

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION
NSSE 2008 REPORT
SENIOR SPEECH MAJORS

N = 15

University N = 1113 (Response rate = 27 percent)

Table 1
Academic and Intellectual Experiences

In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?

| Mean range: 1=never, 2=sometimes, 3=often, 4=very often | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions | 3.20 | 3.02 | 2.96 |
| Made a class presentation | 3.07 | 2.71 | 2.71 |
| Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in | 2.40 | 2.46 | 2.43 |
| Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources | 3.07 | 3.23 | 3.25 |
| Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments | 2.80 | 2.95 | 2.71 |
| Come to class without completing readings or assignments | 2.53 | 2.22 | 2.17 |
| Worked with other students on projects DURING CLASS | 2.13 | 2.50 | 2.49 |
| Worked with classmates OUTSIDE OF CLASS to prepare class assignments | 2.13 | 2.62 | 2.82 |
| Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions | 2.50 | 2.94 | 2.94 |
| Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary) | 1.14 | 1.66 | 1.92 |
| Participated in a community-based project (e.g., service learning) as part of a regular course | 1.14 | 1.51 | 1.71 |
| Used an electronic medium (listserv, chat group, Internet, instant messaging, etc.) to discuss or complete an assignment | 2.57 | 2.74 | 2.83 |
| Used e-mail to communicate with an instructor | 3.36 | 3.37 | 3.37 |
| Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor | 2.57 | 2.77 | 2.79 |
| Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor | 1.86 | 2.23 | 2.37 |
| Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class | 1.43 | 2.04 | 2.07 |
| Received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance | 2.79 | 2.75 | 2.74 |
| Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations | 2.29 | 2.72 | 2.71 |
| Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.) | 1.29 | 1.61 | 1.81 |
| Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.) | 3.00 | 2.93 | 2.85 |
| Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own | 2.93 | 2.93 | 2.66 |
| Had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values | 2.57 | 2.84 | 2.67 |

Table 2
Mental Activities

During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities?

Mean range: 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much

| | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| MEMORIZING facts, ideas, or methods from your courses and readings so you can repeat them in pretty much the same form | 3.00 | 2.84 | 2.79 |
| ANALYZING the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components | 2.86 | 3.20 | 3.23 |
| SYNTHESIZING and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships | 2.36 | 2.95 | 3.01 |
| MAKING JUDGMENTS about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions | 3.07 | 2.98 | 2.97 |
| APPLYING theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations | 3.00 | 3.12 | 3.19 |

Table 3
Reading and Writing

During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?

Mean range: 1=none, 2=1-4, 3=5-10, 4=11-20, 5=more than 20

| | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Number of assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings | 3.14 | 3.19 | 3.12 |
| Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment | 1.64 | 2.22 | 2.18 |
| Number of written papers or reports of 20 PAGES OR MORE | 1.07 | 1.52 | 1.61 |
| Number of written papers or reports BETWEEN 5 AND 19 PAGES | 2.50 | 2.40 | 2.49 |
| Number of written papers or reports of FEWER THAN 5 PAGES | 2.93 | 2.74 | 2.96 |

Table 4
Problem Sets

In a typical week, how many homework problem sets do you complete?

Mean range: 1=none, 2=1-2, 3=3-4, 4=5-6, 5=more than 6

| | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Number of problem sets (problem-based homework assignments) that take you MORE than an hour to complete | 2.00 | 2.53 | 2.65 |
| Number of problem sets (problem-based homework assignments) that take you LESS than an hour to complete | 1.93 | 2.27 | 2.37 |

Table 5

Mean range: 1=very little to 7=very much

| | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Mark the box that best represents the extent to which your examinations during the current school year have challenged you to do your best work. | 4.71 | 5.42 | 5.43 |

Table 6
Additional Collegiate Experiences

During the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?

| | Carnegie | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Class Mean |
| Attended an art exhibit, play, dance, music, theater, or other performance | 1.57 | 1.99 | 2.05 |
| Exercised or participated in physical fitness activities | 2.46 | 2.43 | 2.69 |
| Participated in activities to enhance your spirituality (worship, meditation, prayer, etc.) | 2.14 | 2.18 | 2.28 |
| Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue | 2.64 | 2.76 | 2.69 |
| Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective | 2.71 | 2.93 | 2.82 |
| Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept | 2.71 | 2.95 | 2.87 |

