

# WABASH NATIONAL STUDY OF Liberal Arts Education

## Student Experiences Survey

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:** This survey contains questions about your activities and experiences during this academic year. There is neither a right nor wrong answer to any question. Please do your best to provide complete information. However, if you cannot respond to an item, feel free to leave the response blank. Your identity and responses will be held in strict confidence.

### DIRECTIONS:

- Use only a soft lead, #2 pencil—no mechanical pencils. **Do not** use an ink or ballpoint pen.
- Fill in the appropriate ovals completely.
- Make your marks heavy and dark and keep within the ovals.
- To change an answer, erase your mark completely and then mark your new choice.
- Mark only **ONE** response for each question.

### Study ID Number

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**Note:** Before you begin the survey, please print your Study ID Number, located on the label of your envelope, in the boxes to the right. Then, fill in the corresponding oval below each box. 

### Section I

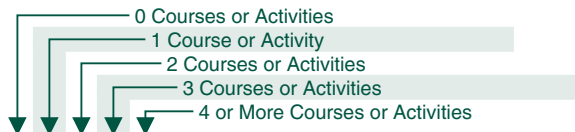
1. What is the highest academic degree you intend to earn in your lifetime? (Mark only one oval.)

- Vocational/technical certificate or diploma  
 Associate degree (A.A., A.S., or equivalent)  
 Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)  
 Master's degree (M.A., M.S., M.B.A., etc.)  
 Law (J.D.)  
 Doctorate (Ph.D., Ed.D., M.D.)

2. During this academic year, how many courses have you taken or are you taking in the general areas listed below?

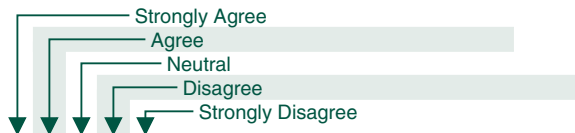
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3. In how many of the following courses or activities have you participated or taken part during this academic year?



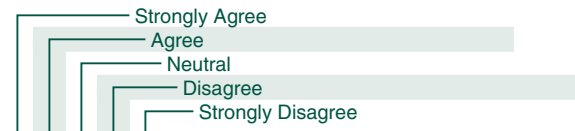
- A. Courses focusing on diverse cultures and perspectives (e.g., African American Studies, Latino Studies)
- B. Courses focusing on women's/gender studies
- C. Courses focusing on issues of equality and/or social justice
- D. Courses taught by more than one instructor, each from a different department
- E. Student clubs or campus organizations

4. Below are statements about your contact and interactions with faculty. Indicate the extent to which you agree/disagree with each.



- A. My **non-classroom** interactions with faculty have had a positive influence on my personal growth, values, and attitudes.
- B. My **non-classroom** interactions with faculty have had a positive influence on my intellectual growth and interest in ideas.
- C. My **non-classroom** interactions with faculty have had a positive influence on my career goals and aspirations.
- D. Since coming to this institution, I have developed a close, personal relationship with at least one faculty member.
- E. I am satisfied with the opportunities to meet and interact informally with faculty members.

5. Below are statements about your views of the faculty's interest in teaching and students. Indicate the extent to which you agree/disagree with each.



- Most faculty with whom I have had contact . . . .**
- A. are genuinely interested in students.
  - B. are interested in helping students grow in more than just academic areas.
  - C. are outstanding teachers.
  - D. are genuinely interested in teaching.
  - E. are willing to spend time outside of class to discuss issues of interest and importance to students.

6. Below are statements about receiving feedback from faculty concerning your learning in the classroom. How often have you experienced each?



- A. Faculty informed me of my level of performance in a timely manner.
- B. Faculty checked to see if I had learned the material well before going on to new material.

7. Below are statements about experiences you may have had in class. How often have you experienced each?



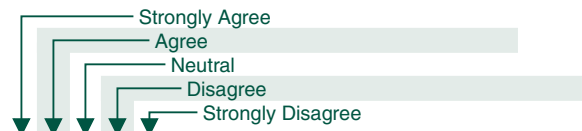
- A. Faculty asked challenging questions in class.
- B. Faculty asked me to show how a particular course concept could be applied to an actual problem or situation.
- C. Faculty asked me to point out any fallacies in basic ideas, principles, or points of view presented in the course.
- D. Faculty asked me to argue for or against a particular point of view.
- E. Faculty challenged my ideas in class.
- F. Students challenged each other's ideas in class.

