

2006 PEP Survey Results - MAS and JOINT Students

[includes relevant comments from both MAS and Joint students – MLIS-related curriculum and faculty comments from Joint students are in the MLIS report]

The 2006 Program Evaluation Project (PEP) Survey received a total of 91 responses. There were a total of 36 respondents who identified themselves as MAS or JOINT students. One respondent also identified themselves as having a First Nations concentration. In most cases, the responses to each question were “yes,” “no,” or “somewhat,” followed by a space for elaboration. Comments indicated in this space have been summarized and in some cases directly quoted. Names of specific individuals have been removed. There are several types of questions that have been asked in the PEP Survey: those intended to provide feedback on faculty and administration, feedback on LASSA, and lastly, feedback on coursework and extra-curricular participation.

1. What is your program emphasis?

- ♦ JOINT [17/36]
- ♦ MAS [19/36]

2. When did you begin your coursework?

JOINT:

- ♦ September 2003 [2/17]
- ♦ September 2004 [2/17]
- ♦ January 2004 [2/17]
- ♦ September 2005 [1/17]
- ♦ January 2005 [5/17]
- ♦ January 2006 [5/17]

MAS:

- ♦ September 2003 [1/19]
- ♦ September 2004 [8/19]
- ♦ September 2005 [10/19]

3. How many credits will you have completed by April 2006?

JOINT:

MAS:

4. Have your courses met your expectations?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 17.6% [3/17]
- ♦ MAS 31.6% [6/19]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 11.8% [2/17]
- ♦ MAS 15.8% [3/19]

Somewhat:

- ♦ JOINT 70.6% [12/17]
- ♦ MAS 52.6% [10/19]

5. If courses have not met your expectations, why not?

Comments:

- ◆ Students expressed that in some courses, the assignments were “busy work instead of actual critical, thoughtful and graduate level work”, while others felt that some professors gave too much work and too many readings. Most of the courses that students felt fell below their expectations, were due to a lack of professional experience on the part of the professor. Out of 15 comments, 6 students expressed that ARST 516 and ARST 593A were weak classes.
- ◆ Some students suggested that the technology course ARST 593B, could be merged with the library course of the same content and that they do not feel prepared to fill some of the job postings available today.
- ◆ Out of 17 responses, 7 students felt that some of the professors for their courses seemed unprepared for class, they cared more about their research than the students, seemed overworked and did not seem to be putting much effort into their teaching.

6. Have courses satisfied your areas of interest?

Yes:

- ◆ JOINT 35.3% [6/17]
- ◆ MAS 31.6% [6/19]

No:

- ◆ JOINT 5.8% [1/17]
- ◆ MAS 10.5% [2/19]

Somewhat:

- ◆ JOINT 58.8% [10/17]
- ◆ MAS 57.9% [11/19]

7. If no, what subject areas would you like to see covered?

Comments:

- ◆ Students expressed their interest in more technology-related courses, such as the EDRMS course that was previously offered.
- ◆ Students expressed interest in courses related to: Project Management, courses that provide “hands-on” classes about budgeting, managing, hiring etc.
- ◆ Students expressed interest in an indexing course for archives, more concentration on non-textual records, and more instruction in records management.

8. Have you ever participated in a curriculum review process?

Yes:

- ◆ JOINT 29.4% [5/17]
- ◆ MAS 21.1% [4/19]

No:

- ◆ JOINT 70.6% [12/17]
- ◆ MAS 78.9% [15/19]

9. Can you adequately schedule your courses?:

Yes:

- ◆ JOINT 58.5% [10/17]
- ◆ MAS 68.4% [13/19]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 41.2% [7/17]
- ♦ MAS 31.6% [6/19]

10. Do you think your course workload is appropriate?

No-too much:

- ♦ JOINT 52.9% [9/17]
- ♦ MAS 36.8% [7/19]

No-too little:

- ♦ JOINT 5.9% [1/17]
- ♦ MAS 5.3% [1/19]

Yes-Just right:

- ♦ JOINT 41.2% [7/17]
- ♦ MAS 57.9% [11/19]

11. Does your course load affect your learning experience?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 94.1% [16/17]
- ♦ MAS 73.7% [14/19]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 5.9% [1/17]
- ♦ MAS 26.3% [5/19]

12. If yes, please explain how:

Comments:

- ♦ 5 students stated that when the course load is too high, they begin to “cut corners”, such as not completing class readings that are assigned. Students also felt that some of the readings were repetitive and “too bulky” and if given the choice, would rather complete their assignments than finish the readings.
- ♦ Students stated that there was too much reading for some classes. One student commented that they were “struggling to submit assignments that are due very frequently. This doesn’t give me enough time to do all the required reading...” They felt that there was not enough time to participate in extra-curricular activities and felt that school work was sometimes sacrificed for working part-time or full-time jobs.
- ♦ Some of the students commented that taking 4 classes and trying to finish all of the papers that are “due at the same time” makes learning difficult and the quality of their papers are not as high as they could be.