Table 7
Enriching Educational Experiences

| | Dept. | | | | | | | | Univ. | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------|-------------------|------|------------|------|------|------|------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|------------|-----|------|-----|
| | Have not decided | | Do not plan to do | | Plan to do | | Done | | Have not decided | | Do not plan to do | | Plan to do | | Done | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Practicum, internship, field experience, co-op experience, or clinical assignment | 3 | 21.4 | 3 | 21.4 | 6 | 42.9 | 2 | 14.3 | 102 | 11% | 194 | 20% | 311 | 32% | 377 | 37% |
| Community service or volunteer work | 1 | 7.1 | 0 | .0 | 7 | 50.0 | 6 | 42.9 | 111 | 12% | 169 | 18% | 230 | 23% | 475 | 47% |
| Participate in a learning community | 3 | 21.4 | 7 | 50.0 | 1 | 7.1 | 3 | 21.4 | 137 | 14% | 519 | 53% | 95 | 10% | 230 | 23% |
| Work on a research project with a faculty member outside of course or program requirements | 5 | 35.7 | 8 | 57.1 | 1 | 7.1 | 0 | .0 | 199 | 20% | 508 | 52% | 145 | 15% | 130 | 13% |
| Foreign (additional) language coursework | 0 | .0 | 3 | 21.4 | 5 | 35.7 | 6 | 42.9 | 87 | 9% | 343 | 35% | 112 | 12% | 439 | 44% |
| Study abroad | 3 | 21.4 | 7 | 50.0 | 4 | 28.6 | 0 | .0 | 167 | 17% | 576 | 59% | 137 | 14% | 100 | 10% |
| Independent study or self-designed major | 3 | 23.1 | 9 | 69.2 | 1 | 7.7 | 0 | .0 | 156 | 16% | 614 | 62% | 99 | 10% | 113 | 12% |
| Culminating senior experience (capstone course, senior project or thesis, comprehensive exam) | 4 | 28.6 | 7 | 50.0 | 2 | 14.3 | 1 | 7.1 | 169 | 17% | 320 | 32% | 308 | 31% | 187 | 19% |

Table 8

Mean range: 1=unfriendly, unsupportive, sense of alienation to 7=friendly, supportive, sense of belonging

| | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Quality: Your relationships with other students | 4.77 | 5.14 | 5.58 |

Table 9

Mean range: 1=unavailable, unhelpful, unsympathetic to 7=available, helpful, sympathetic

| | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Quality: Your relationships with faculty members | 4.54 | 5.16 | 5.27 |

Table 10

*Mean range: 1=unhelpful, inconsiderate, rigid to 7=helpful, considerate, flexible

| | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Quality: Your relationships with administrative personnel and offices | 3.85 | 3.95 | 4.47 |

**Table 11
Time Usage**

About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?

Mean range: 1=0hrs/wk, 2=1-5 hrs/wk, 3=6-10 hrs/wk, 4=11-15 hrs/wk, 5=16-20 hrs/wk, 6=21-25 hrs/wk, 7=26-30 hrs/wk, 8=more than 30 hrs/wk

| | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities) | 2.50 | 3.80 | 4.15 |
| Working for pay ON CAMPUS | 1.00 | 1.42 | 1.89 |
| Working for pay OFF CAMPUS | 5.92 | 4.87 | 3.58 |
| Participating in co-curricular activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, fraternity or sorority, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.) | 1.42 | 1.65 | 2.08 |
| Relaxing and socializing (watching TV, partying, etc.) | 3.00 | 3.42 | 3.52 |
| Providing care for dependents living with you (parents, children, spouse, etc.) | 3.17 | 2.82 | 2.25 |
| Commuting to class (driving, walking, etc.) | 3.17 | 2.80 | 2.38 |

Table 12
Institutional Environment

To what extent does your institution emphasize each of the following?

| Mean range: 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work | 2.50 | 3.01 | 3.15 |
| Providing the support you need to help you succeed academically | 2.18 | 2.75 | 2.88 |
| Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds | 2.08 | 2.59 | 2.45 |
| Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.) | 1.33 | 1.80 | 1.96 |
| Providing the support you need to thrive socially | 1.67 | 2.06 | 2.24 |
| Attending campus events and activities (special speakers, cultural performances, athletic events, etc.) | 2.08 | 2.42 | 2.66 |
| Using computers in academic work | 2.75 | 3.40 | 3.49 |

