



Santa Ana College Comparison of Learning Experiences at SAC Relating to General Education Core Competencies

**Compiled by the RSCCD Research Department
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Background

As educators continue to place more and more emphasis on student learning, faculty members at Santa Ana College (SAC) have identified 16 general education core competencies grouped into 6 general skill categories: communication, thinking and reasoning, information competency, diversity, life skills, and career.

Students' opinions about the contributions made by their experiences at SAC towards these goals, along with general satisfaction towards college programs and services they've used, are solicited regularly via the annual Student Satisfaction Survey (administered to students currently enrolled) and the biannual Transfer Student Survey (administered to students who transferred from SCC to a four-year college the prior year).

For the purposes of this analysis, we compared Spring 2008 survey responses reported by these students in two ways: 1) length of time spent at SAC (number of units completed), and 2) enrollment status at SAC (current students vs. students who have transferred to a four-year college).

Summary of Findings

Generally, the length of time spent at SAC (or "number of units completed") was a predictor of student perceptions about the level of the college's contributions towards student learning outcomes in only two of the 16 categories: 1) using college-level mathematical concepts and methods, and 2) producing and responding to artistic and creative expression.

When analyzed by survey group, the correlation of students' ratings of "good" and "excellent" contributions of their experiences at SAC to learning outcomes was significant in five categories: 1) speaking in a clear and organized fashion to explain ideas, feels, and conclusions, 2) formulating original ideas and concepts and integrating ideas, 3) interacting with others with integrity and awareness of others' opinions and values, 4) participating effectively in teams and groups to make decisions and seek consensus, and 5) selecting and developing a career. This

suggests that students' perceptions about the influence of their experiences at SAC on these learning outcomes are more highly influenced by proximity to attainment of their goals (or current students vs. students who have transferred to a four-year college).

Santa Ana College							
Percent of Students Crediting Their Experiences for "Excellent" or "Good"							
Contribution to General Education Core Competencies							
		# Units Completed			Survey Completed		
		fewer than 15	48 or more	Chi-Square Significance	Student Satisfaction	Transfer	Chi-Square Significance
		n=768	n=429		n=2103	n=75	
Communication	Listen actively and respectfully to others	81%	81%	none	81%	91%	none
	Speak in a clear and organized fashion to explain ideas, feelings and conclusions	77%	77%	none	77%	76%	**
	Read effectively and analytically at the college level	73%	76%	none	73%	74%	none
	Write in an organized and grammatically correct fashion to explain ideas, feelings, and conclusions	71%	76%	none	74%	76%	none
	Formulate original ideas and concepts and integrate ideas	70%	74%	none	71%	81%	*
Thinking and Reasoning	Think logically, solve problems, explain conclusions, and evaluate ideas of others	73%	75%	none	74%	81%	none
	Understand ethical issues in order to make sound decisions and judgments	72%	75%	none	72%	75%	none
	Use college-level mathematical concepts and methods	68%	73%	**	69%	81%	none
Information Competency	Conduct research using printed materials and computer technology	71%	72%	none	71%	64%	none
Diversity	Respect and work with people of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds and abilities	81%	81%	none	82%	84%	none
	Interact with others with integrity and awareness of others' opinions and values	78%	78%	none	77%	79%	*
	Understand ethical issues on the environment	75%	69%	none	72%	70%	none
Life Skills	Produce and respond to artistic and creative expression	71%	65%	**	69%	71%	none
	Demonstrate habits of intellectual and physical wellbeing	74%	73%	none	72%	80%	none
	Participate effectively in teams and groups to make decisions and seek consensus	74%	74%	none	74%	74%	**
Career	Select and develop a career	73%	72%	none	71%	75%	**
*significant at the .01 level							
**significant at the .05 level							