



# Study Abroad Very Significant to Loyola Experience

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Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

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The Boston College Questionnaire (BCQ) research project was designed to gather information on seniors' academic and co-curricular experience, as well as their personal and religious/spiritual behavior and development, at Catholic colleges and universities in the United States. The BCQ project originated at and is administered by Boston College.

All graduating seniors at Loyola were invited to take the survey in spring of 2010. The response rate was 43%, with 741 seniors taking the survey (not all students answered all questions). Compared to the Loyola senior population, Loyola respondents were slightly more likely to be female and slightly more likely to be white. They were representative in terms of their school (CAS, Business, etc.)

This report looks at students' participation in various academic and non-curricular activities, as well as the significance of that participation to the Loyola experience.

## Key findings

### Academic activities

- Of the 35% of seniors who studied abroad, 90% said the experience was significant or very significant to their Loyola experience (see Table 1).
- Three quarters of seniors had done internships, and 90% of those said their internships were significant to their Loyola experience.
- The most common academic activity was conversations with faculty outside the classroom (97% participation), with 81% of those seniors saying that was significant to their Loyola experience.
- Also very common was attendance at evening lectures/visiting speakers (91%), but only 53% of attendees said that was significant to their Loyola experience.
- Two thirds of seniors had participated in study groups, and two thirds of participants found those groups to be significant.
- Few students were members of the Honors Program (13%) or served as teaching assistants (12%), and only half of each group of participants saw the

experience as significant.

- Of the 26% who said they participated in faculty research, 75% said it was significant to their Loyola experience.
- Fifty nine percent of seniors had taken a service learning course, and 61% of them found the experience to be significant.

### Co-curricular activities

- Although few seniors participated in an international immersion program (16%), 88% of those who did found the experience to be significant or very significant to their Loyola experience (see Table 2).
- Just over half of seniors had participated in local community service/volunteering, and 85% of them said the experience was significant.
- Of the 62% of seniors who said they had worked 10 hours per week or more during at least one of their years at Loyola, 85% said that was significant to their Loyola experience.
- Thirty eight percent of seniors had participated in academic/professional clubs, and two thirds of those found the experience significant.
- Of the 24% who had participated in an issues awareness/social justice group, 77% said that participation was significant to their Loyola experience. Of the 25% who participated in cultural/ethnic heritage clubs, 61% said that participation was significant.
- Least, but still meaningfully significant to some participants were political groups (11% participation, 47% significant), and intramural sports (23% participation, 48% significant).
- Religious activities were relatively uncommon, but some of them were of substantial significance to students' Loyola experience. Only 14% participated in ministry programs, but 72% of those seniors found them to be significant. Other religious activities included religious clubs (14% participation, 67% significant), liturgical ministries (12% participation, 67% significant), and Evoke activities (16% participation, 50% significant).
- Sixteen percent of seniors reported being a member of a Greek organization, and 70% of those found that membership to be significant or very significant to their Loyola experience.

## Conclusions

- International experiences, both study abroad and international immersion programs, were particularly significant to the Loyola experience of those who participated.
- Almost all students had talked with faculty outside of class, and the great majority said that contact was significant to their Loyola experience.

- Internships were popular and significant.
- It might come at the expense of academics and other co-curricular experiences, but students who had worked at least 10 hours per week said that was significant to their Loyola experience.
- Local community service volunteering, something Loyola emphasizes, does serve as a significant part of the Loyola experience for the great majority of those who do it.

Table 1 Participation in Academic Activities and Significance for the Loyola Experience						
	Year of participation*				Any participation	Significant or very significant
	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior		
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Study abroad	1	6	20	7	35	90
Field experience (clinical, internship, practicum)	7	18	45	58	75	90
Conversation with faculty outside the classroom	55	68	88	87	97	81
Independent study/Reading and research	4	8	17	27	38	78
Research lab experience	4	7	16	19	31	75
Research project with faculty member/Research Assistant	1	4	9	17	26	75
Thesis/Capstone	0	1	7	48	55	73
Study groups	41	47	54	53	67	67
Service learning courses	8	8	19	40	59	61
Evening lecture or visiting speaker	41	58	72	66	91	53
Teaching Assistant	1	2	2	4	12	51
Honors program	6	4	5	6	13	50

Boston College Questionnaire, 2010 (unweighted data)

\* Students may have participated in more than one year.

Table 2 Participation in Co-curricular Activities and Significance to the Loyola Experience						
	Year of participation*				Any participation	Significant or very significant
	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior		
	%	%	%	%	%	%
International immersion	1	4	10	5	16	88
Local community service/volunteering	27	29	33	35	52	85
Work for pay 10 hours/week or more	28	40	50	50	62	85
Issues awareness/social justice groups	10	12	14	16	24	77
Ministry programs	7	8	7	8	14	72
Fraternity/Sorority, Greek life	6	9	11	11	16	70
Music, art, and performance groups	10	11	12	13	22	69
Inter-collegiate sports (Varsity)	4	4	4	4	7	67
Religious clubs	7	8	8	7	14	67
Liturgical ministries	6	6	6	6	12	67
Domestic immersion	6	3	4	4	13	66
Academic/pre-professional clubs	17	23	27	26	38	66
Leadership development programs	8	11	13	13	22	64
Cultural, ethnic-heritage clubs	15	14	15	13	25	61
Club sports	9	7	6	5	14	61
Retreats	6	6	6	6	14	61
Student government/programming organizations	4	6	6	7	14	59
Media or publications	4	4	6	7	13	56
Evoke activities	7	6	4	3	16	50
Intramural sports	16	12	11	10	23	48
Political groups	4	4	4	4	11	47

Boston College Questionnaire, 2010 (unweighted data)

\* Students may have participated in more than one year.