13. Have you, or are you, planning to take summer courses?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 88.2% [15/17]
- ♦ MAS 52.6% [10/19]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 11.8% [2/17]
- ♦ MAS 47.4% [9/19]

14. Which summer courses would you like to see offered?

Comments:

- ◆ Some students seemed particularly upset that there were only 2 seats for MAS students reserved in the database design class.
- ◆ Others commented that offering more than a couple of ARST classes in the summer would be beneficial.
- ◆ One student responded by saying that “there are normally very few archival courses offered in the summer so it is not worth it to remain in town for them. Instead, I leave to go home and work.”
- ◆ In general, they requested more summer courses to be offered since SLAIS students are paying tuition in summer regardless of how many courses they take.

15. Do you feel that there are enough summer courses offered?

Yes:

- ◆ JOINT 23.5% [4/17]
- ◆ MAS 10.5% [2/19]

No:

- ◆ JOINT 76.5% [13/17]
- ◆ MAS 89.5% [17/19]

16. Do you have any additional comments to add regarding your course work or the curriculum?

Comments:

- ◆ One student commented that they “...appreciated that the ratio of library to archival students is tilted to the library side, but I would like more general consideration to be paid to archival students, through better and more frequent scheduling of classes, and more relevant material for presentation in colloquiums and brown bag lunches.” Other students expressed frustration with the lack of literature on the topic of public service and the disruption of class scheduling in ARST 510.
- ◆ Students generally expressed that they needed more technology courses, specifically, more database design classes.

17. Do you think that LASSA adequately meets your student needs?

Yes:

- ◆ JOINT 100% [17/17]
- ◆ MAS: 83.3% [15/18]

No:

- ◆ JOINT 0% [0/17]
- ◆ MAS 16.7% [3/18]

18. If not, please elaborate:

Comments:

- ◆ Students expressed some confusion with what LASSA was doing for them, and one student responded that they thought that they ACA student chapter was a group of people “funding their own social events.” One student felt that LASSA does not advocate strongly enough for students and defer to faculty too often.

19. Have you ever attended a LASSA event, social or academic?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 76.5% [13/17]
- ♦ MAS 84.2% [16/19]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 23.5% [4/17]
- ♦ MAS 16.7% [3/18]

20. Did you attend the LASSA AGM?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 47.1% [8/17]
- ♦ MAS 44.4% [8/18]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 52.9% [9/17]
- ♦ MAS 55.6% [10/18]

21. If not, why not?

Comments:

- ♦ The majority of students responded by saying that they had too much work to do, they were not on-campus, they were working at their job, or were not interested at all.

22. Are you aware of, or involved in, any of the following student organizations at SLAIS?

- ♦ 100% MAS students were aware/involved in the ACA Student Chapter [17/17]
- ♦ 73.3% of JOINT students were aware/involved in the ACA Student Chapter [11/15]
- ♦ 13.3% of JOINT students were aware/involved in the BCLA/CLA [2/15,]
- ♦ 13.3% of JOINT students were aware/involved in the SLA [2/15]

23. Do you think that you have sufficient ability to participate in extra-curricular activities at SLAIS?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 47.1% [8/17]
- ♦ MAS 52.9% [9/17]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 52.9% [9/17]
- ♦ MAS 47.1% [8/17]

24. If no, why not?

Comments:

- ♦ A majority of students expressed that they did not have enough time to participate.
- ♦ One student suggested that events need to be planned earlier on in the term.

25. Do you think have sufficient opportunity to interact with students of other programs?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 58.8% [10/17]
- ♦ MAS 42.1% [8/19]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 41.2% [7/17]
- ♦ MAS 57.9% [11/19]

26. Do you attend SLAIS potlucks at the beginning and end of the term?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 82.4% [14/17]
- ♦ MAS 84.2% [16/19]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 17.6% [3/17]
- ♦ MAS 15.8% [3/19]

27. Have you attended any colloquia whose topics are outside the subject domain of your program?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 70.6% [12/17]
- ♦ MAS 36.8% [7/19]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 17.6% [3/17]
- ♦ MAS 57.9% [11/19]

28. Have you attended any colloquia whose topics are inside the subject domain of your program?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 82.4% [14/17]
- ♦ MAS 89.5% [17/19]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 17.6% [3/17]
- ♦ MAS 10.5% [2/19]

29. Do you pay full or part-time tuition fees?

- ♦ Both JOINT and MAS responded that they pay full-time tuition fees.

