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## ABSTRACT

The perceived benefits of college as reported by alumni from 55 postsecondary institutions in the United States were surveyed during 1980-1982 using the Alumni Survey of the American College Testing (ACT) Program. Findings were analyzed for the total group of 12,682 and for subgroups based on college size, student sex, student major area, number of years since graduation, and college affiliation. Each of the institutions mailed survey instruments to a sample of recent alumni and later returned the forms to ACT. The median age of the respondents was 27.2 years, with a range of 20 years through over 65 years; $72.3 \%$ were from publić colleges, while 27.7\% were from private institutions. Data were analyzed for 24 areas of personal growth that are often claimed to be outcomes of postsecondary education. The alumni were asked to indicate the degree to which their college educations contributed to their personal growth in.each of the 24 areas, which are listed. The data from the study suggest that alumni feel that their college educations have: contributed to their personal growth most extensively in such areas as learning on your own, working independently, persisting at difficult tasks, and organizing your time effectively. It is suggested that these outcome areas appear to be related to general learning skills, rather than to specific academic skills or subjects. This finding tends to support the contention that a college education offers more than job training or specific occupational skills. The largest differences between respondent subgroups occurred with regard to college major (e.g., business, education, physical sciences). Six factors that were identified by factor analysis as underlying the 24 outcome variables are compared with the outcome structure recently developed at the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. The alumri survey and a list of college majors are appended. (SW)

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# STRUCTURING THE PERCEIVED OUTCOMES OF HIGHER EDUCATION 

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Paper presented at the Annual Forum of the Association for Institutional Research, Minneapolis, Minnesota, May, 1982.



## ABSTRACT

In recent years, colleges have frequently, been called on to explore and document the outcomes of their educational programs. Numerous attempts have been made to structure college outcomes, but relatively limited data have been presented to support these outcome models. This paper presents data related to the perceived benefits - of college as reported by alumni from a variety of postsecondary institutions across the United States. Data for the study were collected during 1980, 1981, and 1982 using the ACT Alumni Survey instrument.' Results are presented for the total group of 12,682 respondents and for subgroups based on college size, student sex, student major area, number of years since graduation, and college affiliation. The observed factor structure is compared and contrasted with an outcome structure recently developed at the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems:

Until recentiy, the American public tended to accept the value of a postsecondary education without question. College graduates typically obtained high-level jobs, received above average salaries, became leaders in the community, and were generally regarded as "educated" individuals. Since these educational benefits were widely accepted, colleges felt little public pressure to study and document the various outcomes of the educa- : tional process.

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During the last twenty years, however, a number of economic, political and educational trends have disturbed the public confidence in higher education. Many college graduates have had difficulty in fínding employment, and a significant number have accepted jobs with relatively low salaries. The expanded range. of postsecondary courses and programs has, prompted questions concerning the goals and objectives of higher education. With more indivireceiving increasing critical attention. As a result of these trenas, colleges are frequently called on to examine the outcomes of postsecondary education in a more detailed and comprehensive manner. ${ }_{\text {as }}$

While various approaches may be utilized in exploring college outcomes, perhaps the most appropriate point at which an institution may begin ${ }^{8}$ study of its educational outcomes is with an examination of the individuals who have complet degrees at the college--the alumni of the institution. By examining the impact college has had on these individuals, institutional personnel: may gain vàluable informationconcerning the impact of the programs and services offered at the institution. Macclean (1941) expressed the value of alumni data in the following manner:


#### Abstract

The alumni and ex-students are our product. Only from them can we learn what they got-from us, what we did to and for them that was right, wrong, of consequence, of inconsequence, fruitful or wasteful. Only by learning these things can we realize the program of higher education in America so that it may function, be effective, and win continued support. Only thus can we learn what to cut out of present programs and what to put into future ones.


In a more recent paper, Bogue (1975) again emphasized the importance of alumni data: "One of the most valuable sources of data available to colleges and universities" on their performance is that provided by former graduates".

Numerous studies of college outcomes, employing various types of alumni data, 薄ave been conducted. Toombs (1973) examined the relationships between institutional programs and the employment prospects of recent alumni. In 1976, the Iowa Department of Public Instruction conducted a study to determine employers attitudes regarding the preparation and competency of vocational/technical school graduates. Pace (1941) conducted an extensive alumni survey dealing with job satisfaction, personal experiences, and personal opinions. Kapes (1978) studied the attitudes of employers regariring the : competencies of vocational/technical school graduates in Pennsylvania, and concluded that graduates needed more training in the areat personal relations.

In addition to the many alumni-related outcomes studies conducted during the past fifty years, a number of theoretical models of the structure underlying the outcomes of higher education have been developed. The Educational Policies Commission (1938) declared that the principal aims of education were to develop 1) an educated person, 2) an educated producer, 3) an educated consumer, and 4) an educated citizen. Lenning (1974a) noted that the seemed to be three primary categories of college benefits: student benefits, private postgraduate benefits, and societal benefits. Taber and Hackman (1976) provided five general categories of undergraduate college performance including:
1), general academic dimensions; 2) specific academic dimensions, 3) personal

Outcomes Structure, lists five major categories of educational outcomes (Lenning, 1977b):

