

Issue 4 of "News from Institutional Research" examines the responses of the 2005 seniors on the College Student Survey (HERI¹ instrument completed by second semester seniors) by academic division.

2005 Graduating Seniors

Four hundred forty of the 463 seniors who completed the Senior Survey (95%), indicated their major field of study. The respondents have thus been divided into groupings of Biological Sciences (81), College of Business (85), Humanities (103), Nursing (58), Social Sciences (73) and Physical Sciences/Math (40). The following is a break-down of respondent sex in each grouping:

	All Students	Biological Sciences	COBA	Humanities	Nursing	Social Sciences	Physical Sciences/Math
Male respondents	37%	44%	52%	26%	12%	33%	63%
Female respondents	63%	56%	48%	74%	88%	67%	37%

Time Spent During Senior Year

Higher percentages of students majoring in the Biological Sciences and Nursing report studying or doing homework for eleven or more hours per week during their senior year than students majoring in other disciplines. Higher percentages of Business, Humanities and Social Science majors report spending eleven or more hours per week socializing with their friends and partying.

	All Students	Biological Sciences	COBA	Humanities	Nursing	Social Sciences	Physical Sciences/Math
11+ hrs/week studying/homework	40%	53%	27%	33%	55%	35%	40%
11+ hrs/week socializing	41%	37%	48%	48%	17%	47%	33%
11+hrs/week partying	12%	5%	24%	16%	2%	16%	5%

Working For Pay

Nineteen percent of the senior men and eleven percent of the senior women who completed the survey indicated they did not have a paying job their senior year at Creighton. This contrasts with the twenty percent of the men and twenty-six percent of the women who indicated they had jobs both on and off-campus during their senior year.

	All Students	Biological Sciences	COBA	Humanities	Nursing	Social Sciences	Physical Sciences/Math
Did not have a job senior year	14%	15%	13%	11%	16%	10%	28%
Had a job on-campus only	25%	35%	18%	27%	11%	26%	35%
Had a job off-campus only	37%	24%	46%	37%	58%	35%	17%
Had a job both on & off-campus	24%	26%	23%	25%	15%	29%	20%

Plans for Fall 2006

Overall, thirty-nine percent of the 2005 graduates indicated they would be going to professional/graduate school the following fall. While that number is positively influenced by the high percentage of those in the physical sciences/math and the biological sciences who are planning to go on to school immediately, it should not be overlooked that almost twenty percent of the Business students and almost thirty percent of the Nursing students are also planning to continue their schooling immediately after finishing their undergraduate degrees.

	All Students	Biological Sciences	COBA	Humanities	Nursing	Social Sciences	Physical Sciences/Math
Graduate/professional school	39%	64%	18%	30%	28%	40%	75%
Working full-time	59%	25%	80%	65%	93%	52%	30%
Working part-time	10%	19%	5%	7%	5%	10%	15%
Doing volunteer work	18%	19%	12%	18%	19%	23%	13%
Traveling, hostelling, backpacking	10%	6%	7%	15%	14%	11%	5%

¹ Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles

Contact with Faculty

The seniors are asked how often faculty provide them with thirteen opportunities for support on a three point scale (frequently, occasionally, never). While previous editions of the *Research Bulletin* published percentage responses, it is more important to know if the data indicate statistically significant differences¹ by academic groupings in the perception about faculty support.

There were no statistically significant differences between major groupings on faculty providing “intellectual challenge and stimulation”, “opportunity to discuss coursework outside of class”, “opportunity to apply classroom learning to ‘real-life’ issues”, “advice and guidance about your educational program”, or “negative feedback about your academic work”

There were significant differences on the remaining eight questions, however. Some differences in perception reflect program differences (i.e., encouragement for graduate/professional school is more prevalent in the biological and physical sciences than in business), others do not appear to be related to program differences.

“Encouragement for graduate/professional school”- Seniors in the Biological and Physical Sciences/Math, Nursing and Social Sciences were significantly more likely to report faculty encouraging further schooling than Business seniors.

“Opportunity to work on a research project”- Seniors in Nursing, Physical Science/Math and Social Sciences were significantly more likely to report faculty provided an opportunity in this area than Business and Humanities seniors.

“Respect”- Seniors in Humanities were significantly more likely to report faculty provided “respect” than Business and Nursing seniors.

“Opportunity to publish”- Seniors in Humanities, Physical Science/Math and Social Sciences were significantly more likely to report faculty provided a publishing opportunity than Business seniors.

“Help in achieving professional goals”- Seniors in Physical Science/Math were significantly more likely to report faculty provided help achieving professional goals than Business seniors.

“Emotional support and encouragement”- Seniors in Humanities and Nursing were significantly more likely to report faculty provided emotional support and encouragement than Business seniors.

“Assistance to improve your study skills”- Seniors in Nursing were significantly more likely to report faculty provided help in study skills than Business seniors.

“A letter of recommendation”- Seniors in Biological Sciences, Humanities and Physical Science/Math were significantly more likely to report that faculty wrote a letter of recommendation than Business seniors.

Satisfaction with Academic Aspects of the Creighton Experience

Four questions directly relating to student satisfaction with their academic program are included in the survey. Seniors are asked to rate their satisfaction on a five point scale (very satisfied, satisfied, neutral, dissatisfied, can’t rate/no experience²). While there were no statistically significant difference between major groupings on “ability to find a faculty or staff mentor”, there were differences on the other three questions.

“Courses in your major”- Seniors in Humanities and Social Sciences were significantly more likely to report satisfaction with the courses in their major than Business and Nursing seniors.

“Amount of contact with faculty”- Seniors in Humanities were significantly more likely to report satisfaction with the amount of contact with faculty than seniors in Business and Nursing.

“Overall quality of instruction”- Seniors in the Biological Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and Physical Science/Math were significantly more likely to report satisfaction with the overall quality of instruction than seniors in Nursing.

¹Analysis of variance statistic, $p < .05$.

²Respondents marking “Can’t Rate/No Experience” were not included in the calculation.