8. Below are statements about faculty skill/clarity as well as preparation and organization in teaching. Taking into consideration all of the faculty with whom you've interacted at this college/university, how often have you experienced each?



- A. Faculty gave clear explanations.
- B. Faculty made good use of examples and illustrations to explain difficult points.
- C. Faculty effectively reviewed and summarized the material.
- D. Faculty interpreted abstract ideas and theories clearly.
- E. Faculty gave assignments that helped in learning the course material.
- F. The presentation of material was well organized.
- G. Faculty were well prepared for class.
- H. Class time was used effectively.
- I. Course goals and requirements were clearly explained.
- J. Faculty had a good command of what they were teaching.

9. Indicate the extent to which you agree/disagree with each of the following statements about your experiences at this college.



- A. Courses have helped me understand the historical, political, and social connections of past events.
- B. Courses have helped me see the connections between my intended career and how it affects society.
- C. My out-of-class experiences have helped me connect what I have learned in the classroom with life events.
- D. My out-of-class experiences have helped me translate knowledge and understanding from the classroom into action.
- E. My out-of-class experiences have had a positive influence on my intellectual growth and interest in ideas.
- F. My out-of-class experiences have had a positive influence on my personal growth, attitudes, and values.

10. Below are descriptions of the types of exams or assignments you may have had at this college. How often have you experienced each?

Very Often  
Often  
Sometimes  
Rarely  
Never

Exams or assignments required me to . . .

A. write essays.

B. solve problems.

C. use course content to address a problem not presented in the course.

D. compare or contrast topics or ideas from a course.

E. point out the strengths and weaknesses of a particular argument or point of view.

F. argue for or against a particular point of view and defend my argument.

11. Below are statements about experiences you may have had with other students at this college. To what extent do you agree/disagree with each?

Strongly Agree  
Agree  
Neutral  
Disagree  
Strongly Disagree

A. Since coming to this institution, I have developed close personal relationships with other students.

B. The student friendships I have developed at this institution have been personally satisfying.

C. My interpersonal relationships with other students have had a positive influence on my personal growth, attitudes, and values.

D. My interpersonal relationships with other students have had a positive influence on my intellectual growth and interest in ideas.

E. It has been difficult for me to meet and make friends with other students.

F. Few of the students I know would be willing to listen to me and help me if I had a personal problem.

G. Most students at this institution have values and attitudes different from my own.

12. How often have you had the following interactions with *diverse students* (e.g., students differing from you in race, national origin, values, religion, political views) while attending this college?

Very Often  
Often  
Sometimes  
Rarely  
Never

A. Had discussions regarding inter-group relations

B. Had meaningful and honest discussions about issues related to social justice

C. Shared personal feelings and problems

D. Had guarded, cautious interactions

E. Felt silenced by prejudice and discrimination from sharing my own experiences

F. Had hurtful, unresolved interactions

G. Had tense, somewhat hostile interactions

H. Felt insulted or threatened based on my race, national origin, values, or religion

13. Below are statements about learning cooperatively with other students on academic matters. How often have you experienced each?

Very Often  
Often  
Sometimes  
Rarely  
Never

A. In my classes, students taught each other in addition to faculty teaching.

B. Faculty encouraged me to participate in study groups outside of class.

C. I have participated in one or more study group(s) outside of class.

14. How frequently have you interacted with *student affairs professionals* (e.g., residence hall staff, career counselor, student union or campus activities staff) as described below?