- Economic Outcomes--Mintenance or change in economic characteristics and conditions of individuals, groups, organizations, and communities, e.g., in eccomic access, in economic mobility and independence, in economic security, and in income ath standard of living.
- Himan Characteristic Outcomes - Maintenance or change in human makeup and characteristics (other than knowledgesand understanding) of individuals, groups, organizations, and communities, e.g., aspirations, competence and skills, affective characteristics, perceptual characteristics, phyşical and physiological characteristics, personality and personal coping characteristics, recognition and certification, and social roles.
- Knowledge, Technology, and Art Form Outcomes--Maintenance or change in the fknowledge and understanding, technology, or the fart forms and works possessed or mastered by individuals, groups, organjzations, and ommunities, e.g., discoveries and inventions, technical developments, syntheses and reformulations of knowledge, new schools of ${ }^{\prime}$ thought in art and works created in those new traditiona, removation of art works.
- Resource and Service Provision Qutcomes--Mäntenance or change in the direct resources and services (other than those included above) provided to individuals, groups, organizations, and communities, e.g., próviding facilities, events, advisory assistance, analytic assistance, teaching, health care, and leadership.
- Other Maintenance and Change Outcomes--Examples would be: maintenance or change in the format, arrangement, activity, or administrative operation of an organization or institution; maintenance or change in the aesthetic/cultural level of the local community; maintenance or change in family ommuty activities, practices, and traditions.

Within each of these major categories, the Outiomes Structure includes many second-"and third-Tevel subcategories which provide a detaited outline of specific educational outcomes. $L$

White Lenning's Outcome Structure was developed carefully after an extensive literature review, it was not based on empirical evidence. Indeed, most of the more than 80 outcomes models which Lenning (1977a) reviewed were 'developed'in a logical or, theoretical manner and were not based onaactual a]umni data. The purposeof this paper is to present data from a number of individuạ $\mathfrak{l}$ alumni studies which examined the-outcomes of postsecondary education as perceived by college alumni. The factor structure obtained from canalysis of this data is compared and contrasted with the Outcomes Structure model proposed by Lenning, et. al. (1977b). ,

## METHOD

## Participants

Data for this paper,were collected between January 1, 1980, and April 1; 1982, at 55 colleges and universities located throughout the United States. (Most of the participating institutions were located in the Eastern and Midwestern United States.) These institutions were not selected in a random manner; all institutions that voluntarily used the ACT Alumnj Survey during 27-month time period indicated above were included in the study. The 55 colleges and universities included both public and private institutions offering degrees ranging from Associate of Artssthrough Doc'tor of Philosophy.

Each institution mailed survey instruments to a sample of its recent alumni, and subsequently returned the forms to ACT for scanning and report preparation. The median response rate obtained by the 55 colleges and universities was approximately $50 \%$. A total of 16,379 alumni records were
obtained im this manner,: however, since the records. from two institutions accounted for over $30 \%$ of the total number, 3089 records' were randompy deleted to assure that no individual institution's data represented more than $8 \%$ of the total. In addition, 608 records with missing data for the variables of interest were deleted from the study. In this manner, a total of 12,682 alumni records were identified for inclusion in the study.

The alumni that responded to the subvey ranged in age from 20 through Yover $65^{\prime \prime}$ with a median age of 27.2 years. Men constituted $43.9 \%$ of the respondents, while women represented $56.1 \%$ of the total number. Respondents from public and private jnstitutions accounted for $72.3 \%$ and $27.7 \%$ or the total sample, respectively. Nearly 89 of the respondents indicated they had been enrolled primarily à full-time students, and $88.8 \%$ indicated that they had been classified as "iñ-state" students.

## Instrumentation

Aly data for the study were obtained using the ACT Alumni Survey (a copy of. the instrument is attached to this paper). The instrument is a 4 -page, optically scannable questionnaire Eontaining a variet'y of items dealing with college experiences, employment history, current activities and demographic/ background information. The instrument was designed to be administered to recent college alumni, and is intended "to assist postsecondary institutions in collecting alumni data to be used in institutional planning and develop\% ment". The instrument contains* 7 sections including sections for current mailing addresses, comments and suggestions, and additional questions designed by the institution. Without the additional questions the instrument requires , approximately 20 minutes to complete. Each instrument was mailed with an institutional covèr letter and a self-addressed," postage-paid return envelope.
. The section of the instrument dealing with college experiences (Section III, Item I) provided. the data presented in this paper. This section lists 24 areas of personal growth which are often claimed to be outcomes of postsecondary education. (These 24 outcome areas are presented in Table .1.) The alumni were asked to indicate the degree to which their college educations contributed to their personal. growth in each of the 24 areas. Possible responses included "Very Much", "Somewhat"; and "Very Little".

## Procedures

. Each institution that administered the ACT Alumni Survey identified the alumni to whom the instruments were mailed, conducted the mailing, and undertook any follow-up activities that college personnel elected to employ. The completed instruments were then sent to ACT for scanning and report preparation. The history file containing all alumni records scored by ACT between January 1 , 1981, and April 1, 1982, served as the source of data for this study.

