

Graduating Seniors' Academic and Co-Curricular Experiences

The College Senior Survey

The College Senior Survey (CSS) was distributed to graduating seniors at Miami University in the spring of 2010. The CSS is a national survey conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA. The survey addresses a variety of student outcomes including students' academic and co-curricular experiences at Miami, their academic and affective development, and their post-graduation plans. Because the CSS is a national survey, we are able to compare the responses of Miami University seniors to those of participating students at other 4-year public universities. 674 graduating seniors at Miami completed the survey in the spring of 2010.

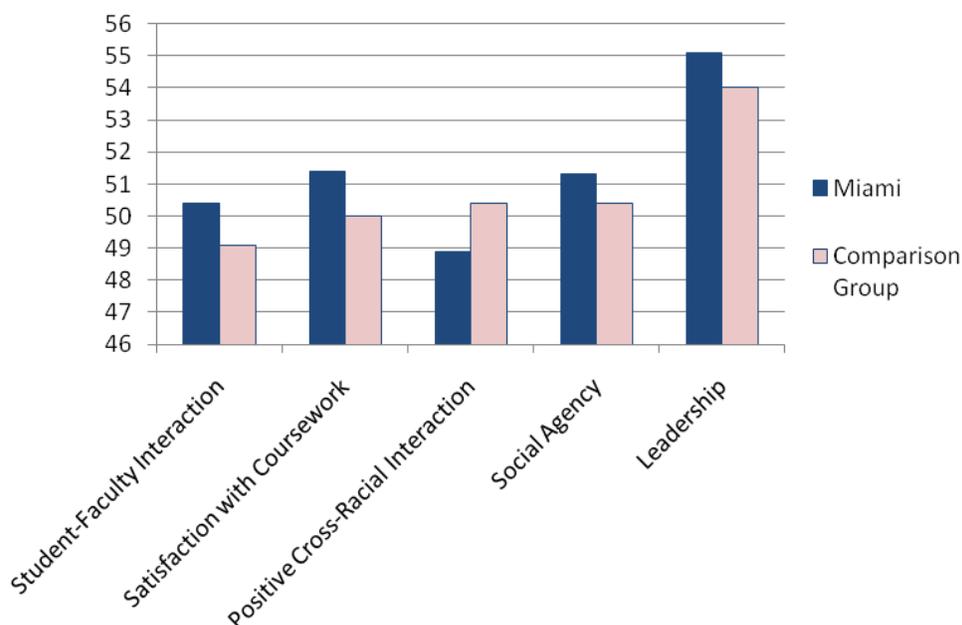
Results

Miami University seniors scored higher than their counterparts at other public universities on several underlying constructs identified by HERI researchers.

Miami seniors were more likely than students in the comparison group to report receiving mentorship, support and guidance from faculty; to see their coursework as relevant, useful, and applicable to their academic success and future plans; to value political and social involvement as a personal goal (Social Agency); and to report development and ability in their experiences as a leader.

Miami students, however, reported fewer positive interactions with diverse peers than did students in the comparison group.

2010 CSS Constructs



Using the Results

Several Miami programs, such as the Top 25 Project and *Leadershape*, promote Miami's continued excellence in areas such as satisfaction with coursework and student leadership. Miami's weaker results in students' cross-racial interaction is consistent with the results from other national surveys conducted at Miami. For example, results from the 2009 National Survey of Student Engagement also suggest that Miami students are less likely to have conversations with individuals of a different race or ethnicity than are their peers at other universities, suggesting this is an area that should be addressed. For those interested in learning more about encouraging student interaction with diverse peers, CELTUA is hosting several related workshops within the next month.

- March 22: [Strategies for Maximizing Globalization in Pedagogy and Curricular Development](#) (Presenter: Rodney D. Coates, Sociology and Gerontology)
- March 30: [Faculty Learning Community for Increasing Underrepresented Minorities in the STEM Disciplines](#) (Presenter: Jhan Berry, Psychology, et al.)
- Videos of past CELTUA presentations are also available at: <http://www.units.muohio.edu/celt/resources/videos.php>

Thanks to our readers! Email celt@muohio.edu with Assessment Brief in the subject line and be entered in a drawing for \$25 and/or a vintage CELT mug!