

**SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE  
ASSOCIATE IN ARTS FOR LIBERAL STUDIES (205)  
Program Review Executive Summary**

**Date of Review:** Fall 2017

**Recommended Date of Next Review:** Fall 2022

**Centrality to Institutional Mission:**

The Liberal Studies degree program encompasses basic general education courses required of all students at Seminole State College. SSC believes the General Education program is a conduit between the educational mission of the institution by promoting academic success, personal development, and lifelong learning. The General Education courses within the Liberal Studies degree program include an educational foundation of skills, knowledge, and values that prepare students for success in their majors and in their personal and professional lives after graduation. These General Education courses include courses that assist students in transfer programs as well as terminal programs.

**Program Objectives and Goals:**

- Continue to provide liberal studies courses for the majority of SSC students who transfer with a Liberal Studies degree. SSC will look at general studies courses each semester to add or reduce course offerings.
- Work with Director of Advising and advisors to increase student and faculty awareness of the articulation agreements between colleges and universities in the state system and the advantage of receiving an associate degree before transferring to a four-year institution.

**Quality Indicators Such As:**

- Student Learning Outcomes
- Effective Teaching
- Effective Learning Environments
- Capacity to Meet Needs and Expectations of Constituencies

SSC employs a wide variety of quality indicators to assess student learning outcomes, demonstrate effective teaching and learning environments as well as conducting internal evaluations. The **CAAP Test** revealed that SSC students scored near national means in all five subject areas. SSC students averaged a score of 62.0 on the Writing Skills test, which is 1.2 higher than the national mean. In Math, SSC students performed slightly below the national mean with a score of 56.0 compared to the national mean of 56.1. In Critical Thinking, SSC students scored below the national mean of 60.2 with a score of 59.7. SSC students scored higher than the national mean in Reading with a score of 60.2 and slightly below the national mean in Science with a score 0.1 below their counterparts with 45+ credit hours at other two-year institutions nationwide. The **CCSSE Survey** showed that students responded positively in believing instructors want them to succeed. A majority of students received information about financial aid, enrolled in courses at times convenient to their schedule, and met with an academic advisor at times convenient to the student.

In regards to **Course Embedded Assessment**, each instructor can determine what assessment option is most valuable for each of their respective courses from multiple options. In General Studies, all General Education outcomes are assessed. Post-assessment data reveals an increase in successful completion percentages from pre-assessment to post-assessment for each outcome, with post-assessment range of scores from 71% to 79% that substantiate that student learning occurred based on the General Education Outcomes. All of the post-test percentages were above the 60% threshold typically considered passing in letter grade assessments. All four were above the 70% mark.

**Productivity for Most Recent 5 Years**

**Number of Degrees:**   325   **Number of Majors:**   3923  

**Other Quantitative Measures Such As:**

- Number of Courses for Major
- Student Credit Hour in Major

- **Number of Courses for Major:** 41 hours of required courses that all students must take and then an additional 21 hours of courses with options as to which they can choose to complete for Major Field Electives.

<p>– <b>Direct Instructional Costs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Student Credit Hour in Major:</b> 36,385 for review period of 2016-2017 (Includes non-major enrollees)</li> <li>– <b>Direct Instructional Costs:</b> \$696,023 for review period of 2016-2017 (Total for Language Arts and Humanities division)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Effective Use of Resources</b></p>	<p>The institution plans to continue to devote institutional resources- human, physical, and financial- to enhance instruction and to maintain effective operations of the institution. Efforts are ongoing to routinely upgrade computers, servers, and software. Emphasis is being placed technology in the classroom, development of online courses, and on colloquial programs and in-house seminars for faculty on the use of technology in academic courses. SSC has updated the Learning Management System to D2L Brightspace. Systematically, computerized multimedia projection equipment is being purchased and installed in classrooms to foster the use of instructional technology. The College maintains a list of requested technology-based equipment and requests to update older instructional equipment to address as funding becomes available. To support the addition of instructional technology, Seminole State College dedicates allocations from its E &amp; G budget, capital outlay funds, and appropriate federal grants.</p>
<p><b>Strengths and Weaknesses</b></p>	<p><b>Strengths:</b> Seminole State College prepares students to continue their education beyond the two-year level, trains students for careers and other educational opportunities, and makes available resources and services designed to benefit students and the community at large.</p> <p><b>Weaknesses:</b> As an open-enrollment institution, students may be required to take zero-credit level courses prior to their general education courses due to low entrance exam scores. Having to take these zero-credit level courses can be frustrating to students and may prolong their anticipated graduation time frame. The college has worked to implement co-requisite courses in both Math and English to help students graduate within the specified 2-year timeframe.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	<p>Continue to provide liberal studies courses for the majority of SSC students who transfer with a Liberal Studies degree. SSC will look at general studies courses each semester to add or reduce course offerings.</p> <p>Work with Director of Advising and advisors to increase student and faculty awareness of the articulation agreements between colleges and universities in the state system and the advantage of receiving an associate degree before transferring to a four-year institution.</p> <p>Create specialized lists of courses for major field electives courses that students in the liberal Arts degree program could take that would mimic majoring in a degree program to help ensure students can take courses that will assist in completion of transfer degree.</p>