Very Often  
Often  
Sometimes  
Rarely  
Never

A. Discussed a personal problem or concern

B. Had serious discussions with staff whose political, social, or religious opinions were different from your own

C. Worked on out-of-class activities (e.g., committees, orientation, student life activities)

D. Talked about career plans

E. Discussed ideas from your reading or classes

F. Discussed grades or assignments

## Section III

1. How important to you personally is each of the following?

Essential  
Very Important  
Somewhat Important  
Not Important

A. Becoming accomplished in one of the performing arts (e.g., acting, dancing, singing)

B. Obtaining recognition from my colleagues for contributions to my field of expertise

C. Influencing the political structure

D. Influencing social values

E. Raising a family

F. Having administrative responsibility for the work of others

G. Helping others who are in difficulty

H. Making a theoretical contribution to science

I. Writing original works (e.g., poems, novels, short stories)

J. Creating artistic work (e.g., painting, sculpture, film)

K. Becoming successful in a business of my own

L. Becoming involved in activities that preserve and enrich the environment

M. Developing a meaningful philosophy of life

N. Volunteering in my community

O. Helping to promote racial understanding

P. Keeping up to date with political affairs

Q. Becoming a community leader

R. Integrating spirituality into my life

S. Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures

T. Working to find a cure for a disease or illness

U. Making a lot of money

V. Working in a prestigious occupation

W. Becoming passionate about or committed to my occupation

2. Indicate the extent to which you agree/disagree with each of the following statements about your views or perspectives in general.

	Strongly Agree					
	Agree					
	Neutral					
	Disagree					
	Strongly Disagree					
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	A. I enjoy having discussions with people whose ideas and values are different from my own.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	B. The real value of a college education lies in being introduced to different values.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	C. I enjoy talking with people who have values different from mine because it helps me better understand myself and my values.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	D. Learning about people from different cultures is a very important part of my college education.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	E. I enjoy taking courses that challenge my beliefs and values.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	F. The courses I enjoy most are those that make me think about things from a different perspective.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	G. Contact with individuals whose backgrounds (e.g., race, national origin, sexual orientation) are different from my own is an essential part of my college education.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	H. I am willing to work hard in a course to learn the material even if it won't lead to a higher grade.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I. When I do well on a test, it is usually because I am well-prepared, not because the test is easy.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	J. I frequently do more reading in a class than is required simply because it interests me.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	K. I frequently talk to faculty outside of class about ideas presented during class.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	L. Getting the best grades I can is very important to me.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	M. I enjoy the challenge of learning complicated new material.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	N. My academic experiences (i.e., courses, labs, studying, discussions with faculty) will be the most <u>important</u> part of college.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	O. My academic experiences (i.e., courses, labs, studying, discussions with faculty) will be the most <u>enjoyable</u> part of college.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	P. I enjoy reading poetry and literature.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Q. I enjoy reading about science.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	R. I enjoy reading about history.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	S. I enjoy expressing my ideas in writing.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	T. After I write about something, I see that subject differently.
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	U. If I have something good to read, I'm never bored.

3. How often have you had the following experiences while attending this college?

	Very Often					
	Often					
	Sometimes					
	Rarely					
	Never					
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	A. Encountered diverse perspectives on campus outside the classroom (e.g., administrative offices, public forums)
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	B. Made friends with a student whose race was different from your own
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	C. Made friends with a student from another country
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	D. Had serious discussions with other students about different lifestyles and customs
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	E. Had serious discussions with other students about major social issues such as racial diversity, human rights, equality, or justice
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	F. Had serious discussions with faculty whose political, social, or religious opinions were different from your own

## Section IV

1. How would you characterize your political views?

- Far left  
 Liberal  
 Middle-of-the-road  
 Conservative  
 Far right

2. Overall, how would you rate your health?

- Excellent  
 Good  
 Fair  
 Poor  
 Very Poor

3. How frequently do you engage in aerobic exercise (e.g., running, walking, hiking, swimming)?

- I don't exercise regularly.  
 1–2 hours per week  
 3–4 hours per week  
 5–6 hours per week  
 More than 6 hours per week

4. In a typical one-week period during this year in college, how often did you consume alcoholic beverages?

- 0 times per week  
 1 time per week  
 2 times per week  
 3 times per week  
 4 times per week  
 5 times per week  
 6 times per week  
 7 times per week  
 More than 7 times per week

5. In a typical one-week period during this year in college, how often did you have 5 or more "drinks" in one sitting? (A "drink" is a 12-ounce can of beer, a 4-ounce glass of wine, 1 wine cooler, 1 shot of liquor, or 1 mixed drink.)

- 0 times  
 1 time  
 2 times  
 3–4 times  
 5 or more times

6. How many cigarettes do you smoke a day?

- I don't smoke cigarettes.  
 Less than 1/2 pack  
 1/2 to 1 pack  
 More than 1 pack but less than 2 packs  
 2 or more packs

7. How often do you feel that you are "sleep deprived" (i.e., don't get enough sleep to function effectively)?

- Almost always  
 Frequently  
 Occasionally  
 Seldom  
 Never

**Thank you for your answers  
to these questions.**