

UCC Category D – Synthesis Courses Student Survey Results, Fall 2001

As part of the evaluation of UCC Synthesis courses, students in those courses were surveyed in the fall of 2001 by the Assessment Committee. The survey instrument (See Appendix B) contained six statements with which students could indicate their degree of agreement or disagreement using a 6-point, Likert-type scale. The categories of the scale were as follows: Strongly Agree, Agree, Slightly Agree, Slightly Disagree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree and Not Enough Information to Form an Opinion. “Strongly Agree” was given the score value of six (6), and “Strongly Disagree” was given the value of one (1). Packets of surveys were sent to all instructors of synthesis courses. Students in the synthesis courses responded to the surveys anonymously and returned the surveys to envelopes provided in the classrooms. The surveys were returned to the Assessment Committee by the instructors for processing in USI’s Institutional Research and Assessment Office. Frequency tables were prepared for each survey statement in addition to a table of summary descriptive statistics (See Appendix B). Also, comments requested from students on the survey forms were transcribed and submitted for analysis by the Assessment Committee.

The results of the student responses to the survey items are presented in the frequency tables in Appendix B. 368 student surveys were returned for analysis. The tables reveal that the overwhelming majority of the students were on the “agree side,” and that the synthesis courses...

- have an appropriate number of sections being offered (76.6%)
- are scheduled at times when students can conveniently attend (85.1%)
- contain appropriate subject matter (90.2%)
- have clear goals and objectives (85.8%)
- have relevant assignments (84.2%)
- have assignments which require information processing and critical thinking (90.8%)

For each statement on the survey the largest percent of students were in the “Agree” category, followed by the “Strongly Agree” category, followed by the “Slightly Agree” category. Also in Appendix B is a statistics table which presents the means (averages) for each survey item. The means range from 4.23 to 4.94 on a six point scale. Taken together, the data indicate that the large majority of students tend to view their synthesis courses positively.

The comments requested from students were examined by the assessment committee. Comments were made by 101 students. The committee’s examination of the comments did not reveal any opinions or ideas which would effect the Synthesis Category of the UCC in any overall sense. There were many positive comments and many negative comments. The comments were, however, so course specific (and often contradictory) that the committee could not determine any useful generalizations.

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