

Review of the MFA Results and Report on Curricular Change
Spring 2006
B.A. English Education

Reviewing results of student comments on the SLU Exit Survey, we find our English Education Majors well satisfied with the quality of their teachers overall, particularly the individual care and attention their teachers give. In the last Exit Survey (2004-2005), 83.3% of English Education Majors judged themselves “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the effectiveness of the faculty as teachers, and a full 100% of those surveyed described themselves as “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the academic advice from their advisors. Since 83.3% of respondents judged themselves “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with their practicum, internship, or other hands-on experiences outside the classroom, and 100% of respondents judged themselves “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with preparation for developing lesson plans, and 83.4% indicated a “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” in the improved knowledge of major literary works, our English Education graduates indicate confidence in both their major subject and their ability to teach that subject. This conclusion is confirmed by the 83.3% of respondents who described themselves as “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the overall quality of their degree program.

Further providing assessment of English Education Majors’ competency in language and literature and in teaching those subjects, the English Department maintains the policy that all English Education Majors must maintain a C or better in all English courses, particularly in English 467, “The Teaching of Writing,” and in English 468, “The Teaching of Literature.”

In the area of scholarly research and criticism, the department continues to require a thorough knowledge of research and MLA documentation format beginning in English 102. Critical papers and/or research papers are required at every level of the major courses, and these are also evaluated for correct use of MLA documentation. Well over 80% of English Education Majors anticipating graduation in the next two semesters have a B or better in LS 102, also demonstrating research competency.

Improving our English Majors’ global awareness and multicultural knowledge, the English Department continues to develop new courses and add to the many courses specified in our Assessment Plan focusing on literature and culture from a global perspective. Meanwhile, faculty members encourage 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 our literary studies to add to research and classroom experience.

One possible area for improvement, according to student ratings in the Exit Survey, is in student opinions of the degree to which English courses have improved knowledge of the English language. Only 33% of the students rated themselves “satisfied” in this area, revealing a lack of confidence from students particularly in regard to grammar instruction. This problem can be addressed through emphasis in a variety of courses including the Teaching of Writing class and in the one Advanced Grammar course required for these students.