

## **LAAS Students and Compliance with North Central Association of Colleges And Schools' Emphasis on Additional Assessment of Student Learning**

Basically, the NCA wants to know if you're learning anything. Personally, I have no doubt that over the 2 or 3 years the typical student is enrolled in LAAS, that they demonstrate significant progress in achieving the three "student learning objectives": (1) Acquiring a basic introduction to Latin American cultures and societies; (2) Acquiring the means essential to gain an understanding of Latin America and its diverse peoples; (3) Placing Latin America in a comparative perspective. Quantifying this or proving it is quite another matter. Towards that end, each student enrolled as an LAAS major will need to do and/or provide the following:

### **For Objective 1**

- (1) At the completion of each unit of LAAS 3100, in addition to handing in your journal, prepare a separate typed list of the essays you read. A typical entry would read "Geog Area: Mexico; Source: Proceso (19 May 1999); Subject: PAN and Sonora elections. If you made an oral report on the essay, please place an asterisk at beginning of item, e.g., "\*Geog..."
- (2) For the final semester you're enrolled in LAAS 3100, your journal will not be returned, but retained as an example of the level of sophistication you've achieved.
- (3) Your final take-home exam for Hist 1601 will be retained.
- (4) The list of topics developed for LAAS 4101, and the final list of topics and books read on those topics you've selected, will be typed up and submitted.

### **For Objective 2**

- (1) Maintain a cumulative list of those periodical and reference sources used in preparing LAAS assignments. This list might well begin with those examined in LAAS 3201. To be submitted prior to graduation.
- (2) Maintain a cumulative list of Internet sites searched in preparing LAAS assignments. Due prior to graduation.
- (3) Submit a list of all courses taken for LAAS major. List should demonstrate that courses have been taken in 3 or more disciplines.
- (4) If you have had one or more study abroad experiences in Latin America or internships working with US based Hispanics, please prepare a brief (not more than 1 page) description of that experience and relate how it enhanced your "understanding of Latin America and its diverse peoples."

### **For Objective 3**

- (1) Prior to graduation make sure an up-to-date APAS is filed with the LAAS coordinator. This will demonstrate your course work which provides a basis for comparisons.
- (2) Same as No. 4 under Objective 2, but add comments on how your frame(s) of comparison have deepened your understanding and on how your ability to empathize with Latin Americans has been enhanced.
- (3) Same as No. 2 under Objective 1.

**In addition to the above, we'll need to maintain a number of lists (probably will be updated at the end of each semester):**

- (1) UROPs and MAPs relating to Latin America undertaken by LAAS majors.
- (2) LAAS student presentations relating to major.
- (3) Honors and awards won by LAAS majors relative to major.
- (4) LAAS majors participation in discipline related study abroad experiences or internships.