30. Are you in debt from being at SLAIS?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 70.6% [12/17]
- ♦ MAS 84.2% [16/19]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 29.4% [5/17]
- ♦ MAS 15.8% [3/19]

31. If so, how much?

JOINT:

- ♦ less than 10,000: 50% [6/12]
- ♦ 10,000-20,000: 16.7% [2/12]
- ♦ more than 20,000: 33.3% [4/12]

MAS:

- ◆ less than 10,000: 33.3% [5/16]
- ◆ 10,000-20,000: 43.8% [7/16]
- ◆ more than 20,000: 25% [4/16]

32. Do you work as well as attend school?

JOINT:

- ◆ No 17.6% [3/17]
- ◆ Yes, off-campus only 23.5% [4/17]
- ◆ Yes, on-campus only 41.2% [7/17]
- ◆ Yes, off and on-campus 17.6% [3/17]

MAS:

- ◆ No: 2/19, 10.5%
- ◆ Yes, off-campus only 21.1% [4/19]
- ◆ Yes, on-campus only 47.4% [9/19]
- ◆ Yes, off and on-campus 21.2% [4/19]

33. Have you ever attended a director's forum?

Yes:

- ◆ JOINT 52.9% [9/17]
- ◆ MAS 26.3% [5/19]

No:

- ◆ JOINT 47.1% [8/17]
- ◆ MAS 73.7% [14/19]

34. Did you find orientation helpful?

Yes:

- ◆ JOINT 76.5% [13/17]
- ◆ MAS 68/4% [13/19]

No:

- ◆ JOINT 76.5% [4/17]
- ◆ MAS 31.6% [6/19]

35. Do you have any additional comments regarding student life at SLAIS?

Comments:

- ◆ Students expressed some disappointment that there is not enough of a chance for first year and second year students to interact, and that there needs to be a more of a "social place" for students to gather.
- ◆ Students expressed that they found the mentoring program at SLAIS helpful, though they wished that there were more activities that brought out both library and archival students.
- ◆ Other students felt that there was little time to devote to student life as they were too busy, while another student felt that LASSA and other student groups were doing a great job for students at SLAIS.

36. Are you satisfied with your level of communication with faculty?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 78.9% [15/19]
- ♦ MAS 64.7% [11/17]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 21.1% [4/19]
- ♦ MAS 35.3% [6/17]

37. Are you satisfied with your level of communication with administration?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 78.9% [15/19]
- ♦ MAS 64.7% [11/17]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 16.7% [3/18]
- ♦ MAS 35.3% [6/17]

38. Are you satisfied with your relationship with your advisor?

Yes:

- ♦ JOINT 68.4% [13/19]
- ♦ MAS 75% [12/16]

No:

- ♦ JOINT 31.6% [6/19]
- ♦ MAS 25% [4/16]

39. Do you have any additional comments regarding faculty, administration or staff?

Comments:

- ♦ Students commented that they felt that there was little communication and coordination between library and archival professors, in terms of scheduling assignments and projects. They advised that a calendar with assignment due dates be used to better facilitate this.
- ♦ One student commented that there needs to be better support put in place for new faculty to promote better teaching skills.
- ♦ Students commented that the topic of JOINT and MAS list serves needs to be revisited, because students are receiving duplicate emails and JOINT lists should be restricted to topics that are of interest only to joint students.
- ♦ One student commented that “faculty, administration and staff should have a basic understanding of students financial burdens” because SLAIS students are unable to receive bursaries. They also requested that faculty not place course books on reserve at the Special Collections because of restricted operating hours.

40. How can the next PEP survey be improved?

Comments:

- ♦ One student suggested that instead of giving the option of Yes/No that it would be more beneficial to give options such as: strongly agree, agree, somewhat, disagree, and strongly disagree.
- ♦ There needs to be more than one option for Student Organizations.
- ♦ One student commented that they appreciated the advertising that went into PEP and that it was placed on the computer lab desktops. They also appreciated the chance to voice their opinion and if students felt that their “...voices are really taken into consideration then they will be more likely to participate.”