



CIRP College Senior Survey

Summer 2014

Selected items Related to Collaboration and Communication

Dates of Administration: April 24, 2014 – May 13, 2014

Method of Administration: Web survey (Administered by CIRP)

Demographics and Response Rates

Responses 146/180 = 81%

Total opt out 15/180 = 8%

Valid Responses 131/150 = 72%

Male 60/131 = 46%

Female 71/131 = 54%

Longitudinal 128 matched pairs from first to senior year (97%)

Peer Group: Private, Nonsectarian 4-Year Colleges

Background:

The CIRP Senior Survey (CSS) focuses on a broad range of outcomes and post-college goals and plans, including academic achievement and engagement, student-faculty interaction, cognitive and affective development, student goals and values, satisfaction with college, degree aspirations and experience and post-college plans. This report is focused on items on the CSS that relate to the student learning outcome of collaboration and communication. It pairs with the CIRP Freshman Survey to provide longitudinal data on students' growth during their undergraduate experience which we use to assess the impact of our curriculum on students learning.

HMC participates in the CSS survey annually each spring, surveying all graduating seniors. Typically, this survey is done using a paper survey, but this year that option was not available to us from CIRP, so we participated electronically.

The results of the CSS are used throughout the campus in departmental program reviews to evaluate growth and development on student learning outcomes; in career services to establish career and graduate school activities one year out; and by the college overall in accreditation and assessment activities.

Highlights:

The CSS contains several items that relate to the outcomes of written communication, oral communication and collaboration, and as highlighted above, contains a longitudinal profile that allows us to examine changes from first year to senior year.

- Overall, results for collaboration were quite high, with 90% of students indicating that they frequently discussed course content with other students outside of class, and nearly three out of four (72%) indicating that they frequently studied with other students. These interactions lay important foundations for active and effective collaboration.

- Looking at working in groups, we see an important difference in terms of where this work is happening. HMC respondents are slightly higher than our peers in terms of frequently working with classmates on group projects during class (51% vs 44%, respectively) but we far outpace our peer group in terms of frequently working with classmates on group projects outside of class (77% vs 49%, respectively).
- Turning our attention to writing, we see that HMC respondents are on par with our peer group in their assessment of their writing ability (3.79 for HMC and 3.81 for the peer group). We are also on par with our peer group in terms of the frequency with which respondents revise their papers to improve writing (2.48 for HMC and 2.58 for peer group) but means for both longer 10+ page assignments (2.21 for HMC, 2.39 for peers) and multiple shorter papers (2.59 for HMC and 2.75 for peers) suggest that HMC respondents are doing slightly less writing than their peers.
- Looking longitudinally, public speaking ability saw the largest growth from the beginning of first year to senior year. We also saw growth in writing ability, and cooperativeness, and a decrease in ability to work cooperatively with diverse peoples. This decrease could be due to many factors, including an inflated sense of the ability entering college. This is an area that should be tracked consistently to better understand why the decrease is occurring.
- With respect to oral communication, 80% of HMC respondents indicate they frequently made a presentation in class, and means for public speaking ability suggest that respondents are both confident in that skill and growing over time. Interestingly, while 22% of male respondents rate their public speaking ability as in the “highest 10%” only 15% of female respondents would put themselves in that category.

	Total		HMC Only	
How often in the past year did you:	HMC	Peer Group	Males	Females
Discussed course content with student outside of class				
Frequently	89.2%	72.6%	88.1%	90.1%
Occasionally	10.8%	25.9%	11.9%	9.9%
Never	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%
MEAN	2.89	2.71	2.88	2.90
Studied with other students				
Frequently	72.3%	43.5%	62.7%	80.3%
Rarely	24.6%	49.4%	33.9%	16.9%
Sometimes	3.1%	7.1%	3.4%	2.8%
MEAN	2.69	2.36	2.59	2.77
Worked with classmates on group projects during class				
Frequently	51.1%	43.8%	54.2%	49.3%
Occasionally	46.2%	52.2%	45.8%	46.5%
Never	2.3%	4.0%	0.0%	4.2%
MEAN	2.49	2.40	2.54	2.45
Worked with classmates on group projects outside of class				
Frequently	76.9%	49.0%	76.3%	77.5%
Occasionally	22.3%	48.5%	23.7%	21.1%
Never	0.8%	2.5%	0.0%	1.4%
MEAN	2.76	2.47	2.76	2.76
Took a class that required one or more 10+ page papers				
Frequently	26.9%	46.0%	25.4%	28.2%
Occasionally	66.9%	46.6%	67.8%	66.2%
Never	6.2%	7.4%	6.8%	5.6%
MEAN	2.21	2.39	2.19	2.23
Took a class that required multiple short papers				
Frequently	60.8%	76.3%	55.9%	64.8%
Occasionally	37.7%	22.9%	42.4%	33.8%
Never	1.5%	0.9%	1.7%	1.4%
MEAN	2.59	2.75	2.54	2.63
Revised your papers to improve your writing				
Frequently	54.6%	62.1%	40.7%	66.2%
Occasionally	38.5%	34.0%	54.2%	25.4%
Never	6.9%	3.9%	5.1%	8.5%
MEAN	2.48	2.58	2.36	2.58
Made a presentation in class				
Frequently	80.0%	73.9%	74.6%	84.5%
Occasionally	20.0%	25.5%	25.4%	15.5%
Never	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%
MEAN	2.80	2.73	2.75	2.85

