

General Studies Program  
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Narrative Response to 1997 Survey of Undergraduate Alumni and  
1997-98 Exit Survey

The General Studies program is not the same as the other degree-granting departments on campus because it is only a degree program. Thus, many of the questions asked in the surveys about faculty, class size, resources, etc. concern issues beyond the control of the program's Director. What the Director does control is the advising process; it is these responses that most accurately reflect on the program. Having said that, it should also be noted that the program changed Directors in Fall 1997. The comments in the cited surveys do not come from students who graduated under the new Director. I therefore expect the next surveys to be a more useful assessment of the current program and its management.

At present, the number of students who are "Very Satisfied" with the program is too low. I expect these percentages to be higher in future surveys because several of the specific complaints against the program have been addressed. It should also be noted that general comments about the student's university experience as a whole are often lumped in with statements about the General Studies program; these do not reflect on General Studies.

In summary, I have made conscientious effort to improve the experience of General Studies majors, and I expect that effort to be reflected in stronger student satisfaction numbers in future surveys.