

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY: COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
ACADEMIC ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2005-2006

I. Unit Title: College of Arts and Sciences

Unit Administrator: Collier Parker, Dean

II. Data and information for department

2005-2006 Bulletin

DSU Website <http://www.deltastate.edu>

III. Departments/Divisions

Department of Art, Bill Lester, Chair

Division of Biological and Physical Sciences, John Tiftickjian, Chair

Department of History, Bo Morgan, Chair

Division of Languages and Literature, Dorothy Shawhan, Chair

Department of Mathematics, Rose Strahan, Chair

Department of Music, David Schubert, Chair

Division of Social Sciences, Albert Nylander, Chair

Department of Social Work, Alinda Sledge, Chair

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Gloria Brister, Chair

The mission of the College of Arts and Sciences is to provide learning opportunities in which students may increase knowledge, develop creativity, communication skills, critical thinking, and problem solving abilities; and deepen their understanding of themselves, their society, and the environment. Through programs in the humanities, fine arts, mathematics, social sciences, and natural sciences, students are prepared to demonstrate competence in their chosen fields of study. Additionally, the College provides a strong liberal arts foundation for all degree programs through the general education core, defining for society what it means to be an educated person.

Majors in the College of Arts and Sciences may earn the **Bachelor of Arts** degree, the **Bachelor of Science** degree, the **Bachelor of Science in Education** degree, the **Bachelor of Fine Arts** degree, the **Bachelor of Music** degree, the **Bachelor of Music Education** degree, the **Bachelor of Social Work** degree, the **Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice** degree, and the **Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies** degree. Students pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Education degree for the Secondary School Teacher in the subject areas offered by the College of Arts and Sciences are considered as majors in their respective departments in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Paper copies of the reports providing data on goals, performance results, assessment of performance, and use of the assessment data in planning for each of the major functions within the various departments and divisions are available in the Institutional Research and Planning office and on-line at the IR&P web-site.

Planning and assessment within the College takes place at the department/division level. Each department/division has standing committees that meet regularly to evaluate curriculum, assessment procedures, and make recommendations for program improvement. The committees rely on a variety of assessment methods including portfolio reviews, standardized tests, exit exams, minimum grade requirements in pre-requisite courses, student evaluations, capstone courses, employer surveys, and PRAXIS scores as ways of measuring performance. Department committees use the results of these assessment methods to make recommendations for improvement.

Recommendations that include curriculum changes and new or revised courses are submitted to the Academic Council for review and approval after endorsement by the department faculty.

The College dean convenes a Council of Chairs each month to discuss departmental issues and directions as they relate to the college and university. Information and decisions made by the Council are passed to departments by the chairs for consideration and action.

Several departments are accredited by discipline specific accrediting agencies. The Department of Art is in good standing with the National Association of Schools of Art and Design and is scheduled for re-accreditation in 2008-09. The Department of Music is in good standing with the National Association of Schools of Music. The Division of Biological and Physical Sciences has been continuously accredited by the American Chemical Society since 1979. The Social Work program was granted re-affirmation of accreditation for eight years with no contingencies. All of the programs that offer teacher education training are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

IV. Curriculum Changes as a result of Planning and Assessment. Some Examples:

- Art – Based on feedback from internship employers over the past several years the department completely revised the Graphic design curriculum to allow students to study courses more specific to today's graphic design market such as web design, motion graphics, and illustration.
- History – Curriculum committee has begun work on development of Western Civilization core curriculum in response to an examination given to assess student knowledge of the development of Western Civilization.
- History – Developed a tutoring program in 2000-01 to support students in general education survey courses. The program is customized for each instructor's course. The department continues to monitor declining student scores and is seeking ways to address these deficiencies.
- Mathematics – General Education: Gives a final exam to determine student mastery of basic knowledge of college algebra topics. The exam is being revised to make it reflect more specific content knowledge. Low scores in some areas have lead to greater classroom attention and review of these content areas.
- Music- Added content specific writing rubrics in fall 2005 covering historical, compositional, aesthetic and performance components to allow for assessment of

the department goal that each music student be able to synthesize and articulate theoretical, stylistic, and historical concepts and perspectives.

- Music- Added a smart classroom to support the department goal of increasing student's use of technology.
- Social Science (Political Science) – Assessment of student portfolios led to the decision to move away from textbooks toward essay and book length literature to help in developing a stronger background for writing and understanding of Political Science structures and relationships in and among institutions and actors of these systems.
- Social Science – Will begin to use Task Stream to manage the documentation of student portfolios.
- Social Work- Have begun administering the BEAP National Standardized sixteen page test to assess the department's first learning outcome – “students should be able to apply the values of the social work profession with an understanding of and respect for the positive values of diversity.” Results will be available in Summer 2007.
- Speech and Hearing – Added a Neuroanatomy course to better prepare students for graduate work; added an introduction to dysphagia in the “Voice Disorders” course.

V. Major Accomplishments:

- There were 68 publications and presentations state and nation wide by A&S faculty
- A&S faculty chaired faculty development events like the ROMEA and Arts in April programs
- 1 state and 1 national award recognition
- 3 outstanding teaching awards
- 1 Kossman outstanding teacher award
- 18 faculty participated in the “Research and Scholarship Symposium,”
- 8 faculty participated in the Faculty Technology Institutes & 3 faculty served as facilitators.
- In 2006 over \$1.2 million dollars were raised through grant efforts such as the \$95,000 IHL grant for the math department “Algebra and Geometry Institute,” \$53,000 grant for GIS software and \$300,000 in private support was raised for the Excellence in Science fund.
- After a year of planning by faculty and architects the renovation of Kethley Hall began in June 2006. The renovated building will have state of the art “smart classrooms” student engagement areas, a GIS technology suite, and larger faculty offices. Classes are scheduled to return to the building in fall of 2007.
- Faculty, architects and lab design specialists have worked together to plan the complete renovation of the math and science building, Caylor/White/Walters. This building will have state of the art modular labs, smart classrooms, and other improvements to help serve the next generation of math and science students. Funding for this project has become DSU's top priority.

- The Social Work program was granted re-affirmation of accreditation for eight years with no contingencies. Fewer than 20% of social work programs nation wide are re-accredited with no progress report required.
- The Art department held the first International Delta Film and Video Festival. Festival was advertised internationally and included submissions from several US states and from around the world including France, Germany, and Australia thus raising the profile of the DSU Art Department. The highlight of the festival was the preview of Robert Mugge's film, "New Orleans Music in Exile."
- The fifth "Summer Study, Florence, Italy" 5-week program was offered May 25-June 28 with 15 students. Collier Parker and Greg Hospodor directed the program which offered students an international experience with the chance to take art history, painting, and history courses.
- The Center for Geospatial Information Systems assisted with rescue efforts with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Received national recognition for these efforts.