Mission, the CORE Curriculum, and Key Student Learning Outcomes: Perspectives from Faculty, Graduating Seniors, and Alumni

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Overview

- In the spring of 2011 surveys were conducted with faculty, graduating seniors, and alumni who had graduated 1, 5, and 10 years prior.

- These surveys included questions about the University mission, the CORE curriculum, and student learning as a result of their Loyola experience.
  - The surveys contained some parallel items that allow us to compare the perceptions of graduating seniors, alumni, and faculty on these key issues.
Methodology

- All surveys were conducted electronically and invitations were extended to the each survey population via email.
  - The survey of seniors and alumni were constructed and administered completely “in-house” by IR
  - The faculty survey utilized the HERI tri-annual faculty survey instrument and was administered in collaboration with HERI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Population</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Sampling Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduating Seniors</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>± 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni 1 Year Out</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>± 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni 5 Years Out</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>± 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni 10 Years Out</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>± 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty (FT teaching undergraduates)</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>± 5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mission
Mission and Teaching Undergraduates

- When asked if they were “comfortable in [their] knowledge of the Jesuit mission,” 92% of faculty agreed.

- Fewer faculty, 78%, agreed that they were satisfied with the “professional development resources available to [them] that further [their] understanding of the Jesuit mission and how to incorporate it into [their] work.”

- Five percent of faculty indicated that they do not “integrate the Jesuit mission into [their] teaching” at all, 61% percent integrate it to “some extent,” and 34% integrate it to a “great extent.”
Mission and Student Learning

- When asked if students graduating from their department understand the Jesuit principle of “men and women for and with others,” 80% of faculty agreed.

- More faculty, 90%, agreed that Loyola does “a good job of educating the whole student; mind, body, and spirit.”
Preparation to Learn, Lead, and Serve

How well do you feel your college experience has prepared you to lead, learn, and serve in a diverse and changing world?

- A Great Deal: 5%
- A Lot: 16%
- Somewhat: 53%
- Only a Little: 26%
- Not at All: 0%

Agree Strongly: 27%
Agree Some what: 63%
Disagree Some what: 4%
No Opinion: 6%

Faculty Survey: When they graduate, students from my department are prepared to . . .
The CORE Curriculum
CORE Curriculum

- When asked how often “students in your department experience the current CORE curriculum as being too constrictive when pursuing their educational interests,” one-third of faculty indicated that it is either *always* or *usually* too constrictive for their students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usually</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact of the CORE Curriculum

To what extent has Loyola’s CORE curriculum impacted way you live [and work] today?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A Great Deal</th>
<th>A Lot</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Only a Little</th>
<th>Not at All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni 1 Year</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni 5 Years</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni 10 Years</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Faculty Survey: How relevant is the CORE for students today?

- Extremely 50%
- Some what 48%
- Not at All 2%

Graduating seniors were asked only about the impact of the CORE on the way they live, alumni were asked about the way they live and work.
Student Learning Outcomes
Critical Thinking/Analyzing

To what extent has your education at Loyola helped you to learn to ask questions, analyze arguments, make connections, and be a better thinker?

- Seniors: 16% A Great Deal, 51% Agree Strongly, 29% Agree Some What, 24% Only a Little, 31% Not at All
- Alumni 1 Year Out: 21% A Great Deal, 45% Agree Strongly, 29% Agree Some What, 24% Only a Little, 29% Not at All
- Alumni 5 Years Out: 24% A Great Deal, 49% Agree Strongly, 24% Agree Some What, 29% Only a Little, 31% Not at All
- Alumni 10 Years Out: 31% A Great Deal, 35% Agree Strongly, 29% Agree Some What, 29% Only a Little, 24% Not at All

Faculty Survey:
When they graduate, students from my department have the ability to . . .

- Agree Strongly: 55%
- Agree Some What: 38%
- Disagree Some What: 3%
- No Opinion: 4%
Diversity

To what extent has your education at Loyola helped you to learn to value a diverse and inclusive community?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A Great Deal</th>
<th>A Lot</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Only a Little</th>
<th>Not at All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni 1 Year Out</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni 5 Years Out</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni 10 Years Out</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Faculty Survey: When they graduate, students from my department demonstrate that they . . .

- Agree Strongly: 20%
- Agree Some: 54%
- No Opinion: 18%
- Disagree Some what: 7%
- Disagree Strongly: 1%
- Disagree: 7%

A Great Deal A Lot Somewhat Only a Little Not at All
Leadership

To what extent has your education at Loyola helped you to learn to take initiative, to assume responsibility, and to act in an ethical manner?

- Seniors:
  - A Great Deal: 20%
  - A Lot: 17%
  - Somewhat: 33%
  - Only a Little: 41%
  - Not at All: 3%

- Alumni 1 Year Out:
  - A Great Deal: 17%
  - A Lot: 43%
  - Somewhat: 34%
  - Only a Little: 30%
  - Not at All: 4%

- Alumni 5 Years Out:
  - A Great Deal: 18%
  - A Lot: 48%
  - Somewhat: 30%
  - Only a Little: 18%
  - Not at All: 2%

- Alumni 10 Years Out:
  - A Great Deal: 23%
  - A Lot: 40%
  - Somewhat: 32%
  - Only a Little: 25%
  - Not at All: 2%

Faculty Survey:
When they graduate, students from my department have the confidence to . . .

- Agree Strongly: 34%
- Agree Some What: 53%
- No Opinion: 10%
- Disagree Some What: 10%
- Disagree Strongly: 1%
- Disagree: 10%
- Strongly Disagree: 2%
To what extent has your education at Loyola helped you to learn to expand opportunities and justice in society?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Alumni 1 Year Out</th>
<th>Alumni 5 Years Out</th>
<th>Alumni 10 Years Out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not at All</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only a Little</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Lot</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Great Deal</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Faculty Survey:
When they graduate, students from my department have shown an interest in . . .

Agree Strongly: 15%
Agree: 64%
No Opinion: 17%
Disagree: 4%
Disagree Somewhat: 15%
Survey Instruments

- The Faculty Survey was conducted by HERI—the Higher Education Research Institute at ULCA
  - This organization also conducts the student surveys CIRP, YFCY, and CSS that Loyola participates in every three years
  - Some of the learning outcomes items included on this survey were developed by a consortium of Jesuit institutions.
- The Senior and Alumni Surveys were developed and administered completely in-house and are conducted every three years.
- Differences in response scales between the student/alumni and faculty surveys were the result of a consortial agreement regarding items on the faculty survey that required the particular response scale used there.
Survey Data

- Because of item-by-item non-response, the N for any given survey item may be smaller than the overall Ns reported on slide 3.

- Faculty invited to participate in the survey were those on at least half-time contracts.
  - The data included in this presentation represents those faculty who were full-time and indicated that the primarily teach undergraduate courses.
  - Faculty responses by division:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>