



University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

2004 National Survey of Student Engagement Academic and Intellectual Experiences *Research Brief #19*

In spring 2004, UCCS participated in a national study of college students, along with several hundred other four-year colleges and universities. Randomly selected first-year and senior students at UCCS were invited to share their views by completing *The College Student Report*. This survey is part of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) administered by the Indiana University at Bloomington.

The survey addresses numerous academic and intellectual experiences including coursework, interaction between students and faculty, and ways of learning.

Coursework

UCCS students report that they experience a range of instructional activities. The chart below illustrates the percentage of students who have experienced certain activities in their current year of study.

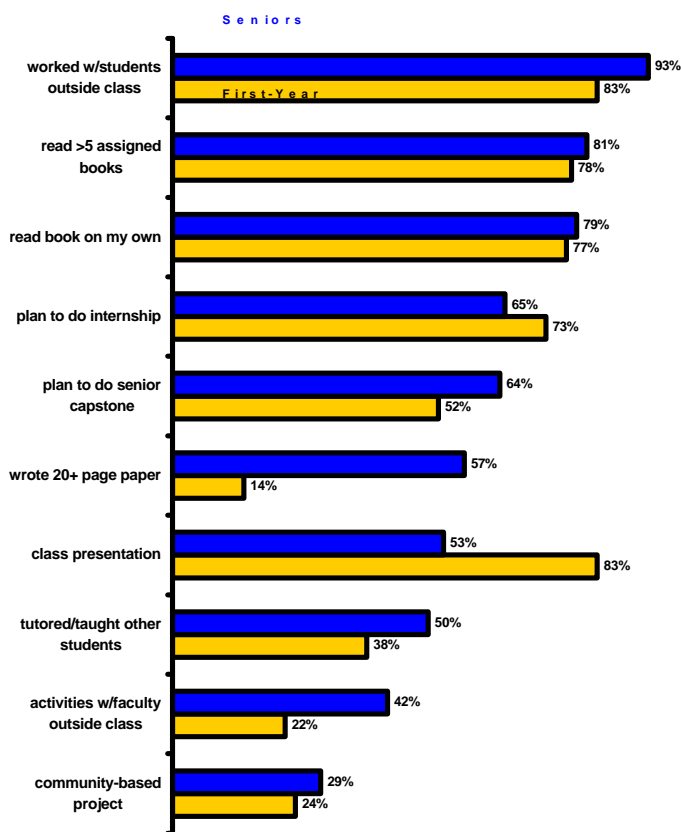
UCCS first-year students are more likely than students elsewhere to read but they seldom faced the demands of writing a term paper. They are accustomed to readings in class and they tend to read more books on their own. They have, however, written fewer shorter (less than five pages) and longer (20 pages or more) than their counterparts nationwide.

Student Interaction with Faculty

UCCS first-year students report only modest levels of interaction with faculty. During their first year of college, most (78%) have not worked with a faculty member on activities other than coursework, 57% have not discussed ideas with a faculty member outside class, and 36% have not talked with a faculty member or advisor about career plans. Interaction with faculty during a student's initial year of college are significantly lower at UCCS than the rates found at other colleges.

The interaction between students and faculty does increase at UCCS over time:

Academic Experiences in Current Year,
First-Year and Senior Students



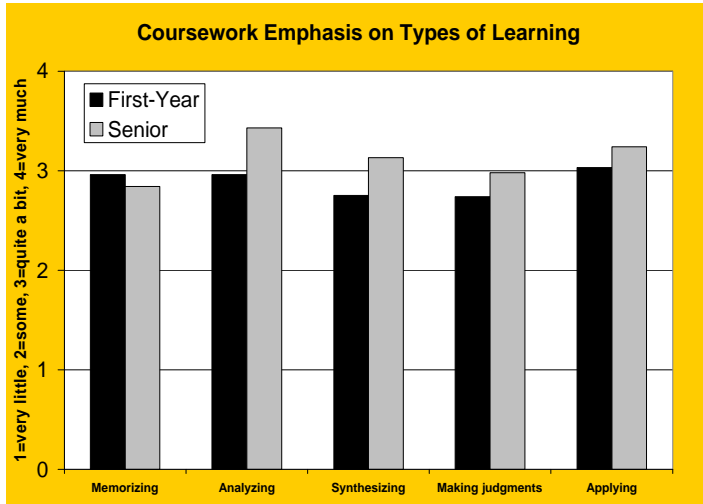
Average Response* to Questionnaire Items

	First-Year	Senior
Used email to communicate with an instructor.	2.85	3.24
Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor.	2.49	2.74
Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor.	1.88	2.21
Discussed ideas from your readings/classes with faculty members outside of class.	1.58	1.97
Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations.	2.45	2.56
Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.).	1.33	1.61

* 1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often.

Ways of Learning

The survey asked students to evaluate how much their coursework emphasizes five ways of learning (memorizing, analyzing, synthesizing, making judgments, or applying). “Applying theories” ranks high among first-year students and “analyzing ideas” is high among seniors; nevertheless, each group believes the activities are emphasized between “some” and “quite a bit” of the time.



University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
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