Data were analyzed for the total group of. respondents and by student major areá, type of institution (public vs private), student sex, number of years since graduation, and college size. In particular, the following subgroups of respondents were identified for analysis:

- Business and Commerce Majors $N=1784$
- Education Màjors $N=3621$
- Physical Science Majors (including Biological Science, Mathematics, Chemistry, ${ }^{\text {Physics; }}$ Computer Science, Engineering, and other related sciences)
- Social Sciance Májors (including Fine $1 \quad . N=$ Arts, Applied Arts, Foreign Languages, "中etters, Community Services, Social Services, "and other related areas) ${ }^{\text {b }}$
d: Mealth Profession Majors
$N=1074$
- Publìc College Alumni
$N=9170$
- Private College Alumni
$\mathrm{N}=3512$
- Majes
$N=5558$
- Females
$N=7099$
- Recent Alumni (0-4 years since graduation) . $N=7855$.
- 01der Alumni (5 or more years since $\quad N=4784$ "graduation)
- Small College Alumni (less than: 5000 . $N=7291$ students)
- Large College Alumni (5000 or more $N=5391$ students)
Several types of statistical analyses were ut"ilized in the study. Simple rankings of the outcome areas by the percentages of students selec"ting either the "Very Much" or the "Very Little" response to each area are presented to demonstrate the differences in response patterns for various - subgroups of alumni (see Tables 2, 3, and 5 through 11).: The $\chi^{2}$ goodness-of-fit statistic and the test for the difference between two proportions "were utilized to determine the level of significance of observed differencès among subgroups. The factor structure underlying the 24 outcome areas was explored using a Principal Axes Factor Analysis with irterative estimates of the communalities in the reduced correlation matrix. The number of
factors to be retained was determined by including only those factors with eigen-values above 1.0 (additional analyses with varying numbers of factors were also undertaken). The resulting factor pattern matrix wąs subsequently rotated using the VARIMAX procedure to enable easier interpretation of the results.


## RESU'.TS

Rankings of the 24 outcome areas by the percentages of all respondents indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Much" or "Very Little" to their personat-growth in the area, are presented in Tables 2 and 3. The first four outcome areas lis.ted in Table 2.("Very Much" contribution to personal growth) include Working independently, Learning on your own, Pelrsisting at difficult tasks, and Organizing your time effectively. The outçome areas which respondents felt were least influenced. by their college educations (Table 3) included Managing personal/family finances, Understanding consuṃer issuès, Understanding and applying mathematics in your daily activities.

Table 4 presents the averaje ratings of the 24 outcome areas for all respondents in the study. To determine these average ratings, the "Very Much" response was assigned-a value of 3 , the "Somewhat" response was coded 2, and the "Very Little"'response was coded 1. Since the standard deviations .associated with these averages were all approximately .70 and since 12,682 cases were analyzed, any difference of approximately. 025 in average rankings is singnificant at the $\alpha=.01$ level.

Tables 5 and 6 present the rankings of the six highest outcome areas in terms of the percentage of "Very Much" and "Very Little" responses, for each of the five subgroups based on college major. For the Physical Sciences and

Health Profession"subgroups, the outcome area with the highest rating was Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods. For the other three subgroups based on college major, the outcome area with the highest rating was Working indepentently. The outcome areas which respondents felt were least influenced by their college educations included Understanding consumer issues (Physical Science Majors), Understanding and applyịng mathematics in your daily activities (Social Science Majors), Caring for your own physical and mental health (Business Majors), and Managing personal/family finances (Education and Health Profession Majors).

Table 7 presents a summary of the outcome areas with the largest variations by major area in the percentages of respondents indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Much" to their personal growth in the area. All 14 areas listed in the table exhibited major-related differences significant at the .00000001 level. The two areas with the greatest observed differences were Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods and Understanding and åplying mathematics in your daily activities.

Tables 8 through 11 present outcome areas with large significant differences between the responses of various subgroups of respondents based on college type (public vs. private), college size, number of years since graduation, and student sex. The differences observed for these subgroups were much smaller in magnitude than those observed for the major-related subgroups, however, all the differences presented in the tables are significant at the . 00001 levè.

Table 12 presents the six-factor VARIMAX-rotated factor pattern matrix obtained through a Principal Axes Factor Analysis using iterations. The six-factor solution was utilized since six of the factors obtained in the the initial analysis had eigenvalues greater than 1.0. (Five and seven
factor solutions were also examined, but proved more difficult to interpret and were subsequently dropped.) Estimated communalities for the 6-factor solution ranged from . 25 for Using the library to .58 for Defining and solving problems, with a median value of approximately .47. Table 13 lists the outcome areas with loadings greater than .45 for each of the six factors identified in the study. In addition to those listed in the table, three other outcome areas had factor loadings in excess of .40: Organizing your time effectively and Planning and carrying out projects loaded . 42 and .44 respectively, on Factor 3 , while Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen had a factor loading of .42 on Factor 6. It is interesting to note that 21 of the 24 outcome areas included in the study had factor loadings above .45 on one of the six factors. In addition, none of these 21 variables had a high loading on more than one factor. The outcome areas with no loadings above . 45 included Using the library, Caring for your own physical and mental health, and Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The data from the study suggest that alumni of postsecondary institutions feel that their college educations have contributed to their personal growth most extensively in such areas as Learning on your own, Working independently, Persisting at difficult tasks, and Organizing your time effectively. (These results concur with those reported by Valiga (1981) in an earlier study utilizing similar data.) These outcome areas appear to be related to general learning skills, rather than to specific açademic skills or subjects. This finding tends to support the contention that a college education offers more than job training or specific occu-
pational skills. (It should be noted, however, that this study only explored perceived educational outcomes reported by college alumni.)

Although significant differences in responses were observed among subgroups based on sex, college major, number of years since graduation, college type, and college size, the largest differences, by far, occured among the subgróps básed on college major. For example, the outcome area Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods was the highest rated area for Physical Science and Health Profession Majors, while this outcome area was rated second lowest by Business Majors and fourth lowes.t by Education and Social Science Majors. Due to these extreme differences, it would seem evident that alumni with varying academic backgrounds have different views concerning the outcomes of their educations.

