



2006-07 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT GENERAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT A RESEARCH BRIEF

Research Briefs

Research Briefs are short publications prepared by the Department of Academic Effectiveness and Assessment (AEA) that are intended to provide relevant information which assists in the performance improvement process used by St. Petersburg College (SPC). Research Brief topics include, but are not limited to, student achievement, state accountability measures, institutional survey results, student enrollment, and faculty/adjunct compensation.

Introduction

SPC conducts the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) in an effort to measure student engagement and gain insight into student development and activity that could lead to increases in active learning, critical thinking, and student retention.

Data Collection

The focus of the CCSSE was to evaluate full-time and part-time students (1,470) in randomly selected classes during the spring 2007 session. The survey consisted of 38 engagement items. The survey results present the performance of St. Petersburg College students in comparison to other community colleges within Florida (Florida Consortium), in comparison to other extra large colleges (15,000 credit students, 46 colleges total) and in comparison to 525 participating colleges from 48 states across the United States, plus British Columbia and the Marshall Islands. This brief will look at Question 12 which specifically addresses the student's experience at this institution. Many of these goals correspond to SPC's goals relative to general education.

Results

Question 12 has 15 items with a response scale of "Very much," "Quite a bit," "Some," and "Very little." Question 12 asks:

- 12. How much has YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THIS COLLEGE contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?**
- (a) Acquiring a broad general education
 - (b) Acquiring a job or work-related knowledge and skills
 - (c) Writing clearly and effectively
 - (d) Speaking clearly and effectively

- (e) Thinking critically and analytically
- (f) Solving numerical problems
- (g) Using computing and information technology
- (h) Working effectively with others
- (i) Learning effectively on your own
- (j) Understanding yourself
- (k) Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds
- (l) Developing a personal code of values and ethics
- (m) Contributing to the welfare of your community
- (n) Developing clearer career goals
- (o) Gaining information about career opportunities

SPC students consistently felt that their experience at our college contributed to *acquiring a broad general education* (Table 1). Combining the responses of “Quite a bit” and “Very much,” the responses of SPC students exceeded those of students in Other Extra-large Colleges and of students in the All CCSSE Participants areas. The College’s “All Students” response equaled the response from students in the Florida Consortium.

Table 1: Question 12a - Acquiring a broad general education (Very much or Quite a bit)

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	847	79%	13928	78%	29739	77%	209799	76%
Part-time	595	70%	6917	69%	16891	67%	93677	66%
All Students (weighted*)	1443	73%	20784	73%	46523	70%	302906	70%

Relative to *acquiring a job or work-related knowledge and skills* (Table 2), SPC students did not rate their experience as highly as students in the other comparison groups, and all SPC results were less than fifty percent. This result is not unexpected since the majority of SPC students are enrolled in the AA degree program which is designed to prepare students for pursuing baccalaureate degree programs at colleges or universities.

**Table 2: Question 12b - Acquiring a job or work-related knowledge and skills
(Very much or Quite a bit)**

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	844	45%	13910	50%	29674	49%	209457	55%
Part-time	593	43%	6909	45%	16845	46%	93504	49%
All Students (weighted*)	1438	43%	20759	47%	46407	47%	302389	52%

In the area of *writing clearly and effectively* (Table 3), SPC students consistently felt that their experience at the college contributed “quite a bit” or “very much” to their knowledge, skills and personal development. SPC students’ ranges were higher than those in any of the comparison groups.

**Table 3: Question 12c – Writing clearly and effectively
(Very much or Quite a bit)**

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	847	72%	13920	67%	29706	65%	209576	64%
Part-time	595	60%	6909	58%	16836	54%	93484	55%
All Students (weighted*)	1443	64%	20767	62%	46406	58%	302394	59%

In the area of *speaking clearly and effectively* (Table 4), part-time students were slightly below All CCSSE Participants part-time (1%) while receiving the same percent (54%) as part-time students at Other extra-large colleges.” SPC full-time students and all students overall rated themselves higher in speaking clearly and effectively than the other three comparison groups.

