

Learning Goal: Critical Thinking

Dates: 2005, 2009, 2011

What was assessed: quality and nature of undergraduate experience

How it was assessed: Seniors using the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Results:

	Year	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much	Mean
2b. Coursework emphasizes: Analyzing basic elements of an idea, experience or theory	2005 UNCW (n=347)	1%	13%	46%	41%	3.26
	2009 UNCW (n=523)	1%	12%	37%	50%	3.37
	2011 UNCW (n=670)	1%	10%	39%	50%	3.37
	2011 Carnegie (n=66,722)	1%	13%	41%	45%	3.30

	Year	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much	Mean
2c. Coursework emphasizes: Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences	2005 UNCW (n=347)	3%	18%	47%	32%	3.07
	2009 UNCW (n=521)	1%	17%	42%	40%	3.20
	2011 UNCW (n=671)	2%	18%	43%	37%	3.15
	2011 Carnegie (n=66,633)	3%	20%	40%	37%	3.10

	Year	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much	Mean
2d. Coursework emphasizes: Making judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods	2005 UNCW (n=346)	4%	18%	45%	34%	3.08
	2009 UNCW (n=525)	3%	19%	40%	39%	3.15
	2011 UNCW (n=669)	3%	19%	40%	38%	3.14
	2011 Carnegie (n=66,734)	4%	21%	39%	36%	3.06

	Year	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very often	Mean
6e. Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective	2005 UNCW (n=345)	3%	29%	39%	30%	2.94
	2009 UNCW (n=514)	4%	27%	40%	29%	2.95
	2011 UNCW (n=659)	4%	26%	40%	31%	2.97
	2011 Carnegie (n=66,041)	5%	29%	40%	27%	2.88

	Year	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much	Mean
11e. Thinking critically and analytically	2005 UNCW (n=333)	2%	11%	31%	56%	3.41
	2009 UNCW (n=494)	1%	10%	38%	51%	3.38
	2011 UNCW (n=638)	2%	8%	35%	55%	3.43
	2011 Carnegie (n=63,517)	2%	11%	36%	51%	3.36

	Year	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much	Mean
11m. Solving complex real-world problems	2005 UNCW (n=333)	10%	32%	32%	26%	2.74
	2009 UNCW (n=483)	11%	25%	36%	28%	2.81
	2011 UNCW (n=629)	9%	23%	39%	28%	2.87
	2011 Carnegie (n=62,932)	10%	26%	36%	28%	2.83

Discussion: Results for items associated with Critical Thinking have been steady over the time period. UNCW results compare favorably with other institutions in our Carnegie Class.