While significant differences were öbtained between subgroups of respondents bašed on sex, college size, number of years since graduation, and college type, these differences may have been a function of the varying academic major areas represented in each of the subgroups. Further research, controling for differences in major area, is needed in these areas.

The results of the factor analysis appear to indicate that six rather distinct factors underlie the 24 outcome variables analyzed in the study. Variables with high loadings on Factor 1 include Working independently, Persisting at difficult tasks, Learning on your owr, and Following directions. s. This factor, therefore, could be refered to as "learning skills" factor. The variables with high loadingsron Factor 2 deal with scientific principles, applied mathematics, problem solving and graphic information. Factor 2 , therefore, appears to be a "scientific/mathematics/problem solving" factor. In the same manner, Factor 3 could be refered to as an "interpersonal skills/group dynamics" factor and Factor 4 appears to be a "humanistic outcomes" factor. Factor 5 appears to be a "basic communication skills"
factor, while Factor 6 could be'refered to as a "life skills" factor.

- The six factors discussed above do not closely correspond to the five general outcome categories outlined in Lenning (1977b). Lenning's categories appear to encompass a much broader range of educational outcomes than those identified for this study. Indeed, all 24 of the outcome areas included in the ACT Alumni Survey could be classified in Lenning's second and third categories: Human characteristic outcomes and Knowledge, technology, and art form outcomes. Therefore, this study can not appropriately address the issue of the validity of Lenning's more comprehensive outcomes model. Never-the-less, The six factors defined in this study do roughly correspond to certain second- and third-level subcategories in


## Factor

Factor 1 ("learning skills")

Factor 2 ("scientific/mathematics/problem solving")

Factor 3 ("interpersonal skills/ group dynamics")

Factor 4 ("humanistic outcomes")

Factor 5 ("basic communication skills")

Factor 6 ("life skills")

Lenning's Corresponding Subcategory

- Academic Skills
- Intellectual Skills
- Research and Scholarship Knowledge and Understanding:
- Academic Skills
- Interpersonal, Leadership, and Organizational Skills
- Perceptual Characteristics
- Attitudes and Values
- Art froms and Works
- Expression and Communication Skills
- Citizenship Activities and Roles
- Citizenship and Family Membership Skills
- Social Activities and Roles

The six general factors identified in this study were determíned using data for the total sample of 12682 respondents. Due to the large differences in the data for the five subgroups based on college major, separate factor
analyses were conducted for each of these subgroups in an attempt to examine the stability of the observed factor structure for the entire sample: In general, these analyses tended to confirm the orininal 6-factor structure, however, some minor differences were noted:

- For Busines's and Education Majors, "the "learning skills" and "interpersonal skills/group dynamics" factors were less distinct than was the case for the total sample.
- The magnitudes of the factor loadings for the variables loading most
" heavily on the first two factors ("learning skilis" and "scientific/ mathematics/problem solving) varied somewhat from those for the total sample.
- The "interpersonal skilis/group dynamics" factor observed for the total sample of respondents was not evident in the factor analysis for the Health Profession Majors.
- For the"Social Science Majors, the outcome variabie Defining and solving problems loaded more heavily on the "interpersonal skills/. group dynamics" factor than on the "scientific/mathematics/problem solving" factor. This would seem to indicate that Social Science Majors view problem solving in a different light than do alumni from other major areas (or at least interpreted the survey item in a different manner).
While the six factors identified in this analysis appear relatively, stable across major areas (with the exceptions noted above), no factor analyses were conducted for separate subgroups based on sex, college size, number of years since graduation, and college type. Further research in these areas is needed to further clarify the nature of the outcome structure presented in this paper.

Table 1

Areas of Educational Growth Included in the ACT Alumni Survey

1. Writing effectively.
2. Speaking effectively.
3. Understanding written information.
4. Working independently.
5. Managing personal/family finances.:
6. Learning on your own.
7. Understanding graphic informátion.
8. Using the library.
9. Following dirëctions.
10. Understanding consumer issues.
11. Caring for your own physical and mental health.
12. Working cooperatively in a group.
13. Organizing your time effectively.
14. Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen.
15. Planning ánd carrying out projects:
16. Understanding and applying mathematics in your daily activities.
17. Understanding different philoşophies and cultures.
18. Persisting at difficult tasks.
19. Defining and solving problems.
20. Understanding the interaction of man and the environment.
21. Leading/guiding others.
22.. Recognizing assumptions, and making logical inferences, and reaching correct conclusions.
22. Understanding and appreciating the arts.
23. Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods.

Percentage of all respondents indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Much" to their personal growth in each outcome area.
\% "Very Much"" Outcome Area on
54.6 Working independently.
51.9 Learning on your own.
45.3
43.4
41.5
40.8
40.8
40.4
38.2
35.5 .
34.9
34.7
32.3
31.8
30.8
30.3
29.0
$28.0^{\text {. }}$
27.2
$\rho$
21.2
20.7
17.6
15.8
13.8

Persisting at difficult tasks.
Organizing your time effectively:
Planning and carrying out projects.
Defining and solving problems.
Understanding written information.
Working cooperatively in a group.
Using the library.
Leading/guiding others.
Recognizing assumptions, anđ making logical inferences, and reaching correct conclusions.
Understanding different philosophies and cultures.
Writing effectively.
Speaking effectively.
Understanding and appreciating the arts.
Following directions.
Caring for your own physical and mental health.
Understanding the interaction of man and the environment.
Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods.
Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen.
Understanding graphic information:
Managing personal/family finances.
Understanding and applying mathematics in your daily activities.
Understanding consumer issues.
Percentage of all respondents indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Little" to their personal growth in each outcome area.
\% "Very Little" Outcome Area
49.6
49.2
48.6
36.6
34.9
30.8
30.4
30.4
28.1
23.7
22.9
20.7
19.8
18.9
18.0
15.4
14.8
14.5
12.6
12.3
11.9
11.5