**Table 4: Question 12d – Speaking clearly and effectively
(Very much or Quite a bit)**

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	843	66%	13918	61%	29702	60%	209532	59%
Part-time	594	54%	6908	52%	16850	51%	934429	50%
All Students (weighted*)	1439	58%	20761	56%	46248	54%	302271	54%

In the areas of *thinking critically and analytically* (Table 5) and *solving numerical problems* (Table 6), SPC students consistently felt that their experience at the college contributed “quite a bit” or “very much” to their knowledge, skills and personal development. SPC students’ ranges were higher than those in any of the comparison groups.

**Table 5: Question 12e – Thinking critically and analytically
(Very much or Quite a bit)**

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	846	74%	13915	72%	29685	70%	209376	71%
Part-time	593	65%	6908	64%	16843	63%	93418	63%
All Students (weighted*)	1439	68%	20760	67%	46406	65%	302173	67%

**Table 6: Question 12f – Solving numerical problems
(Very much or Quite a bit)**

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	845	68%	13913	65%	29677	58%	209365	59%
Part-time	592	57%	6900	55%	16814	49%	93256	50%
All Students (weighted*)	1437	60%	20745	59%	46349	52%	301868	53%

SPC's full-time students' responses for the College's contributing toward their *using computing and information technology* rated the highest at 67%. Part-time and all students overall resulted in very similar scores among the comparison groups and fell within the range of 52% to 59%.

Table 7: Question 12g – Using computing and information technology (Very much or Quite a bit)

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	848	67%	13901	65%	29681	61%	209340	64%
Part-time	590	53%	6899	56%	16828	52%	93348	54%
All Students (weighted*)	1435	57%	20736	59%	46376	55%	302019	58%

In *working effectively with others*, SPC responses were below all of the comparison groups (Table 8). All CCSSE Participants had the highest responses for this question.

Table 8: Question 12h – Working effectively with others (Very much or Quite a bit)

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	844	58%	13910	61%	29680	60%	209440	63%
Part-time	592	48%	6896	52%	16833	53%	93387	54%
All Students (weighted*)	1436	52%	20734	56%	46389	56%	302152	58%

Two-thirds of “All Students” at SPC said they were either “quite a bit” or “very much” *effective at learning on their own* (Table 9). This overall response from SPC full-time students was higher than the responses from students in the comparison groups. The responses for part-time and all students were very similar in all comparison groups.

Table 9: Question 12i – Learning effectively on your own (Very much or Quite a bit)

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	849	72%	13909	70%	29679	69%	209419	70%
Part-time	594	65%	6898	65%	16850	65%	93434	66%
All Students (weighted*)	1442	67%	20735	67%	46416	66%	302195	68%

Fifty-five percent of full-time students in the Florida Consortium felt their institution contributed toward *understanding themselves* while the response was 44% in all three of the other groups including SPC (Table 10). Part-time SPC students responses were the highest of the four groups and all surveyed students overall had similar ratings from 48% to 51%.

Table 10: Question 12j – Understanding yourself (Very much or Quite a bit)

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	847	56%	13891	55%	29664	56%	209237	56%
Part-time	593	48%	6891	49%	16819	50%	93315	50%
All Students (weighted*)	1439	50%	20712	51%	46354	52%	301903	53%

SPC students responded generally the same as all CCSSE participants in **understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds** (Table 11). Those students at other extra-large colleges responded slightly higher. All responses for “very much” or “quite a bit” were below 50%.

Table 11: Question 12k – Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds (Very much or Quite a bit)

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	847	46%	13886	48%	29649	49%	209137	46%
Part-time	592	38%	6897	39%	16813	42%	93248	39%
All Students (weighted*)	1438	41%	20723	42%	46331	44%	301687	42%

In the College contributing toward the student **developing a personal code of values and ethics**, SPC’s responses were higher for full-time, part-time and all students overall (Table 12).

Table 12: Question 12l – Developing a personal code of values and ethics (Very much or Quite a bit)

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	843	51%	13887	46%	29626	46%	209152	46%
Part-time	595	42%	6890	38%	16810	39%	93247	38%
All Students (weighted*)	1440	45%	20712	41%	46317	42%	301704	41%

All SPC students rated themselves very similarly or slightly higher than the other three comparison groups *in contributing to the welfare of your community* (Table 13). All answers were below 30%.

