

Keck First Year Seminar: STUDENT midterm-survey: Fall 2011

I. Self-perceptions of Student Research Abilities (n=124)

Students used these guidelines to assess their level of capability to accomplish the following tasks.

- 1: **Slightly.** Able to accomplish with *continuous guidance and direct instruction*.
- 2: **Relatively.** Able to accomplish with *frequent guidance* from an expert/mentor.
- 3: **Adequately.** Able to accomplish with *regular (scheduled) assistance* from an expert/mentor.
- 4: **Considerably.** Able to accomplish with *few questions and guidance* from an expert/mentor.
- 5: **Exceptionally.** Able to accomplish *without consulting an expert/mentor*.

	To what extent do you feel capable of:	Average	Standard Deviation
Planning Research	1. <i>Designing</i> an original research study?	2.76	1.02
	2. <i>Locating current research</i> studies relevant to any research topic?	3.40	.962
Analyzing Research	3. <i>Demonstrating problem-solving or critical thinking skills</i> when carrying out a research project?	3.50	.812
	4. <i>Interpreting research</i> findings appropriate to a research topic?	3.39	.871
Communicating Research	5. <i>Communicating</i> clearly in well-organized and persuasive <i>oral</i> presentations?	3.50	.958
	6. <i>Communicating</i> effectively in well-organized and clear <i>written</i> discourse?	3.43	.818

II. Post-baccalaureate Goals

- 1. 89 out of 124 students (72%) are interested in attending graduate school. Their interests range from business to the sciences to undetermined.

III. Reasons for selecting a Keck First Year Seminar

- 1. 58 of 124 students (47%) reported that the seminar was not their first choice, but was in their top 3.
- 2. 35 out of 124 (28%) reported that the seminar was related to their field of interest or major.

3. 33 out of 124 (27%) students reported that the seminar was just assigned to them; it was not listed as a choice.
4. 29 out of 124 students (23%) listed the seminar as their first choice.

IV. Prior Research Experiences

1. 17 out of 124 students (only 14%) reported having participated in prior research projects. (3=research assistants; 2 teacher's assistants; 9=independent research; 6=other)
2. Most prior research experiences that were documented related to class research papers or projects.