❖ Student Services Research Bulletin ❖

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2000 Senior Survey – Life Goals

Both the freshman and senior surveys ask students to indicate the importance of various Life Goals. Six of those goals deal directly with objectives the University would list as important for graduates of a Jesuit Catholic university to value: Help others in difficulty, Develop a meaningful philosophy of life, Influence social values, Promote racial understanding, Become a community leader, and Participate in community action programs. As you will read below, many of our graduating seniors report that these goals are less than "essential" or "very important" to them.

Five hundred eighty-five seniors completed the Senior Survey: 350 in Arts and Sciences, 92 in COBA, 75 in Nursing, 54 in Allied Health, and 14 who did not indicate their major field of study. The following examines the percentage of students who indicated the particular life goal was "not important" or "somewhat important".

Help Others in Difficulty—"Not important" or "Somewhat Important"

All seniors— 21%

All men—30%	*All women—16%*	
Arts and Sciences men—25%	*Arts and Sciences women—20%*	*Allied Health women—2%*
COBA men—49%	*COBA women—32%*	*Nursing women—19%*

Develop a Meaningful Philosophy of Life —"Not important" or "Somewhat Important"

All seniors— 41%

All men—40%	*All women—42%*	
Arts and Sciences men—36%	*Arts and Sciences women—36%*	*Allied Health women—41%*
COBA men—53%	*COBA women—50%*	*Nursing women—61%*

Influence Social Values —"Not important" or "Somewhat Important"

All seniors— 50%

All men—54%	*All women—48%*	
Arts and Sciences men—54%	*Arts and Sciences women—43%*	*Allied Health women—49%*
COBA men—66%	*COBA women—66%*	*Nursing women—50%*

Promote Racial Understanding —"Not important" or "Somewhat Important"

All seniors— 60%

All men— 62%	*All women—60%*	
Arts and Sciences men—61%	*Arts and Sciences women—52%*	*Allied Health women—44%*
COBA men—67%	*COBA women—82%*	*Nursing women—78%*

Become a Community Leader —"Not important" or "Somewhat Important"

All seniors— 61%

All men—60%	*All women—62%*	
Arts and Sciences men—61%	*Arts and Sciences women—58%*	*Allied Health women—63%*
COBA men—63%	*COBA women—66%*	*Nursing women—70%*

Participate in Community Action Programs —"Not important" or "Somewhat Important"

All seniors— 69%

All men - 71%	*All women—68%*	
Arts and Sciences men—66%	*Arts and Sciences women—66%*	*Allied Health women—59%*
COBA men—82%	*COBA women—79%*	*Nursing women—80%*

Changes in Life Goals from Freshman to Senior Year

Four hundred eighteen graduating seniors completed both the freshman and senior surveys: 296 in Arts and Sciences, 77 in Business, 26 in Nursing, and 19 in Allied Health. The following indicates the percentage of students that rated each item as "essential" or "very important" as freshmen and then again as seniors.

HELP OTHERS IN DIFFICULTY

"ESSENTIAL/VERY IMP"	FRESHMAN	SENIOR
All men	63%	69%
All women	80%	83%
Arts & Sciences men	66%	76%
Arts & Sciences women	85%	84%
COBA men	50%	50%
COBA women	58%	67%
Nursing women	83%	83%
Allied Health women	83%	95%

PROMOTE RACIAL UNDERSTANDING

"ESSENTIAL/VERY IMP"	FRESHMAN	SENIOR
All men	30%	37%
All women	40%	45%
Arts & Sciences men	30%	39%
Arts & Sciences women	44%	50%
COBA men	30%	33%
COBA women	15%	18%
Nursing women	41%	42%
Allied Health women	61%	61%

INFLUENCE SOCIAL VALUES

"ESSENTIAL/VERY IMP"	FRESHMAN	SENIOR
All men	36%	44%
All women	43%	53%
Arts & Sciences men	36%	46%
Arts & Sciences women	41%	56%
COBA men	30%	38%
COBA women	49%	36%
Nursing women	50%	54%
Allied Health women	56%	61%

PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS

"ESSENTIAL/VERY IMP"	FRESHMAN	SENIOR
All men	28%	29%
All women	38%	33%
Arts & Sciences men	33%	32%
Arts & Sciences women	39%	35%
COBA men	14%	22%
COBA women	33%	21%
Nursing women	42%	37%
Allied Health women	45%	33%

DEVELOP MEANINGFUL PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

"ESSENTIAL/VERY IMP"	FRESHMAN	SENIOR
All men	40%	59%
All women	42%	59%
Arts & Sciences men	42%	63%
Arts & Sciences women	44%	64%
COBA men	33%	48%
COBA women	30%	46%
Nursing women	39%	52%
Allied Health women	50%	45%

BECOME A COMMUNITY LEADER

"ESSENTIAL/VERY IMP"	FRESHMAN	SENIOR
All men	42%	39%
All women	41%	41%
Arts & Sciences men	42%	38%
Arts & Sciences women	41%	44%
COBA men	38%	41%
COBA women	33%	36%
Nursing women	42%	33%
Allied Health women	65%	41%

As seen before, performing volunteer work does tend to increase the perceived importance of the Life Goals listed above, for both men and women. Following are the percentage of students indicating each goal was "essential/very important" by the amount of time they reported volunteering their senior year (none, occasionally, frequently).

Volunteered:	Men None	Men Occasionally	Men Frequently	Women None	Women Occasionally	Women Frequently
Help others in difficulty	56%	70%	91%	66%	85%	94%
Promote racial understanding	33%	37%	49%	22%	39%	54%
Influence social values	40%	45%	58%	32%	54%	60%
Participate in community action	20%	26%	46%	14%	31%	46%
Become a community leader	29%	41%	49%	22%	36%	56%
Develop meaningful philosophy life	53%	60%	70%	54%	57%	63%

Research Bulletins *are intended for internal use only. Comments or questions should be directed to Stephanie Wernig,Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Student Services, Brandeis 111, 280-2775, wernig@creighton.edu.*