- 11.4
10.8
Managing personal/family finances.
Understanding consumer issues. -
Understanding and applying mathematics in your dáily activities.
Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a ci.tizen.
Caring for your own physical and mental health.
Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods.
Understanding graphic information.
Understanding and appreciating the arts.
Understanding the interaction of man and the environment.
Understanding different philosophies and cultures.
Following directions.
Leading/guiding others.
Using the library.
Writing effectively.
Speaking effectively.
Organizing your time effectively.
Working cooperatively in a group.
Recognizing assumptions, and making logical inferences, and reạching correct cönclusions.
Persisting at difficult tasks.
Planning and carrying out projects.
Understanding written information.
Defining and solving problems.
Working independently.
Learning on your own.

Table 4

Average ratings of college outcome areas for all respondents.
("Very Much" = 3, "Somewhat" = 2, "Very Little" = 1)

## Average Rating Outcome Area

2.433 Working independently.
2.411 Learning on your own.
2.327
2.293
2.292
2.289
2.280
2.256
2.204
2.184

Using the library.
2.148
2.138
2.135
2.110
2.074
2.005
1.999
1.964
1.941
1.903
1.846
1.680
1.672
$1 . .646$
Leading/guiding others.
Speaking effectively.
Writing effectively.
Understanding different philosophies and cultures.
Following directions.
Understanding and appreciating the arts,
Understanding the interaction of man anc the environment:
Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods.
Caring for your, own physical and mental health.
Understanding graphic information.
Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen.
Managing personal/family finances.
Understanding and applying mathematics in your daily activities.
Understanding consumier issues.

Outcome areas with the highest percentages of respondents indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Much" to their personal growth in the area by college major.

## BUSINESS MAJORS

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { \% "Very Much" Outcome Area . . } \\
& \text { 52.5 Wórking independently. } \\
& 49.9 \text { Learning on your own. } \\
& \text { 44.3 Defining and solving problems. } \\
& \text { 39.7, } \\
& \text { 39.6 Organizing your time effectively. } \\
& \text { 39.3 Persisting at difficuļt tasks. }
\end{aligned}
$$

EDUCATION MAJORS
\% "Very Much" Outcome Area53.5 Working independently.
50.745.8 Organizing your atime effectively.
45.4 Planning and carrying out projects.
45.3 Working cooperatively in a group.
Leading/guiding, others. ..... 43.1
PHYSICAL SCIENCE MAJORS
\% "Very Much" " Outcome Area
67.1
59.0
55.6
55.0
51.8
47.3

Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods.
Working independently.
Defining and solving problems.
Learning on your own.
Persisting at difficult tasks.
Recơgnizing assumptions, and making lôgical inferences, and reaghing correct conclusions.

Table $5^{\prime \prime}$ (continued)

- Outcome areas with the highest percentages of respondents indicating that, their college educations contributed
"Very Much" to their personal growth in the area by college major.

SOCIAL SCBIENCE MAJORS
\% "Very Much" Outcome: Area
56.0 Working independently.
52.7 Learning on your own.
48.3 Understanding, different philosophies and cultures.
Persisting at difficult tasks:
44.8 : Understanding written information.
42.8 . Planning and carrying out projects.

HEALTH PROFESSION MAJORS

## $\frac{\text { \% "Very Much" }}{\text { "J }} 57.4$

56.6
54.0
50.3 . Persisting at difficult tasks.
48.3 Organizing your time effectively.
47.7 Defining and solving problems.

Outcome Area
Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods.
Working independently.
Learning on your own.

## Table 6

Outcome areas with the highest percentages of respondents indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Little" to their personal growth in the area by college major.

## BUSINESS MAJORS

## \% "Very Little" Outcome Area

44.0 Caring for your own physical and mental health.
43.9 , Understanding and appreciating the arts.
37.2 ". Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen.
35.7 . Understanding the interaction of man and the environment.
34.4 Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods.
32.5 Understanding different philosophies and cultures.

EDUCATION MAJORS
\% "Very Little" Outcome Area
54.2 . Managing personal/family finances.
53.9 Understanding consumer issues.
53.5 Understanding and applying mathematics in your daily activities.
36.3 Understanding graphic information.
36.1 Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods.
33.9 Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen.

Table 6 (continued)

## Outcome ayeas with the highest percentages of respondents indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Little" to their personal growth in the area by college major.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE MAJORS

## \% "Very Little" <br> Outcome Area

57.5 Understanding consứmer issues
46.2 . " Managing personal/family finances.
39.4 Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen.
Caring for your own physical and mental health.

Understanding and appreciating the arts.
Leading/guiding others.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE MAJORS

\% "Very Little"
65.6
55.9
52.7
41.5
36.4
34.0

Outcome Area
Understanding and applying mathematics in your daily activities.

Managing personal/family finances.
Understanding consumer issues.
Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods.
Caring for your own physical and mental health.

Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen.

