

March 9, 2004

To: Gina Sapiro, Mo Noonan Bischof

From: Jocelyn Milner

Re: Assessment of Communication Skills Exhibited in Capstone Courses

I've updated the earlier analysis of the assessment of communication skills in capstone courses.

Attached are two summary pages:

1. a table of the average score, the standard deviation and N's for the four areas being measured.
2. frequency distributions of the scores

Key observations:

1. the average scores on reading, writing, information literacy, and competence in the field are not significantly different for freshmen-starts and transfer starts.
2. a higher percentage of transfer-starts than freshmen-starts received scores of "about average" and "somewhat above the norm".
3. a higher percentage of freshmen-starts than transfer-starts received scores of "well above the norm".

This answers the main question that the study was designed to address.

Attachments

**Assessment of Communication Skills in  
Undergraduate Capstone Courses  
Fall 2003, UW-Madison**

	All Students	Freshman- Starts	Transfer- Starts
Total Sample Size	636	511	125
Reading			
Average Score	3.7	3.8	3.7
Std Dev	1.0	1.0	0.8
Var	0.9	1.0	0.6
N	372	302	69
Writing			
Average Score	3.7	3.7	3.5
Std Dev	1.1	1.1	1.0
Var	1.1	1.2	0.9
N	386	314	72
Info Literacy			
Average Score	3.7	3.7	3.6
Std Dev	1.0	1.1	0.8
Var	1.0	1.1	0.7
N	351	287	64
Field			
Average Score	3.6	3.7	3.5
Std Dev	1.1	1.1	0.9
Var	1.1	1.2	0.8
N	365	296	69

Scores:

1. Well below the norm,
2. Somewhat below the norm,
3. About average,
4. Somewhat above the norm,
5. Well above the norm.

JLM 3/9/2004

# Assessment of Communication Skills in Undergraduate Capstone Courses Fall 2003, UW-Madison

	Frequency Distribution of the Scores - Counts							Frequency Distribution of the Scores - Percent				
	No response	1	2	3	4	5	1-5 Sum	1	2	3	4	5
		Well below the norm	Somewhat below the norm	About average	Somewhat above the Norm	Well above the norm						
<b>Reading</b>												
Freshmen-Starts	208	6	23	95	96	83	303	2	8	31	32	27
Transfer-Starts	56	0	3	27	30	9	69	0	4	39	43	13
<b>Writing</b>												
Freshmen-Starts	197	11	33	89	94	87	314	4	11	28	30	28
Transfer-Starts	53	3	3	29	26	11	72	4	4	40	36	15
<b>Information Literacy</b>												
Freshmen-Starts	224	7	30	83	89	78	287	2	10	29	31	27
Transfer-Starts	61	1	2	27	26	8	64	2	3	42	41	13
<b>Field</b>												
Freshmen-Starts	215	9	37	86	82	82	296	3	13	29	28	28
Transfer-Starts	56	1	7	26	26	9	69	1	10	38	38	13

