Humanities Program Assessment AY 2007-2008

English

MFT SCORES

Students Assessed: 21
  Day: 16
  Evening: 5

DAY

Mean: 153.5 40%tile

16 Students took the MFT during this period. While probably still too low of a number to be statistically significant, it is a larger number than previous years. The National Mean score was 155.2, only 1.7 points higher than CC.

Scores were widely divergent; one student scored in the 94 percentile and three students scored in the 0 percentile (probably indicating not taking the test seriously). The MFT for Literature in English provides area scores for eight different competency areas. Our students scored marginally better in “American Literature to 1900” and “Literature in English since 1945.” Again only marginally, but the weakest area was “British Literature 1660-1990.” Dr. Johanna Denzin is scheduled to teach British Literature I every fall from now on and I think this weakness will disappear.

It is my belief that the recent change in the English curriculum will result in better MFT scores as well as consistently offering American and British Literature survey courses. For better analysis in the future, I have asked Jana Whitehurse to split the cohort between those who pursued the Literature emphasis and those who pursued Creative Writing.

EVENING

Mean: 142.2 20%tile

The Evening cohort was even smaller than the Day with only 5 students taking the exam. Consequently, I am skeptical that I can provide any meaningful analysis. The mean score in the evening is significantly below the national average (-13 points). Again, scores were widely divergent. The top score was at the 80th percentile and the lowest in the 0 range. Similar to the Day, students appeared marginally better prepared for “American Literature to 1900” and marginally less prepared for “British Literature 1660-1900.”
Philosophy and Religious Studies

Students Assessed: 4

There is no major field test for this area, and there were only four graduates. Assessment is limited to the culminating experience course: PHIL 490 Thematic Seminar in Philosophy and Religious Studies.

While the number of participants is too small to warrant much analysis, it did appear that the fewer number of transfer credit the stronger the student.

Philosophy and Religious Studies continues to suffer from the nature of its combined program. Those students interested in Philosophy need more experience dealing with contemporary works and learning to adopt the style of professional philosophy. Those students interested in Religious Studies need more exposure to the fundamentals in that field. Ideally, we will continue to grow the program and eventually allow each its own major.

Speech Communication

Students Assessed: 5

Again, this is a field with no MFT and a very small cohort. Assessment takes place in COMM 495 Speech Communication Integrative Seminar.

Strengths observed by the instructor include public communication and social awareness. Weaknesses appear to be mostly in the area of Communication Theory. This weakness will be addressed through course offerings and advising.