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# Undergraduate Survey, 2006-09

## Satisfaction with the Core Curriculum

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The Undergraduate Survey has been administered at Loyola every spring since 2006.<sup>1</sup> It contains questions on satisfaction with various aspects of the Loyola experience, including the Core Curriculum.

Responses to questions were on a five point scale, from 0 = lowest satisfaction to 4 = highest satisfaction. In addition to the specific questions, some questions were used to calculate an overall Core satisfaction index, also on a scale from 0 to 4.<sup>2</sup> All reported results represent averages on the 0 to 4 scale.

This report looks at the four classes (freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior) of respondents, and how their satisfaction with the Core changed from 2006 to 2009.

### Key findings

#### Core satisfaction summary index

- The Core satisfaction summary index increased slightly for freshmen from 2.5 in 2006 to 2.7 in 2009, and for sophomores from 2.4 in 2006 to 2.6 in 2009 (see Table 1).
- For juniors and seniors, there was no change in the Core satisfaction summary index from 2006 to 2009.
- In 2009, the Core satisfaction summary index was a little higher for freshmen (2.7) than it was for juniors (2.5) and seniors (2.5).

#### Overall satisfaction with Core Curriculum

- For freshmen, overall satisfaction with the Core curriculum increased from 2.4 in 2006 to 2.6 in 2007, but then dropped very slightly to 2.5 by 2009, resulting in no substantive net change.
- For sophomores, juniors, and seniors, there were no substantive changes from 2006 to 2009 in overall satisfaction with the Core curriculum.
- In 2009, there were no meaningful differences between the classes in their overall satisfaction with the Core curriculum.

#### Specific aspects of Core Curriculum

- In general, the aspect of the Core that most satisfied students was the regular faculty.

- Students also tended to be relatively satisfied with the quality of learning in the Core, with the clarity of learning outcomes, and, in some cases, with part-time faculty.
- There were no meaningful changes over time for any of the classes in overall satisfaction with regular faculty or with part-time faculty.
- Students were least satisfied with the availability of courses and with web-based resources in the Core.
- Satisfaction with the availability of courses in the Core increased slightly for both freshmen and sophomores between 2006 and 2009 (from 2.3 to 2.6 and from 2.2 to 2.5, respectively).
- For freshmen, sophomores, and seniors, satisfaction with web-based resources in the Core increased slightly from 2006 to 2008, and then dropped very slightly to 2.5, 2.3, and 2.4, respectively, in 2009, resulting in almost no net change.
- Satisfaction with web-based resources increased slightly for juniors from 2.2 in 2006 to 2.4 in 2009.
- Sophomore satisfaction with the clarity of Core learning outcomes increased slightly from 2.4 in 2006 to 2.6 in 2009; there was no meaningful change for any other class.
- There were no meaningful changes from 2006 to 2009 for any of the classes in satisfaction with the quality of learning in the Core.

### Conclusions

- Although differences between classes tend to be very slight, there was a pattern of greater freshman satisfaction, compared to the other classes, especially juniors and seniors.
- Students were more satisfied with regular faculty in the Core than with part-time faculty.
- As measured by the Core satisfaction summary index, both freshmen and sophomores were slightly more satisfied with the Core in 2009 than in 2006. However, there are no meaningful net changes in students' reported satisfaction with the Core curriculum as a whole.
- In general, there was some positive net change in satisfaction with the availability of courses and with web-based resources in the Core, although that it differed by class.

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A for number of respondents by year and class.

<sup>2</sup> See Table note for details of questions included.

Table 1 Satisfaction with Core Curriculum (average on scale from 0 to 4)								
	Core satisfaction summary index*	Overall satisfaction with Core curriculum	Satisfaction with specific aspects of Core					
			Regular faculty	Part-time faculty	Availability of courses	Web-based resources	Clarity of learning outcomes	Quality of learning
Freshman								
2006	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.6
2007	2.5	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.6
2008	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7
2009	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.7
Sophomore								
2006	2.4	2.3	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.5
2007	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.5
2008	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6
2009	2.6	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.6
Junior								
2006	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.5
2007	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.6
2008	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5
2009	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.5
Senior								
2006	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.6
2007	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.6
2008	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7
2009	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.6

Source: Undergraduate Survey, 2006-09

\* Core satisfaction summary index includes the following questions: satisfaction with regular faculty, with part-time faculty with availability of courses with clarity of learning outcomes, with quality of learning, and with the overall Core curriculum.

Appendix A Number of Respondents, by Year and Class					
	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total
2006	725	706	840	1,365	3,636
2007	883	855	803	1,484	4,025
2008	711	723	795	1,122	3,351
2009	785	811	955	1,372	3,923
Total	3,104	3,095	3,393	5,343	14,935

Source: Undergraduate Survey, 2006-09