

Summary of Social Science Program/Degree Loop Closing

At the September 18, 2012 Division Meeting, the chairs for the division discussed the results of the Social Science degree. Faculty expressed their pleasure at the passage rate as well as the amount of data. The faculty observed that the quantity of data indicates that the division departments are taking the SLO process seriously. As a result of the course level results, departments have instituted changes to curriculum and assessment. One department indicated the faculty in that department had revised a rubric three times over the years to improve student learning and the faculty's evaluation of the assessment.

The faculty observed that the high pass rate can also be attributed to the quality of students who take these courses. As it is a degree, faculty noted that the courses that are required for the degree are 200 level. Thus, the students are highly motivated, degree oriented, and tend to perform well on assessments. However, the faculty noted that scheduling can impact the results. If these courses are scheduled more than once a year, then non-degree students also enroll in the class because they need a class to fill their schedule. If it is offered only once a year, then the vast majority of the students who enroll are degree-oriented and perform better.

Faculty also indicated that encouraging students to participate in Supplemental Instruction (SI) played a key role in the increase in student's assessment results. Students were encouraged to take the APA, study techniques, note taking, and other SI trainings.