

Indirect Measures of Proficiencies

In addition to using the NSSE Benchmarks as an indication of general learning proficiencies, the institution also looks at selected self-reported assessments in six critical skill areas (information literacy was just added). The results drawn from the surveys are appended. All data examined is for seniors.

Critical Thinking

Both the NSSE and CSS measures examined show PLNU's scores to be equivalent to a variety of comparison groups. The NSSE data shows a very slight increase over time.

Information Literacy

NSSE data indicates that PLNU is equivalent to comparators. CSS results comparator results have not yet been received.

Oral Communication

The NSSE data indicates that PLNU is quite similar to the various comparison groups. There has been a slight increase over time in the percentage of students who have given an oral report in their senior year and a concomitant increase in their belief that their college education has improved their speaking ability.

PLNU's alumni survey also shows that a high percentage of our alumni (surveyed 1-10 years after graduation) believe that their education contributed to their speaking ability.

Written Communication

NSSE data indicates that our students are like their peers in their assessment of the institution's contribution to their ability to write. However, based on 2005 and 2011 NSSE data, PLNU is having the students write fewer 5-19 page papers in their senior year than our comparators (CCCU or selected Comparators).

PLNU's alumni survey also shows that a high percentage of alumni (surveyed 1-10 years after graduation) believe that their college education contributed to their writing ability.

Quantitative Reasoning

NSSE results indicate that PLNU seniors state that their education contributed to their ability to analyze quantitative problems at approximately the same rate as the students at peer institutions.

PLNU's alumni survey indicates a high percentage of alumni believe that their problem solving ability was enhanced while in college.

Diversity

NSSE data indicates that our students are interacting with various aspects of diversity at about the same rate as peer and comparator institutions. Issues queried included:

- Including diverse perspectives in classroom discussions
- Had a serious conversation with a student of a different race or ethnicity
- Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from her perspective.

Slightly fewer students at PLNU than at our comparators indicated that their PLNU experience had contributed to their understanding of people from other racial and ethnic groups. The CSS data that we have indicate similar results (PLNU is waiting on the 2012 CSS results).

The alumni PLNU surveyed indicated that they are more sensitive to issues of race and class and that their time at PLNU had a positive impact on their understanding of several issues related to diversity.

GE - Critical Thinking

NSSE

		Thinking critically and analytically				
		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2000	87.6%		87.5%		86.0%
	2005	89%	92%		87%	87%
	2011	92%	90%	92%	87%	90%

Percentages indicate sum of "Quite a Bit" and "Very Much"

CSS

		Critical thinking skills		
		PLNU	Other Religious 4-Year Colleges	All Private 4-Year Colleges
	2005	41.8%	37.3%	40.2%
	2006	38.6%	40.6%	43.0%
	2008	50.0%	45.9%	46.8%
	2012	59.0%	*	*

Percentages indicate students reporting "much stronger"

*

Awaiting report from HERI

GE - Information Literacy

NSSE

In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?		Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources.				
		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2011	89%	90%	92%	88%	

Percentages indicate sum of "Often" and "Very Often"

CSS

How often in the past year did you:		Evaluate the quality or reliability of information you received		
		PLNU	Other Religious 4-Year Colleges	All Private 4-Year Colleges
	2012	59.0%	*	*

How often in the past year did you:		Integrate skills and knowledge from different sources and experiences		
		PLNU	Other Religious 4-Year Colleges	All Private 4-Year Colleges
	2012	76.2%	*	*

Percentages indicate students reporting "Frequently"

* Awaiting report from HERI

GE - Speaking Effectively

NSSE

		Made a class presentation				
		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2000	62.9%		60.1%		57.7%
	2005	66%	65%		68%	65%
	2011	69%	69%	69%	64%	

Percentages indicate sum of "Often" and "Very Often"

		Speaking clearly and effectively				
		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2000	72.6%		73.1%		71.3%
	2005	77%	76%		74%	73%
	2011	83%	78%	78%	74%	

Percentages indicate sum of "Quite a Bit" and "Very Much"

Alumni Survey (Homegrown)

		Speaking effectively				
		Very Much Enhanced	Much Enhanced	Enhanced	Not Enhanced	N/A
	2012	24.1%	32.7%	34.6%	8.2%	0.4%

