

General Education Committee

Faculty Survey 2004

Summary

Faculty clearly indicated that some knowledge/skill areas are more important than others in preparing students for advanced courses and for life. Numerous statistically significant differences were found among the knowledge/skills areas. While some findings of the survey were expected (e.g., the importance of reading, critical thinking, communication skills and basic mathematics) other findings point to potential deficiencies in our current General Education Curriculum. For example, faculty indicated that library research skills and computer application skills were important. However, these areas are not systematically covered in the current Gen Ed curriculum. Of the knowledge areas, Ethics, Scientific / Research Methods, Statistics, World Culture, Psychology, Organizational Structure and Behavior, and American History ranked at the top of the list as needed for more advanced courses. Faculty also placed a high importance on Working in Groups and the Freshman Experience. The fine and performing arts and physical sciences tended to rank toward the bottom of the areas surveyed.

While there was considerable consistency between the ranks for advanced courses and preparation for life after graduation, there were some noticeable shifts in importance rankings. Health and Fitness moved from a position of 36 in the preparation for more advanced courses to 10 in the preparation for life. Physical Activities similarly moved from 40 to 15.

With regard to the effectiveness of Educational Experiences, Internships ranked the highest with Informal Conversations with Faculty a close second. Lecture classes, Labs and Recitations and Computer Assisted Learning ranked at the bottom of the list.

Sample Characteristics

N = 60, (34% of Full-time Teaching Faculty)

Arts and Sciences – 48.3%

Ancell – 35%

Professional Studies – 10%

Other / Missing 6.7%

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Years Teaching	51	1	31	16.49	7.953

Preparation for More Advanced Courses

KNOWLEDGE / SKILL AREA		Mean	Std Error	SD	N	Min	Max
1	Reading Skills	4.833	0.054	0.418	60	3	5
2	Critical Thinking / Logic	4.733	0.071	0.548	60	3	5
3	Written Communication	4.729	0.072	0.552	59	3	5
4	Oral Communication	4.500	0.099	0.770	60	2	5
5	Library Research	4.220	0.121	0.930	59	2	5
6	Computer Applications (use of Excel, Word, etc.)	4.100	0.123	0.951	60	1	5
7	Basic Mathematics	4.050	0.170	1.320	60	1	5
8	Ethics	3.883	0.145	1.121	60	1	5
9	Scientific / Research Methods	3.633	0.130	1.008	60	1	5
10	Working in Groups (Roles, Leadership, etc.)	3.617	0.152	1.180	60	1	5
11	Statistics	3.441	0.180	1.381	59	1	5
12	Freshman Experience (college coping skills)	3.300	0.175	1.357	60	1	5
13	World Culture	3.167	0.153	1.181	60	1	5
14	Psychological Health & Personal Adjustment	3.153	0.181	1.387	59	1	5
15	Psychology	3.133	0.155	1.200	60	1	5
16	Organization Structure / Behavior	3.083	0.174	1.344	60	1	5
17	American History	3.050	0.151	1.171	60	1	5
18	Law and Society	3.033	0.128	0.991	60	1	5
19	World History	3.033	0.148	1.149	60	1	5
20	Economics	3.033	0.154	1.193	60	1	5
21	Literature	3.017	0.146	1.127	60	1	5
22	World Governments	2.983	0.157	1.214	60	1	5
23	Sociology	2.917	0.155	1.197	60	1	5
24	Political Science	2.833	0.147	1.137	60	1	5
25	Environmental Sciences	2.817	0.142	1.097	60	1	5
26	Geography	2.783	0.151	1.166	60	1	5
27	Finance / Accounting (Personal, Budgeting, etc.)	2.767	0.182	1.407	60	1	5
28	Philosophy	2.729	0.147	1.127	59	1	5
29	Community Service (work with local organizations)	2.717	0.156	1.209	60	1	5
30	Anthropology	2.633	0.152	1.178	60	1	5
31	Foreign Language	2.600	0.139	1.077	60	1	5
32	Teaching / Training Methods	2.589	0.169	1.262	56	1	5
33	Marketing (Advertising, Consumer Behavior, etc.)	2.567	0.182	1.407	60	1	5
34	Principles of Business	2.542	0.165	1.264	59	1	5
35	Biological Sciences	2.500	0.146	1.127	60	1	5
36	Health and Fitness	2.500	0.180	1.396	60	1	5
37	Computer Science (programming, theory, etc.)	2.483	0.159	1.228	60	1	5
38	Calculus	2.431	0.169	1.286	58	1	5
39	Consumer Education	2.345	0.160	1.222	58	1	5
40	Physical Activities	2.317	0.171	1.321	60	1	5
41	Performing Arts Appreciation (music, theater)	2.233	0.147	1.140	60	1	5
42	Fine Arts Appreciation (painting, sculpture, etc.)	2.233	0.141	1.095	60	1	5
43	Chemistry	2.200	0.136	1.054	60	1	5
44	Physics	2.150	0.140	1.087	60	1	5
45	Applied Performing Arts (music, theater)	2.136	0.165	1.266	59	1	5
46	Applied Fine Arts (painting, sculpture, etc.)	2.117	0.152	1.180	60	1	5
47	Astronomy / Meteorology	1.933	0.119	0.918	60	1	5

