



## **Santiago Canyon College Comparison of Learning Experiences at SCC Relating to Student Learning Outcomes**

**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 Santiago Canyon College (SCC) identified 12 student learning outcomes (SLO) grouped into 6 general skill categories: communication, thinking and reasoning, information competency, life skills, ethical responsibility, and diversity.

Students' opinions about the contributions made by the college 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), the biannual Graduate Student (students awarded certificates or associate degrees) and Transfer Student Surveys (administered to students who transferred from SCC to a four-year college in the prior year).

For the purposes of this analysis, we compared Spring 2008 survey responses reported by two groups of these students: 1) length of time spent at SCC (number of units completed), and 2) enrollment status at SCC (current students vs. graduates and transfers to four-year colleges).

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the length of time spent at SCC (or "number of units completed") was a predictor of student perceptions about the level of the college's contributions towards student learning outcomes in five categories: 1) critically analyzing, evaluating, organizing, and using data to solve problems, 2) creatively using concepts to make learning relevant, 3) communicating ideas in a clear and articulate manner, 4) taking responsibility for one's own learning, and 5) communicating accurately to diverse audiences.

However, students' perceptions about the influence of their experiences at SCC upon learning outcomes correlated highly across all categories (except "information competency") when grouped by the surveys they completed. In other words, current students (students who

completed the Student Satisfaction Survey) rated the impact of their SCC experiences lower than students who had matriculated to four-year colleges (Transfer Survey) and students who earned degrees and/or certificates (Graduate Surveys). This data suggests that educational goals influence students' perceptions to a higher degree than the amount of time spent at SCC.

Santiago Canyon College Percent of Students Crediting Their Experiences for "Excellent" or "Good" Contributions to Student Learning Outcomes								
		# Units Completed			Survey Completed			
		fewer than 15	48 or more	Chi-Square Significance	Student Satisfaction	Transfer	Graduate	Chi-Square Significance
		n=585	n=370		n=1383	n=63	n=172	
Thinking and Reasoning	Learn about one's chosen academic major	70%	67%	none	67%	67%	68%	*
	Critically analyze, evaluate, organize and use data to solve problems	71%	80%	*	73%	76%	81%	*
Communication Skills	Creatively use concepts to make learning relevant	72%	78%	none	72%	78%	79%	*
	Communicate ideas in a clear and articulate manner	72%	83%	*	73%	83%	81%	**
Information Competency	Communicate in various formats using diverse technology	68%	70%	none	66%	73%	72%	none
Life Skills	Maintain cultural literacy, lifelong learning, & environment	76%	79%	none	75%	81%	82%	*
	Act to maintain one's dignity and self-respect	75%	79%	none	74%	81%	80%	*
	Reflectively assess one's values, assumptions, and attitudes	71%	78%	none	72%	86%	80%	*
	Take responsibility for one's own learning and well-being	79%	83%	**	78%	87%	89%	*
Ethical Responsibility	Learn about professional conduct and workplace ethics	67%	62%	none	65%	61%	67%	*
	Be a responsible, respectful community member	76%	78%	none	76%	86%	78%	*
Diversity	Communicate accurately to diverse audiences	69%	77%	**	69%	78%	81%	*
*significant at the .01 level								
**significant at the .05 level								