ASSESSMENT WEBSITE INFORMATION

College: Humanities Degree Program: English MA

Chair/Director: Jerry Ball

DATA SAY:

A high number of students taking the English MA exam failed at least one part.

SO WHAT:

The high number of failures created delays in graduation, stress for students and faculty, and tension when students who had high grade point averages failed their comprehensive exams.

HOW WE CHANGED:

Graduate faculty agreed to put more emphasis on timed comp-style exams in graduate classes. (This was in addition to a change instituted several years ago whereby students began taking one part of the three-part comprehensive exam, the part of the exam requiring them to explicate a poem with which they were unfamiliar, within the first year. This change allowed the students to improve their explication skills in time for those skills to be useful in their coursework and also allowed time for students who couldn't pass the exam on their first try to remediate.)

WHAT WE GOT:

More students are now passing the explication portion of the exam before the end of their coursework, so that what had been a very high failure rate is improved.