## HEALTH PROFESSION MAJORS

## \% "Very Little" Outcome Area

59.4
56.6
54.3
46.2
43.1
42.6

Managing personal/family finances.
Understanding consumer issues.
Understanding and appreciating the arts.
Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen.
Understanding and applying mathematics in your daily áctivities.
Understanding different philosophies and cultures.

Table - 7

Outcome Areas with the largest variation* by major area in the percent of respondents indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Much" to their personal growth in the area.
Outcome Area

Table 8

> Outcome areas with large significant differences* between the percentages of public college respondents and private college respondents indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Much" to their personal growth in the area.

Outcome Area
Understañing different philosophies and cultures. .

Understanding and appreciating the arts.
Understanding and applying mathematics in your daily activities.

Speaking effectively.
Writing effectively.
Persisting at difficult tasks.
Leading/guiding others.
Understanding consumer issues.
TOTAL FREQUENCIES

Public Colleges Private Colleges
29.6
48.1
26.9
41.1
17.2
12.2
29.2
30.0
43.0
51.3
33.3
41.4
11.3
14.8

9170
3512
*All differences in percentages are significant at the . 00001 level.

## Table 9

Outcome areas with large significant differences* between the percentages of small college respondents and large college respondents indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Little" to their personal growth in the area.
Outcome Area
Understanding consumer issues. 53.4 ..... 43.4
Understanding the interaction of man and 31.0 ..... 24.2
the environment.
Using the library.
21.817.2
Managing personal/family finănces. ..... 52.7 ..... 45.3
Understanding and appreciating the arts. ..... 32.9 ..... 27.0
TOTAL FREQUENCIES ..... 7291 ..... 5391
Smal! Colleges Large Colleges$-$
00001 level.
*All differences in percentages are significant at the . 00001 level.

Table 10.

Outcome areas with large significant differences* between the percentages of recent alumni and older alumni indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Much" to their personal growth in the area.

| Outcome Area | Recent Alumni |  | 0lder Alumni |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Understanding consumer issues. | 16.4 | 9.5 |  |
| Managing personal/family finances. | 19.7 | 14.0 |  |
| Defining and solving problems. | 43.0 | 37.2 |  |
| Understanding the interaction of <br> man and the environment. | 30.3 | 24.3 |  |
| TOTAL FREQUENCIES | 7855 | 4784 |  |

*All differences in percentages are significant at the . 00001 level.

## Table 11

Outcome areas with large significant differences* between the percentages of males and females indicating that their college educations contributed "Very Much" to their personal growth in the area.
Outcome Area
Understanding and applying mathematics in yourdaily activities.
Understanding and applying scientific principles ..... 32.4and methods.
Understanding and appreciating the arts. ..... 26.3 ..... 34.3
Organizing your time effectively. ..... 37.7 ..... 48.0
Understanding graphic information. ..... 24.8 ..... 17.5
Planning and carrying out projects. ..... 36.6 ..... 45.2
Working cooperatively in a group. ..... 36.4 .....  43.5
TOTAL FREQUENCIES ..... 5558 ..... 7099
$\therefore$ *All differences in pè̀rcentages are significant at the .00001 level.
varimax rotated factor matrix.

|  | Factor 1 | Factor 2 | Factor 3. | Factor 4 | Factor 5 | Factor 6 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Outcome Area 1* | 0.14974 | 0.09474 | $0.0656{ }^{\circ}$ | 0.20728 | 0.65127 | 0.05015 |
| Outcome Area 2 | 0.10368 | 0.05796 | $0.26244{ }^{*}$ | 0.15709 | 0.63669 | $=0.11664$ |
| Outcome Area 3 | 0.38555 | 0.26625 | 0.06079 | 0.13610 | 0.50073 | 0.14698 |
| Outcome Area 4 | 0.63657 | 0.11631 | 0.20533 | 0.05736 | 0.14174 | 0.14993 |
| Outcome Area 5 | - 0.24518 | 0.12369 | 0.14167 | 0.02117 | 0.07190 | 0.51333 |
| Outcome Area 6 | 0.63050 | 0.12908 | 0.17122 | 0.11199 | 0.07060 | 0.19867 |
| Outcome Area 7 | 0.31704 | 0.48892 | -0.03719 | 0.10466 | 0.12606 | 0.23376 |
| Outcome Area 8 | 0.35734 | 0.14998 | 0.01517 | 0.20074 | 0.19487 | 0.14234 |
| Outcome Area 9 | 0.52859 | 0.21366 | 0.18543 | 0.07457 | 0.19696 | 0.27041 |
| - Outcome Area 10 | 0.10195 | 0.22257 | 0.08065 | 0.17742 | 0.12186 | 0.54056 |
| Outcome Area 11 | 0.20159 | 0.08700 | 0.38478 | 0.15264 | 0.02387 | 0.37648 |
| Outcome Area 12 | 0.32384 | 0.05505 | 0.54938 | 0.09910 | 0.12116 | 0.23793 |
| Outcome Area 13 | 0.47361 | 0.12595 | 0.41772 | 0.07209 | 0.07914 | 0.17157 |
| Outcome Area 14 | 0.17550 | 0.09765 | 0.31505 | 0.35407 | 0.10252 | 0.42463 |
| Outcome Area 15 | 0.47185 | 0.17719 | 0.44265 | 0.16704 | 0.13394 | 0.09736 |
| Outcome Area 16 | 0.12755 | 0.54598 | 0.05540 | -0.03993 | 0.06590 | 0.35071 |
| Outcome Area 17 | 0.07011 | 0.11937 | 0.09206 | 0.69165 | 0.15970 | 0.06832 |
| Outcome Area 18 | 0.49516 | 0.30722 | 0.36386 | 0.19904 | 0.11273 | -0.06432 |
| Outcome Area 19 | 0.36601 | 0.52988 | 0.36057 | 0.16163 | 0.11782 | 0.00591 |
| Outcome Area 20 | 0.09681 | 0.25455 | 0.24847 | 0.51478 | 0.10536 | 0.2052 |
| Outcome Area 21 | 0.14350 | 0.12047 | 0.54647 | 0.20303 | 0.20485 | 0.12161 |
| Outcome Area 22 | 0.19498 | 0.51048 | 0.32509 | 0.21644 | 0.19006 | 0.0548 |
| Outcome Area 23 | 0.14207 | 0.01605 | 0.10078 | 0.54434 | 0.15107 | 0.0607 |
| Outcome Area 24 | 0.07525 | 0.60390 | 0.07112 | 0.11147 | 0.04027 | 0.0910 |