**Table 13: Question 12m – Contributing to the welfare of your community
(Very much or Quite a bit)**

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	843	29%	13868	29%	29570	29%	208771	29%
Part-time	594	28%	6878	24%	16766	25%	93021	25%
All Students (weighted*)	1439	28%	20678	26%	46209	26%	301068	27%

In *developing clearer career goals* and *gaining information about career opportunities*, SPC student responses were two to five percent lower than the highest scores which were for all CCSSE participants (Tables 14 and 15).

**Table 14: Question 12n– Developing clearer career goals
(Very much or Quite a bit)**

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	844	56%	13895	59%	29667	58%	209377	60%
Part-time	594	49%	6899	50%	16820	50%	93350	51%
All Students (weighted*)	1439	51%	20732	53%	46357	53%	302050	55%

**Table 15: Question 12o– Gaining information about career opportunities
(Very much or Quite a bit)**

Time Status	SPCollege		Florida Consortium		Other Extra-Large Colleges		All CCSSE Participants	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Full-time	846	50%	13922	53%	29719	53%	209671	55%
Part-time	594	43%	6911	44%	16855	45%	93511	46%
All Students (weighted*)	1440	45%	20769	48%	46445	48%	302521	50%

Table 16: Comparison of 2004 and 2007 CCSSE Survey Question 12 for SPC

How much has your experience at this college contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas:	Pct Answering "quite a bit" or "very much"		
	2004	2007	Pct Chg
Contributing to the welfare of your community	22	28	6.0
Developing clearer career goals	49	51	2.0
Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	42	43	1.0
Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	40	41	1.0
Learning effectively on your own	66	67	1.0
Developing a personal code of values and ethics	45	45	0.0
Writing clearly and effectively	65	64	-1.0
Understanding yourself	51	50	-1.0
Solving numerical problems	61	60	-1.0
Thinking critically and analytically	69	68	-1.0
Gaining information about career opportunities	47	45	-2.0
Speaking clearly and effectively	60	58	-2.0
Acquiring a broad general education	75	73	-2.0
Working effectively with others	57	52	-3.0
Using computing and information technology	63	57	-6.0

Table 17: Rankings of Percentages of Students Responses of "Very Much" or "Quite a bit"

How much has your experience at this college contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?	SPC	Florida Consortium	Other Extra-large Colleges	All CCSSE Participants	Range of Pcts
Acquiring a broad general education	1	1	2	2	70 - 73%
Learning effectively on your own	2	2	3	1	66 - 68%
Thinking critically and analytically	1	2	3	2	65 - 68%
Writing clearly and effectively	1	2	4	3	58 - 64%
Using computing and information technology	3	1	4	2	55 - 59%
Speaking clearly and effectively	1	2	3	3	54 - 58%
Solving numerical problems	1	2	4	3	52 - 60%
Working effectively with others	3	2	2	1	52 - 58%
Developing clearer career goals	3	2	2	1	51 - 55%
Understanding yourself	4	3	2	1	50 - 53%
Gaining information about career opportunities	3	2	2	1	45 - 50%
Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills	3	2	2	1	43 - 52%
Developing a personal code of values and ethics	1	3	2	3	41 - 45%
Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds	3	2	1	2	41 - 44%
Contributing to the welfare of your community	1	3	3	2	26 - 28%
Average Comparison Group Ranking	2.07	2.07	2.60	1.87	

1 = highest percentage, 4 = lowest

Conclusion

In summary, based on the CCSSE, SPC students felt that their experience at SPC contributed "quite a bit" or "very much" to their knowledge, skills and personal development in general education, specifically on six CCSSE items that are closely aligned with SPC general education goals (items a, c, d, e, f, and i). Two items closely aligned with general education goals (items g and h)

the survey outcomes indicate that the AS/AAS degree, the BS/BAS degree, and the Certificate programs are achieving their intended objective of adequately preparing students for the workplace, by enhancing their skills, increasing their knowledge, and instilling a desire to build on personal and professional growth.