Graduating Students Learning Outcomes Survey  
Overview of Results Spring 2012

A core component of Purdue’s mission is to provide to its students the finest possible learning programs and to prepare them for their roles as both citizens and leaders of the global community. The Graduating Students Learning Outcomes Survey was created in an attempt to provide evidence of student learning, teaching effectiveness, and the comprehensiveness of the curricula. The formal survey was administered on-line from March to April of 2012 to 4,959 associate, baccalaureate, and professional degree candidates.

The overall response rate was 25.5% (n = 1,264) and representative of the graduating population in terms of gender (51% female) and ethnicity (9% minority). All results are in percentages, unless otherwise indicated. Responses may not add up to 100% due to rounding. The college specific analysis is based on the respondents college at time of graduation.

Respondents Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent Graduation College/School</th>
<th>College Survey Response Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Human Sciences</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Medicine</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,264</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ethnicity*

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- White
- Black or African American
- Asian
- Hispanic/Latino
- 2 or more races
- Unknown

*International students are not included in ethnicity breakdown

GPA

- 2.00 to 2.99: 28%
- 3.00 to 3.99: 71%
- 4.00: 1%

Change Major

- Never: 62%
- Once: 31%
- Twice: 5%
- More than 3 times: 3%

Results Highlights*

All percentages indicate agree or strongly agree

**Perceptions of Educational Experience**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am satisfied with my OVERALL experience at Purdue.</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall, I am satisfied with my educational experience at Purdue.</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Perceptions of Faculty**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall, teachers at Purdue are effective in their teaching.</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall, teachers in my major are effective in their teaching.</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have had ample opportunity to interact with faculty.</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was treated with dignity and respect by faculty and staff in my major.</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall, I believe that I have been graded fairly in my classes.</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Improvement in Abilities**

My Experience at Purdue improved my ability to...

Top five in 2012

- Solve problems: 95%
- Evaluate ideas: 94%
- Think critically: 93%
- Make informed decisions: 93%
- Analyze ideas: 93%

Bottom three in 2012

- Read with comprehension: 74%
- Write with clarity: 73%
- Listen without bias: 73%

*Full results are provided in the Appendices, available at: [http://www.purdue.edu/oir/graduatingstudentslearningoutcomes.html](http://www.purdue.edu/oir/graduatingstudentslearningoutcomes.html)
The top themes among responses were:

- **Skills:**
  "Learning how to think through problems and formulate problems that are poorly defined is one of the most important things I've learned."

- **Personal Development:**
  "Don't let fear of uncertainties stop me from trying new things."

- **Academics:**
  "I learned a wide range of topics related to my area of study. I learned how to conduct scientific research."

- **Teamwork:**
  "How to work in a team and how to be a leader of a team."

- **Time Management:**
  "Learn how to manage your time well and pursue the things that you enjoy."

- **Diversity/Interpersonal:**
  "I learned how to work with others. Be they of different racial, ethnic, or religious background, it is crucial to be able to work with people different than myself. Purdue not only taught me this, but strongly encouraged it."

"How did Purdue contribute to you learning those things?"

The top themes among responses were:

- **Academics:**
  "Providing a plan of study that boasts courses in schools outside your particular major and ample opportunity for research and project-based learning."

- **Curriculum/Grading/Scheduling:**
  "With so many clubs, societies, and activities happening around campus throughout the academic year it is hard not to join in on what interests me."

- **Co-curricular:**
  "I think academic advisors need to be more involved with their students."

- **Student Services:**
  "More classes where ideas are applied to hands-on activity."

- **Faculty and Teaching Assistants/Teaching:**
  "I learned a wide range of topics related to my area of study. I learned how to conduct scientific research."

- **Personal Development:**
  "Don't let fear of uncertainties stop me from trying new things."

- **Shape personal values:**
  "Learn how to manage your time well and pursue the things that you enjoy."

- **Teamwork:**
  "How to work in a team and how to be a leader of a team."

- **Skills:**
  "I learned a wide range of topics related to my area of study. I learned how to conduct scientific research."

"What could Purdue have done to improve your undergraduate experience?"

The top themes among responses were:

- **Curriculum/Grading/Scheduling:**
  "More classes where ideas are applied to hands-on activity."

- **Co-curricular:**
  "I think academic advisors need to be more involved with their students."

- **Faculty and Teaching Assistants/Teaching:**
  "Some professors had trouble speaking English. This does not provide for a great learning environment."

- **Positive Praise/No Change:**
  "Nothing. It was spectacular. Everything I hoped it would be and more."

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**Significant Gender Differences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Male (%)</th>
<th>Female (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact with people with diverse characteristics and backgrounds is an important part of a college education.**</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My education at Purdue has provided me with ample opportunity for experiential learning.**</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am satisfied with my OVERALL experience at Purdue.*</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand values, ethics, and global issues in society**</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use technologies new to me**</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use computer technology**</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shape personal values*</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Indicates statistically significant differences at p<.05
**Indicates statistically significant differences at p<.01

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**Enriching Activity Participation**

- Leadership activities*
  - Male: 82%
  - Female: 77%

- Understand Diversity
  - Male: 62%
  - Female: 58%

- Learning Communities
  - Male: 30%
  - Female: 27%

- Team-based Learning*
  - Male: 77%
  - Female: 83%

- Extra curricular service activities**
  - Male: 65%
  - Female: 80%

- Service Learning in a course*
  - Male: 29%
  - Female: 20%

- Interdisciplinary projects**
  - Male: 25%
  - Female: 33%

- Study/work abroad**
  - Male: 17%
  - Female: 32%

- Internships
  - Male: 59%
  - Female: 61%

* Indicates statistically significant differences at p<.05
** Indicates statistically significant differences at p<.01

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**Satisfaction in Major of Graduation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Overall (All respondents) = 86%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AG</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDU</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHARM</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TECH</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMED</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Enriching Educational Activity Participation and Impact on Academic Success**

**Participation**

- Team-based Learning
  - Male: 80%
  - Female: 79%

- Leadership Activities
  - Male: 84%
  - Female: 77%

- Extracurricular Service Activities
  - Male: 69%
  - Female: 67%

- Activities that increase understanding of diversity
  - Male: 29%
  - Female: 25%

- Internships
  - Male: 60%
  - Female: 60%

- Research
  - Male: 60%
  - Female: 60%

- Interdisciplinary Projects
  - Male: 49%
  - Female: 49%

- Service Learning in a course
  - Male: 49%
  - Female: 49%

- Study/Work abroad
  - Male: 49%
  - Female: 49%

**Impact**

- Team-based Learning
  - Male: 38%
  - Female: 38%

- Leadership Activities
  - Male: 52%
  - Female: 52%

- Extracurricular Service Activities
  - Male: 29%
  - Female: 29%

- Activities that increase understanding of diversity
  - Male: 11%
  - Female: 11%

- Internships
  - Male: 36%
  - Female: 36%

- Research
  - Male: 16%
  - Female: 16%

- Interdisciplinary Projects
  - Male: 7%
  - Female: 7%

- Service Learning in a course
  - Male: 8%
  - Female: 8%

- Study/Work abroad
  - Male: 23%
  - Female: 23%

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1Indicates percent of students who indicated they participated in a particular activity during their time at Purdue.

2Indicates percent of students who indicated a particular activity had the most impact on their academic success.