		HMC Longitudinal		
How often in the past year did you:		FY	SR	Change
Studied with other students				
Frequently		43.7%	74.6%	30.9%
Rarely		48.4%	23.0%	-25.4%
Sometimes		7.9%	2.4%	-5.5%
MEAN		2.36	2.72	0.36
Revised your papers to improve your writing				
Frequently		57.9%	54.0%	-3.9%
Occasionally		38.1%	39.7%	1.6%
Never		4.0%	6.3%	2.3%
MEAN		2.54	2.48	-0.06

This institution has contributed to my:	Total		HMC Only	
	HMC	Peer Group	Males	Females
Ability to work as part of a team				
A major strength	60.6%	57.4%	56.9%	63.8%
Somewhat Strong	29.1%	30.8%	27.6%	30.4%
Average	8.7%	10.4%	13.8%	4.3%
Somewhat weak	1.6%	1.0%	1.7%	1.4%
A major weakness	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
MEAN	4.49	4.44	4.40	4.57
Rate yourself on each of the following traits as compared with the average person your age:				
Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people				
Highest 10%	29.6%	31.9%	32.8%	26.9%
Above Average	54.4%	50.5%	48.3%	59.7%
Average	15.2%	17.0%	19.0%	11.9%
Below Average	0.8%	0.5%	0.0%	1.5%
Lowest 10%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
MEAN	4.13	4.13	4.14	4.12
Cooperativeness				
Highest 10%	25.4%	27.4%	27.6%	23.5%
Above Average	48.4%	51.5%	46.6%	50.0%
Average	22.2%	19.7%	19.0%	25.0%
Below Average	4.0%	1.3%	6.9%	1.5%
Lowest 10%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
MEAN	3.95	4.05	3.95	3.96
Public speaking ability				
Highest 10%	18.3%	14.4%	22.4%	14.7%
Above Average	41.3%	35.4%	41.4%	41.2%
Average	33.3%	38.6%	31.0%	35.3%
Below Average	6.3%	10.2%	3.4%	8.8%
Lowest 10%	0.8%	1.5%	1.7%	0.0%
MEAN	3.7	3.51	3.79	3.62
Writing ability				
Highest 10%	19.8%	20.9%	20.7%	19.1%
Above Average	50.0%	45.1%	48.3%	51.5%
Average	21.4%	29.0%	20.7%	22.1%
Below Average	7.1%	4.5%	8.6%	5.9%
Lowest 10%	1.6%	0.5%	1.7%	1.5%
MEAN	3.79	3.81	3.78	3.81

		HMC Longitudinal		
Rate yourself on each of the following traits as compared with the average person your age:		FY	SR	Change
Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people				
Highest 10%		28.3%	29.2%	0.9%
Above Average		60.0%	54.2%	-5.8%
Average		11.7%	15.8%	4.1%
Below Average		0.0%	0.8%	0.8%
Lowest 10%		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
MEAN		4.17	4.12	-0.05
Cooperativeness				
Highest 10%		18.0%	25.4%	7.4%
Above Average		54.9%	48.4%	-6.5%
Average		24.6%	23.8%	-0.8%
Below Average		2.5%	2.5%	0.0%
Lowest 10%		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
MEAN		3.89	3.97	0.08
Public speaking ability				
Highest 10%		3.3%	15.4%	12.1%
Above Average		24.4%	44.7%	20.3%
Average		43.9%	33.3%	-10.6%
Below Average		22.8%	6.5%	-16.3%
Lowest 10%		5.7%	0.0%	-5.7%
MEAN		2.97	3.69	0.72
Writing ability				
Highest 10%		12.2%	21.1%	8.9%
Above Average		51.2%	48.0%	-3.2%
Average		29.3%	20.3%	-9.0%
Below Average		5.7%	8.9%	3.2%
Lowest 10%		1.6%	1.6%	0.0%
MEAN		3.67	3.78	0.11