*Refer to Table 1 for Outcome Area descriptions.

## Table 13

> Areas of Educational Growth with Factor Loadings Greater than .45. (VARIMAX rotated, factor matrix)

FACTOR 1
. 64 . Wörking independently.
. 63 Learning on your own.
. 53 Following directions.
.50* Persisting at difficult tasks.
. 47 Organizing your time effectively.
.47 . Planning and carrying out projects.

## FACTOR 2

. 60 Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods.
. 55 Understanding and applying mathematics in your daily activi,ties.
. 53 Defining and solving problems.
. 51 - Recognizing assumptions, and making logical
inferences, and reaching correct conclusions.
. 49 Understanding graphic information.

FACTOR 3
. 55 Working cooperatively in a group.
. 55 Leading/guiding others.
(Based on responses of 12,682 college alumni.)

Table 13 (continued)

Areas of Educational Growth with Factor Loadings Greater than . 45 . (VARIMAX rotated factor matrix)

FACTOR 4
.69
Understanding different philosophies and cultures.
. 54 Understanding and appreciating the arts. . 51 Understanding the interaction of man and the environment.

## FACTOR 5

. 65 Writing effectively.
-. 64 Speaking effectively.
. 50 Understanding written information.

FACTOR 6
. 54 Understanding consumer issues.
.51 Managing personal/family finances.
(Based on responses of 12,682 college alumni.)

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## SECTION IV-EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Please respond to the following questions related to your employment since you graduated from this college. Complete only the parts of this section that apply to you



PART C: COMPLETE THESE QUESTIONS ONLY IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED

PART D: COMPLETE THESE QUESTIONS ONLY IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED


## !

DIRECTIOMS: The wromation you supply on this questionnart will be kept completely confidenta However. If any tem requests information that you do not wish to provide prease feet tree to omit it Your Social Security number is requested for research purposes oniy and will not be listed on any report
Please use a soft (No 1 or 2 ) iead pencil to fill in the oval indicating your response DO NOT
use a ball pont pert myiun-tip or felt-tip pen fountain pen, marker. or colored pencil Some items may not be applicable to you or to this college if this is the case, skip the item or mark the "Does Not Apply" option If you wish to change your response to an item, erase your first nark completely and then blacken the correct oval. Do not mark more than ONE response per item unless you are instructed to do so

## SECTION I-BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Begin by writing your Social Security number in the large boxes at the top of Block A.



SECTION II-CONTINUING EDUCATION
Complete this section only if you have continued your formal education since graduating from this college. If you have not, skip to Section ill.


WHAT IS THE MAJOR REASON YOUR EDUCATION? (Mark Only ONE Oval)

$C$
HOW WELL DID THIS COLLEGE PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING EDUCATION?

Exam Wh: W. W





| WHATIS THE |
| :---: |
| HIGHEST DEGREE |
| YOU PLAN TO |
| OBTAIN? |


$\left.\begin{array}{c}\text { WHAT HAS BEEN } \\ \text { YOUR PRIMARY } \\ \text { ENROLLMENT STATUS } \\ \text { DURING YOUR } \\ \text { CONTINUING EDUCATION? }\end{array}\right]$

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## LIST OF COLLEGE MAJORS AND OCCUPATIONAL CHOICES

Since we could not list all possible occupations and programs of study, you may not be able to find an exact description of the one that applies to you. If that is the case, you should select a general area--for example, 100 (Agricultural Fields), 200 (Engineering Fields), 220 (Fine and Applied Arts).
If you are completely undecided about your answer, mark 000.

000 Undecided
100 AGRICULTURE, general
101 Agricultural Business
102 Agricultural Economics
103 Agricultural and Farm Management (farming and ranching)
104 Agriculture, Forestry, and Wildlife Technologies
105 Agronomy (field crops and crop management)
106 Animal Science (hushandry)
107 Fish, Game, and Wildhis Management
$\mathfrak{a}^{108}$ Food Science and Technology
$\mathfrak{a}_{109}{ }^{108}$ Forestry
110 Horticulture/Ornamental Horticulture
111 Natural Resources Management (soil conservation)