Preparation for Life After Graduation

KNOWLEDGE / SKILL AREA		Mean	Std Error	SD	N	Min	Max
1	Reading Skills	4.898	0.046	0.357	59	3	5
2	Critical Thinking / Logic	4.814	0.062	0.473	59	3	5
3	Written Communication	4.814	0.066	0.508	59	2	5
4	Oral Communication	4.720	0.063	0.485	59	3	5
5	Basic Mathematics	4.288	0.130	1.001	59	1	5
6	Computer Applications (use of Excel, Word, etc.)	4.136	0.120	0.918	59	2	5
7	Ethics	4.121	0.123	0.938	58	2	5
8	Working in Groups (Roles, Leadership, etc.)	3.864	0.144	1.106	59	1	5
9	Library Research	3.632	0.143	1.080	57	1	5
10	Health and Fitness	3.466	0.152	1.158	58	1	5
11	Psychological Health & Personal Adjustment	3.390	0.162	1.246	59	1	5
12	Law and Society	3.390	0.116	0.891	59	2	5
13	Statistics	3.331	0.158	1.216	59	1	5
14	Scientific / Research Methods	3.305	0.148	1.133	59	1	5
15	Physical Activities	3.288	0.162	1.246	59	1	5
16	American History	3.271	0.139	1.064	59	1	5
17	World History	3.271	0.132	1.014	59	1	5
18	Finance / Accounting (Personal, Budgeting, etc.)	3.271	0.160	1.229	59	1	5
19	World Culture	3.259	0.140	1.069	58	1	5
20	Organization Structure / Behavior	3.228	0.146	1.102	57	1	5
21	Psychology	3.203	0.136	1.047	59	1	5
22	Consumer Education	3.172	0.150	1.142	58	1	5
23	World Governments	3.153	0.127	0.979	59	1	5
24	Community Service (work with local organizations)	3.143	0.145	1.086	56	1	5
25	Literature	3.119	0.128	0.984	59	1	5
26	Economics	3.119	0.133	1.019	59	1	5
27	Foreign Language	3.103	0.145	1.103	58	1	5
28	Geography	3.102	0.148	1.140	59	1	5
29	Environmental Sciences	3.017	0.153	1.162	58	1	5
30	Sociology	3.017	0.152	1.167	59	1	5
31	Political Science	3.000	0.135	1.034	59	1	5
32	Marketing (Advertising, Consumer Behavior, etc.)	2.966	0.167	1.286	59	1	5
33	Teaching / Training Methods	2.828	0.165	1.258	58	1	5
34	Philosophy	2.763	0.126	0.971	59	1	5
35	Anthropology	2.729	0.153	1.172	59	1	5
36	Fine Arts Appreciation (painting, sculpture, etc.)	2.695	0.146	1.118	59	1	5
37	Principles of Business	2.695	0.157	1.207	59	1	5
38	Performing Arts Appreciation (music, theater)	2.678	0.131	1.008	59	1	5
39	Biological Sciences	2.669	0.152	1.166	59	1	5
40	Freshman Experience (college coping skills)	2.375	0.192	1.434	56	1	5
41	Applied Performing Arts (music, theater)	2.339	0.142	1.092	59	1	5
42	Computer Science (programming, theory, etc.)	2.288	0.159	1.218	59	1	5
43	Chemistry	2.288	0.133	1.018	59	1	5
44	Calculus	2.237	0.142	1.088	59	1	5
45	Applied Fine Arts (painting, sculpture, etc.)	2.237	0.148	1.135	59	1	5
46	Astronomy / Meteorology	2.186	0.115	0.880	59	1	5
47	Physics	2.169	0.124	0.950	59	1	5

35.7% Students should fulfill General Education requirements in the freshman and sophomore years.

64.3 % Students should fulfill General Education requirements throughout all four years of college.

Educational Experience	Mean	Std Err	SD	N	Min	Max	% Offering
Internship	4.46	0.10	0.74	56	2	5	43.1%
Informal conversations with faculty	4.45	0.09	0.65	58	3	5	88.9%
Visits to faculty office hours	4.30	0.10	0.73	57	2	5	86.8%
Research experiences with faculty	4.29	0.11	0.83	55	2	5	39.2%
Small group seminars	4.23	0.11	0.85	57	1	5	60.4%
Student Group Projects	4.19	0.11	0.83	54	2	5	70.6%
Independent study with faculty	4.14	0.13	0.97	57	1	5	58.5%
One-on-one instruction	4.06	0.15	1.08	53	1	5	52.0%
Study abroad	4.00	0.13	0.93	52	2	5	10.2%
Service learning	3.87	0.16	1.07	46	1	5	20.5%
Computer Assisted Presentations	3.86	0.15	1.10	56	1	5	69.2%
Workshops / Conferences	3.85	0.15	1.11	52	1	5	40.8%
Team Teaching	3.81	0.16	1.10	48	1	5	27.3%
Field Trips	3.81	0.17	1.22	52	1	5	38.8%
Lecture Classes	3.71	0.11	0.80	56	2	5	71.2%
Labs and Recitations	3.67	0.16	1.11	51	1	5	34.0%
Computer Assisted Learning	3.63	0.16	1.17	52	1	5	52.0%