		Developing effective verbal communication.			
		Major	Moderate	Minor	None
	2005	40.9%	46.7%	10.3%	2.1%

Percentages for those who earned an undergraduate degree from PLNU

GE - Written

NSSE

		To what extent has your college education contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?				
		Writing clearly and effectively				
		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2000	73.5%		76.1%		76.4%
	2005	79%	81%		78%	77%
	2011	79%	82%	83%	78%	

Percentages indicate sum of "Quite a Bit" and "Very Much"

		In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?				
		Rewrote a paper or an assignment several times				
		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2000	25.7%		18.4%		26.5%

Percentages indicate sum of "Often" and "Very Often"

		In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?				
		Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignments before turning it in				
		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2005	39%	40%		48%	47%
	2011	38%	39%	45%	49%	

Percentages indicate sum of "Often" and "Very Often"

		During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done?				
		Number of written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages				
		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2005	52%	59%		49%	52%
	2011	48%	54%	60%	47%	

Percentages indicate 5 or more such papers or reports

Alumni Survey (Homegrown)

How much were your abilities in the following areas enhanced by your total undergraduate experience at PLNU (in and out of the classroom)?					
Writing effectively					
	Very Much Enhanced	Much Enhanced	Enhanced	Not Enhanced	N/A
2012	26.8%	31.5%	36.2%	5.1%	0.4%

Describe the level of impact that your education at Point Loma had in each of the following areas:				
Developing effective written communication.				
	Major	Moderate	Minor	None
2005	42.4%	44.1%	11.7%	1.8%

Percentages for those who earned an undergraduate degree from PLNU

GE - Quantitative

NSSE

		Analyzing quantitative problems				
		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2000	62.8%		60.0%		66.3%
	2005	69%	71%		72%	72%
	2011	79%	70%	75%	76%	

Percentages indicate sum of "Quite a Bit" and "Very Much"

Alumni Survey (Homegrown)

		Solving problems				
		Very Much Enhanced	Much Enhanced	Enhanced	Not Enhanced	N/A
	2012	22.9%	35.7%	36.8%	4.3%	0.4%

Percentages for those who earned an undergraduate degree from PLNU

GE - Diversity

NSSE

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

Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments

		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2005	63%	67%		62%	62%
	2011	70%	68%	70%	65%	

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

Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own

		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2000	55.5%		39.9%		45.8%
	2005	48%	53%		49%	52%
	2011	52%	53%	49%	55%	

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

Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective

		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2005	70%	73%		64%	66%
	2011	75%	73%	74%	67%	

Percentages indicate sum of "Often" and "Very Often"

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

Understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds

		PLNU	Comparators	CCCU	Masters	NSSE
Seniors	2000	51%		53%		55%
	2005	41%	58%		53%	53%
	2011	53%	57%	59%	58%	

Percentages indicate sum of "Quite a Bit" and "Very Much"

CSS

During the past year, how often have you done each of the following?			
Socialized with someone of another racial/ethnic group			
	PLNU	Other Religious 4-Year Colleges	All Private 4-Year Colleges
2008	47.5%	38%	44%

Percentages indicate students reporting "Frequently" or "Occasionally"

To what extent have you experienced the following with students from a racial/ethnic group other than your own?			
Dined or shared a meal			
	PLNU	Other Religious 4-Year Colleges	All Private 4-Year Colleges
2012	60.6%	*	*

To what extent have you experienced the following with students from a racial/ethnic group other than your own?			
Studied or prepared for class			
	PLNU	Other Religious 4-Year Colleges	All Private 4-Year Colleges
2012	50.5%	*	*

Percentages indicate students reporting "Often" or "Very Often"

* Awaiting report from HERI

Alumni Survey (Homegrown)

Because of my education at Point Loma: I am more sensitive to issues of race and class.						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
2005	14.2%	28.8%	35.4%	15.0%	4.5%	1.9%

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements: My undergraduate experience at PLNU had a positive impact on						
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
My sensitivity toward and concern for others						
2012	30.2%	46.9%	15.5%	3.9%	1.9%	1.6%
My understanding of people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds						
2012	19.8%	35.0%	31.5%	8.9%	3.5%	1.2%
My affirmation of the equality of all people						
2012	28.7%	36.0%	24.8%	7.0%	2.3%	1.2%

Percentages for those who earned an undergraduate degree from PLNU