



CIRP College Senior Survey 2015 Selected Item Related to Interdisciplinary Thinking

Demographics and Response Rates

Responses	170
Male	93
Female	77
Comparison Group:	30 Private, Nonsectarian 4-Year Colleges (n = 5,872)
Longitudinal:	149 matched pairs from first to senior year

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 employment and advanced education plans. This report is focused on items on the CSS that relate to the student learning outcome of *interdisciplinary thinking*. Results are first presented for HMC seniors in comparison with seniors at the group of institutions listed above as “Comparison Group.” Second, results are paired with the CIRP Freshman Survey to provide longitudinal data on students’ growth during their undergraduate experience. This can be used to understand the impact of Harvey Mudd College.

HMC participates in the CSS survey annually each spring and surveys all seniors.

The results of the senior survey are used throughout the campus in departmental program reviews to evaluate growth and development on student learning outcomes; in Career Services to establish anticipated career and graduate school activities; and by the College overall in accreditation and assessment activities.

Highlights:

- HMC seniors and seniors at the comparison schools reported integrating skills and knowledge from different sources and experiences at almost exactly the same rate. HMC seniors reported exploring topics on their own at a lower level than did their peers from the comparison schools.
- Seniors at HMC reported faculty provided them with fewer opportunities to apply classroom learning to “real-life” issues than their peers. They also report fewer opportunities than they did in their first year.

SENIORS				
	<u>HMC</u>	<u>Comp</u>	<u>Diff</u>	<u>Sig</u>
	n = 170	n = 5,872		
How often in the past year did you:				
<i>1 = Not at All, 2 = Occasionally, 3 = Frequently</i>				
Integrate skills and knowledge from different sources and experiences	2.79	2.80		
Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class	2.39	2.47		
How often have professors at your college provided you with:				
<i>1 = Not at All, 2 = Occasionally, 3 = Frequently</i>				
An opportunity to apply classroom learning to "real-life" issues	2.12	2.37	▼	p < .001

LONGITUDINAL (2009-2011 first-years and 2015 seniors)					
	<u>HMC</u> <u>FY</u>	<u>HMC</u> <u>SR</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Diff</u>	<u>Sig</u>
How often in the past year did you:					
<i>1 = Not at All, 2 = Occasionally, 3 = Frequently</i>					
Explore topics on your own, even though it was not required for a class	2.53	2.39	-0.14	▼	p < .01