

The Department of Mathematics Assessment Committee 2005-06 Report

Assessment Committee Chair David Gurney 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.

For **Mathematics Majors**, the results and recommendations were as follows.

The Major Field Achievement Test was not given due to the disruption of the campus and southeastern Louisiana by Hurricane Katrina. Data from 03-04 showed that 50% of our graduates scored above the 40th percentile, far below the expected value of 80%. The only recommendation is to continue to emphasize the understanding of concepts in our upper level mathematics courses since most of the items in the Major Field Assessment test are of a conceptual nature.

87.5% of graduates were satisfied with their mathematics instruction as indicated by item #7 of the SLU Exit Survey. This was slightly less than the expected value of 90%, but it should be above this level. Faculty are urged to do what they can to improve their instruction methods.

100% of graduates were comfortable asking for letters of recommendation from at least three faculty members as evidenced by item 40 in the SLU Exit Survey. This is the value we expected and hope that it stays at that level. Earlier committees have asked faculty members to add notes to their syllabi encouraging students to ask for letters of recommendations, and advisors were told to encourage their advisees to ask the mathematics faculty for letters of recommendation. These recommendations should still be followed.

100% of graduates felt they were given opportunities and support for attending professional meetings as evidenced by item 41 in the SLU Exit Survey. This was much higher than the expected value of 80%, but we hope it is not a fluke. Earlier committees suggested that the department do more to make students aware of opportunities for travel to meetings, funded research, presenting papers or participating in mathematics competitions. This suggestion still applies.

The Department of Mathematics did send out a Post-Exit Survey last year in August, but due to the interruption by Hurricane Katrina, very few surveys were returned.

For **Mathematics Education Majors**, the results and recommendations were as follows.

Again, due to the disruption of campus life by Katrina, the Major Field Assessment Test was not given last year. The last administration of the Major Field Assessment Test to Mathematics Education majors was in June of 2003. At that time only 37.5% scored above the 40th percentile, and the expected value was 80%. As with the Mathematics majors, it is recommended that the Department promote the understanding of concepts in its courses since most of the items in this test are of a conceptual nature.

60% of graduates were satisfied with their mathematics instruction as indicated by item #7 of the SLU Exit Survey. This is far below the expected value of 90%, and the mathematics faculty should definitely try to reverse this trend.

100% of our Mathematics Majors passed the Mathematics portion of the Praxis Exam during the 2003-2004 testing period. This percentage was reported in Southeastern Louisiana University: Profile 2005. We hope that this trend continues.

80% of graduates were comfortable asking for letters of recommendation from faculty members as evidenced by item 40 in the SLU Exit Survey. This is quite a bit below the expected value of 100%, and the department should definitely encourage students to ask for letters of recommendation from faculty members.

80% of graduates felt they were given opportunities and support for attending professional meetings as evidenced by item 41 in the SLU Exit Survey. This matches the expected value of 80%, and we hope that percentage who felt they were given opportunities and support holds steady or increases above 80%.

As noted previously, a Post Exit Survey was sent out in August, but due to Katrina's arrival very few were returned.

As a **Final Note**, Assessment Committee members Rebecca Muller and David Gurney finished their commitment to the three-part Mathematical Association of America Supporting Assessment in Undergraduate Mathematics (SAUM) workshop. We used what we learned to revise the assessment procedure for our Mathematics majors. We revised some items in Senior Exit Survey, a change that will not go into effect until this year, and had some professors look over final exams in a few courses to judge our majors proof writing ability. This last investigation showed that somewhere between 28% and 34% of our majors know how to write proofs. The next step is to revise the assessment procedure for our Mathematics Education majors.

GOAL ATTAINMENT FRAMEWORK

B.S., Mathematics
Department of Mathematics

Academic Year 2005-06

January 31, 2007May 5, 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	MFAT	not	80% given	due to	Katrina
% of graduates satisfied with their mathematics instruction, as indicated on the SLU Exit Survey. (Item #7)		04-05 87.5%	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)			04-05 100%		
% 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%		04-05 100%
% of graduates who have career employment or will be enrolled in graduate school as evidence by the SLU Mathematics Post Exit Survey.	Survey	compro-	mised	by	Katrian

GOAL ATTAINMENT FRAMEWORK

B.S., Mathematics Education
Department of Mathematics

Academic Year 2005-06

May 5, 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	MFAT	not	80% given	due to	Katrina
% of graduates satisfied with their mathematics instruction, as indicated on the SLU Exit Survey. (Item #7)	04-05 60%		90%		
% of graduates who pass the National Teachers Exam			03-04 100%		
% 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)	04-05 80%		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)			04-05 80%		
% of graduates who have career employment or will be enrolled in graduate school as evidence by the SLU Mathematics Post Exit Survey.	Survey	compro-	60% mised	by	Katrina