

Review of the MFA Results and Report on Curricular Change
BA English
Spring 2006

Reviewing results of student comments on the 2004-2005 Southeastern Exit Survey, we find that our English majors are satisfied with the quality of their degree program: 89.6% rated themselves along the range of “Satisfied” to “Very Satisfied” with the overall quality of the English Department. In the area of opportunities to interact with faculty outside of class, 93.1% of English majors fell along the spectrum of from “Satisfied” to “Very Satisfied,” while 89.7% were “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with faculty interest in students’ academic development and 96.6% were pleased with the quality of instruction in their advanced courses. 86.2% judged themselves “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with their advisor’s concern for their academic goals. One student wrote, “Dr. Ply was very helpful in keeping me on track in both the English requirements and the Honors Program requirements. I could not have gotten everything I needed done without her help.” Another student commented that the entire English Department helped her. She wrote, “One of the best things about SLU was knowing that I had a department that was knowledgeable in a variety of areas. Therefore, the English Department played a huge part in helping me successfully lead the way to graduation!”

Further providing assessment of our majors’ competency in language and literature, the English Department maintains the policy that all English majors must maintain at least a C average in all major classes in order to graduate.

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 our majors anticipating graduation in the next two semesters have a B or better in LS 102, also demonstrating research competency. 96.6% of our English majors judged themselves “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with their ability to use library resources in the field of English. 89.7% were “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with the global perspective of their courses.

There has been a marked improvement from 2001-2002 in the level of satisfaction English majors feel in regard to the help they’ve received from faculty in finding employment in their field: from 36.3% in 2001-2002, 72.5% of respondents in 2004-2005 judge themselves “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” in this category.