Table 13
Educational and Personal Growth

To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?

| Mean range: 1=very little, 2=some, 3=quite a bit, 4=very much | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Acquiring a broad general education | 3.18 | 3.26 | 3.27 |
| Acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills | 2.45 | 2.95 | 3.06 |
| Writing clearly and effectively | 2.82 | 3.09 | 3.04 |
| Speaking clearly and effectively | 2.73 | 2.98 | 2.94 |
| Thinking critically and analytically | 2.90 | 3.28 | 3.35 |
| Analyzing quantitative problems | 2.64 | 3.02 | 3.12 |
| Using computing and information technology | 2.73 | 3.15 | 3.25 |
| Working effectively with others | 2.50 | 3.02 | 3.14 |
| Voting in local, state (provincial), or national (federal) elections | 2.00 | 2.04 | 2.08 |
| Learning effectively on your own | 2.50 | 2.93 | 3.03 |
| Understanding yourself | 2.00 | 2.67 | 2.78 |
| Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds | 2.50 | 2.79 | 2.59 |
| Solving complex real-world problems | 1.60 | 2.67 | 2.79 |
| Developing a personal code of values and ethics | 1.60 | 2.46 | 2.71 |
| Contributing to the welfare of your community | 1.80 | 2.28 | 2.48 |
| Developing a deepened sense of spirituality | 1.40 | 1.74 | 2.03 |

Table 14
Academic Advising

| Mean range: 1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution? | 2.00 | 2.56 | 2.77 |

Table 15
Satisfaction

| Mean range: 1=poor, 2=fair, 3=good, 4=excellent | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution? | 2.50 | 3.05 | 3.18 |

Table 16
Satisfaction

| Mean range: 1=definitely no, 2=probably no, 3=probably yes, 4=definitely yes | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Carnegie Class Mean |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| If you could start over again, would you go to the SAME INSTITUTION you are now attending? | 2.92 | 3.03 | 3.19 |

University System of Georgia Consortium Questions

Table 17

| Mean range: 1=0, 2=1, 3=2, 4=3, 5=4 or more times | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Univ. System Mean |
|--|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| During the academic year, how many times have you participated in academic advising at this college? | 2.67 | 2.76 | 3.05 |

Table 18

Respond to the following statements based on the academic advising you have participated in at this college this year.

| Mean range: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=agree, 4=strongly agree | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Univ. System Mean |
|--|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| The academic advising I received on course requirements, selection, and scheduling was helpful. | 2.38 | 2.87 | 3.14 |
| The academic advising I received on selecting, changing, or modifying my major field of study was helpful. | 2.17 | 2.80 | 3.05 |
| The academic advising I received on my career preparation, employment opportunities, and/or graduate school was helpful. | 1.71 | 2.60 | 2.97 |
| The academic advising I received helped me overcome academic difficulties. | 2.00 | 2.53 | 2.84 |

Table 19

| Mean range: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=agree, 4=strongly agree | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Univ. System Mean |
|---|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Courses at this college are offered in such a way that I can take them in the recommended sequence and still complete my degree in a timely manner. | 2.00 | 2.76 | 2.82 |

Table 20***Since entering this college, how often have you felt:***

Mean range: 1=not at all, 2=rarely, 3=occasionally, 4=frequently

| | Dept. Mean | Univ. Mean | Univ. System Mean |
|--|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| That your job responsibilities interfered with your coursework | 3.27 | 2.97 | 2.75 |
| That your family responsibilities interfered with your coursework | 2.45 | 2.54 | 2.46 |
| That financial difficulties interfered with your coursework | 2.91 | 2.62 | 2.48 |
| That your social life interfered with your coursework | 2.09 | 2.14 | 2.19 |
| That you lacked the computer skills necessary to complete your assignments | 1.45 | 1.42 | 1.47 |
| That you lacked the math skills necessary to complete your assignments | 1.91 | 1.60 | 1.62 |
| That you lacked the writing skills necessary to complete your assignments | 1.45 | 1.44 | 1.49 |