

News from Institutional Research

This issue of "News from Institutional Research" reports on the results of the 2007 College Student Survey completed by 490 undergraduate seniors in late April/early May. Four hundred seventy-five listed their major.

2007 Graduating Seniors - Comparisons by Academic Divisions

<u>"DIVISION"</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>
Biological Sciences	81 (17% of total)	30(37%)	51 (63%)
Business	82 (17% " ")	42 (51%)	40 (49%)
Humanities	64 (13% " ")	27 (42%)	37 59%)
Nursing	48 (10% " ")	2 (4%)	46 (96%)
Physical Sciences	38 (8% " ")	20 (53%)	18 (47%)
Pre-Professional (Education, Exercise Science, Social Work)	79 (17% " ")	20 (25%)	59 (75%)
Psychology	37 (8% " ")	10 (27%)	27 (73%)
Social Sciences	46 (10% " ")	25 (54%)	21 (46%)

Plans for Fall, 2007 (As of mid April/early May)

Two new questions on the survey probe into the detail of the current state of students' plans for the fall. Twenty-nine percent of the seniors (137) indicated they have already been accepted into graduate/professional school. Twenty-six percent (123) will definitely attend this fall and three percent (14) are deferring their enrollment until a later date. Three percent (14) had been placed on waiting lists but had not yet been accepted and five percent (22) were still waiting to hear about acceptances. An additional thirteen percent of the seniors (62) reported they will be applying for graduate/professional school this fall.

Planning to attend graduate or professional school after graduation	Biological Science	COBA	Humanities	Nursing	Physical Science	Pre- Profess.	Psychology	Social Science
Accepted into grad/professional school	46%	11%	32%	2%	58%	20%	46%	35%
Placed on wait list, no acceptances	7%	1%	0%	0%	11%	3%	3%	0%
Still awaiting responses, no acceptances	14%	1%	2%	2%	3%	3%	5%	6%
Will be applying this fall	19%	8%	16%	2%	8%	10%	24%	22%

As of late April/early May, twenty-five percent of the respondents had accepted an offer of employment and another eight percent (38) were considering an offer. Three percent (12) had received an offer of employment but declined and twenty-six percent (122) were still looking for employment having received no offers. The remaining 38% of the respondents (175) reported they were not actively looking for a position.

Planning to be employed after graduation	Biological Science	COBA	Humanities	Nursing	Physical Science	Pre- Profess.	Psychology	Social Science
Accepted an offer of employment	9%	54%	18%	57%	3%	23%	14%	7%
Currently considering an offer	3%	9%	8%	17%	11%	8%	0%	13%
Received an offer but declined	0%	4%	3%	2%	0%	2%	0%	9%
Still looking, no offers yet	17%	20%	36%	21%	25%	35%	31%	29%

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Learning Outcomes

While there are a number of ways to assess progress toward stated learning outcomes, one measure is to ask the students themselves how much growth they have experienced on various measures compared to when they entered Creighton.

In the section immediately below, seniors were asked to use a five-point Likert scale (1=much weaker, 2=weaker, 3=no change, 4=stronger, 5=much stronger) to describe themselves compared to when they began at Creighton. While there are statistically significant differences among groups of majors on all of the items below, it would be preferable to compile a five year history for all majors, disaggregated, and share the results with departments that might be interested in them.

Mean Scores	All Sen- iors	Biological Science	COBA	Humani- ties	Nursing	Physical Science	Pre- Profess	Psychol- ogy	Social Science
Knowledge of a particular field/discipline	4.61	4.52	4.57	4.58	4.75	4.53	4.65	4.78	4.65
Ability to think critically	4.44	4.30	4.40	4.33	4.75	4.31	4.48	4.54	4.54
Analytical & problem solving skills	4.41	4.27	4.39	4.33	4.60	4.33	4.38	4.54	4.57
Interpersonal skills	4.29	4.20	4.33	4.23	4.44	4.00	4.44	4.32	4.28
Writing skills	4.18	4.05	4.09	4.27	4.17	3.83	4.33	4.24	4.46
Public speaking ability	4.08	4.05	4.33	3.98	4.04	3.61	4.19	3.95	4.20
Understanding of global issues	4.08	4.00	4.11	4.25	3.79	3.75	4.10	4.11	4.39
Computer Skills	4.05	3.99	4.20	3.97	4.08	3.86	4.14	3.97	4.04

The survey did not ask seniors how they had progressed in demonstrating a commitment to service, civic engagement and/or cultural competency but did ask them to indicate the importance to them personally of life objectives which support these learning outcomes.

In the section immediately below, seniors were asked to use a four-point Likert scale (1=not important, 2=somewhat important, 3=very important, 4=essential) to describe their personal commitment to each life goal. As above, there are statistically significant differences among groups of majors on all of the items.

Mean Scores	All Sen- iors	Biological Science	COBA	Humani- ties	Nursing	Physical Science	Pre- Profess	Psychol- ogy	Social Science
Helping others who are in difficulty	3.21	3.25	3.07	3.16	3.48	3.08	3.14	3.57	3.15
Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures	2.88	2.69	2.95	3.11	2.63	2.42	2.86	3.08	3.22
Developing a meaningful philosophy of life	2.74	2.68	2.84	3.06	2.58	2.44	2.62	2.68	2.84
Influencing social values	2.60	2.28	2.67	2.69	2.60	2.28	2.71	2.73	2.85
Becoming a community leader	2.57	2.33	2.94	2.59	2.33	2.36	2.57	2.51	2.78
Helping to promote racial understanding	2.49	2.42	2.31	2.53	2.40	2.39	2.53	2.81	2.72