting with an advisor 3 or more times in the previous academic year, a high percentage of students (27.4%) indicated that they had only met with an advisor at the required two times to discuss registering for classes.

Majors in General Studies express satisfaction with their preparation to enter various graduate programs, and the Division will continue to work with majors to achieve their goals after graduation. Career Planning 304, which is taught by the Division of General Studies, offers students an excellent opportunity to prepare for future employment, and a high percentage of majors take the course. Faculty in the Division award points to students for attendance at career fairs, post employment opportunities on Blackboard, and offer sessions on interviewing skills. They also direct interested students to the Career Services office on campus, useful online sites, and the Graduate School at Southeastern Louisiana University. All General Studies advisors are available to provide individualized assistance with career and educational goals. The Division will continue to use email, telephone, and Blackboard to alert students to the availability of General Studies advisors.