120 ARCHITECTURE, general
121 Architecture Technology
122 City, Community, and Regional Planning
123 Environmental Design, general
124 Interior Design
125 Landscape Architecture
130 BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, general
, 131 Biology
132 Biochemistry
133 Botany.
134 Ecology
135 Microbiology
136 Zoology
140 BUSINESS AND COMMERCE, general
141 Accounting
142 Banking and Finance
143 Business Economics
144 Business Management and Administration
145 Food Marketıng
146 Hotel and Restaurant Management
147 Labor and Industrial Relations
148 Office Management
149 Markelıng and Purchasing (sales and retailing)
:150 Real Estate and Insurance
151 Recreation and Tourism
152 Secretarial Studies
153 Transportation and Public Utilities
160 COMMUNICATIONS, general
161 Journalism
162 Radio/Television (related to broadcasting)
163 Advertising
164 Library Science
170 COMPUTER AND INFORMATION
SCIENCES, general
171 Computer Programming
172 Information Systems and Sciences
173 Systems Analysis
174 Data Processing Technology
175 Computer Operating
176 Data Systems Repair
180 EDUCATION, general
181 Agricultural Education
182 Art Education n
183 Business, Commerce. and Distributive Educaton
184 Educational Admınıstration
185 Elementary Educatıon
186 English Education
187 Home Economics Education
188 Industrial Arts, Vocatıonal/Technic̣al Educaton
189 Mathematics Education
190 Music Educatıon
131 Physical Education

- 92 Postsecondary Education. general

93 Science Education

194 Secondary Education, general
195 Social Science Education
196 Special Education
197 Speech Education
198 Student Guidance and Counseling
200 ENGINEERING, general
201 Aerospace, Aeronautical, and Astronautical Engineering
202 Agricultural Engineering
203 Architectural Engineering
204 Chemical Engineering
205 Civil Engineering
206 Electrical, Electronics. and Communications Engineering
207 Envirönmental and Ecological Engineering
208 Geological Engineering
209 Industrial and/or Management Engineering
210 Mechanical Engineering
211 Metallurgical and Materials Engineering
212 Mining and Mineral Engineering
213 Nuclear Engineering
214 Ocean Engineering
215 Petroleum Engineering
220 FINE AND APPLIED ARTS, general
221 Applied Design (ceramics, weaving. commercial art)
222 Art (painting, orawing, sculpture)
223 Art History and Appreciation
224 Dance
225 Dramatic Arts (theater arts)
226 Music (liberal arts)
227 Music (performing, composition, theory)
228 Music History and Appreciation
229 Photography/Cinematography
230 FOREIGN LANGUAGES, general
231 French
232 German
233 Italian
234 Latin
235 Spanish
236 Russian
240 HEALTH PROFESSIONS, general
241 Dentistry
242 Dental Assistant
243 Dental Hygiene
244 Dental Lab Technology
245 Environmental Health Technologies
246 Medicine, general
247 Médical Assistant or Medical Offıce Assıstant
248 Medical or Laborttory Technology
249 Nursing (regıstered)
250 Nursing (licensed practical nurse)
251 Occupational Therapy
252 Optometry
253 Pharmacy
254 Physical Therapy
255 Public Health
256 Radiology
257 X-ray Technology
258 Surgical Technology (surgeon's assistant. etc.)
259 Veterinary Medicine
260 HOME ECONOMICS, general
261 Clothing and Textiles
262 Consumer Economics and Home Manage ment
263 Family Relations and Child Development
264 Fooús and Nutrition (Including Dietetics)
265 Institutional Management
270 LETTERS (humanities), general
271 Classics
272 Comparative Literature
273 Creative Writing
274 English, general

275 Linguistics
276 Literature. English
277 Philosophy
278 Religion and Theology
279 Speech, Debate, Forensic Science
280 MATHEMATICS, general
281 Applied Mathematics
282 Statistics (mathematical and theoretical)
285 PHYSICAL SCIENCE, general
286 Astronomy
287 Chemistry
288 Earth Sciences
289 Geology
290 Oceanography
291 Physics
. 300 COMMUNITY SERVICE, general
301 Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement (police science, corrections, etc.)
302 Parks and Recreation Management
303 Public Administration
304 Social Work
305 Military
310 SOCIAL SCIENCES, general
311 Anthropology
312 Area Studies (American civilization, American studies, etc.)
Criminal Justice (see code 301)
313 Economics
314 Ethnic Studies (Asian studies, Black studies, Chıcano studies, etc.)
315 Geography
316 History
317 International Relations
318 Law (prelaw)
319 Political Science
320 Psychology
321 Sociology
330 TRADE, INDUSTRIAL, AND TECHNICAL, general
331 Agricultural Mechanics and Technology
332 Air Conditioning, Refrigeration. and Heating Technology
333 Aeronautical and Aviation Tectınology
334 Appliance Repair
335 Automobile Body Repair
336 Automobile Mechanics
337 Business Machine Maintenance
338 Carpentry and Construction
339 Drafting/Engineering Graphics
340 Electricity and Electronics
341 Engineering Technology-Aeronautical
342 Engineering Technology-Automotive
343 Engineering Technology-Civil
344 Engineering Technology-Industrial/Manufacturing
345 Engineering Technology-Mechanical
346 Graphic Arts (printing, typesetting)
347 Heavy Equipment Operating
348 Dry Cleaning, Laundry, and Clothing Technology
349 Industrial Arts
350 Leatherworking (shoe repair, etc.)
351 Machinework (tool and die, etc.)
352 Masonry (brick, cement, stone, etc.)
353 Metalworking
354 Plumbing and Pipefitting
355 Radio/TV Repair
356 Small Engine Repair
357 Upholstering
358 Watch Repair and Other Instrument Maintenance and Repair
359 Welding
360 Woodworking (cabinetmaking, miliwork)
370 GENERAL STUDIES


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