

Assessment Instruments Pacific Union College

Academic Advising Questionnaire

The Academic Advising Questionnaire is administered yearly, during the spring quarter. The purpose of the questionnaire is to give students an opportunity to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of their academic advising experience. Individual results are provided to the advisors, department chairs, and the Academic Advising office. Aggregate results are reported during the fall advisor orientation.

Alumni Survey

The Alumni Survey is scheduled every five years. The first survey was administered in 2004, and the second in 2009. Results are tabulated by the ACT Evaluation/Survey Service and sent to the Alumni Office. These reports have been shared with administrators; however, to date, there has been no effort to provide systematic analysis of the results.

Beliefs and Values Survey

The Beliefs and Values Survey is an adaptation of the UCLA/HERI instrument that is part of the CIRP Freshman Survey. PUC uses this as part of the GNST 401 senior assessment package. This is also where the institutional student learning outcomes are evaluated. Starting from the fall of 2010, a series of common questions is now asked of incoming freshmen in an effort to gauge any significant differences in freshman vs. senior responses. Continued use of this particular survey is under review.

Cooperative Institutional Research Project (CIRP)

The CIRP survey is administered electronically to in-coming freshmen during the first two weeks of the fall quarter. PUC has participated in this national survey for close to ten years. The survey is designed to provide a profile of freshmen attitudes on a range of topics including the environment, spirituality, race relations, cross-cultural contact, etc. It also asks students to report on activities in which they participated during the past year, and to project about experiences in which they expect to engage while at college. Highlights of survey results are typically reported by the Office of Student Services during College Assembly.

ETS Proficiency Profile

The Proficiency Profile is a product of the Educational Testing Service (ETS), and is basically a general academic achievement test given as part of the GNST 401 senior assessment seminar. This instrument measures skill dimensions (critical thinking, reading, and writing) as well as academic areas (humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences). Results are disaggregated by departments and the previous year's results are reported to Chamber of Chairs during the fall colloquy week.

Major Field Test (MFT)

As the name implies, this test is discipline-specific, and departments that use the MFT treat it as a major, if not *the* major, culminating or capstone experience for their seniors. Currently seven academic programs participate in the MFT: Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, English, Physics, and Psychology. The MFT is administered in the spring as part of the GNST 401 senior assessment package. Results are reported to the department chairs as well as to Academic Administration. To date, any trends in data has been gathered and housed within each department.

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

The Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research annually administers the NSSE to both first-year and senior students nationally. This instrument is designed to measure the extent to which students engage in effective educational practices that can be linked to learning, personal development, and other outcomes such as student satisfaction, persistence, and graduation. PUC has set itself on a course to participate in the NSSE on a three-year cycle. We first participated in 2008 and will do so again in 2011. The IUCPR tabulates and reports results of the NSSE to Academic Administration. After the 2008 administration, by request, several internal custom reports were provided to College Assembly, administrators, and standing committees.

Noel-Levitz – Student Satisfaction Inventory

The Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory is administered online every two years, during the second and third weeks of the winter quarter. This survey is directed to a random sample of all PUC students, and is designed to elicit opinion on a wide range of campus programs, activities and services. In some ways it is similar in purpose to the Senior Survey (see below), but reaches a much broader audience. Results of the inventory are typically reported to the Administrative Counsel, with highlights presented in College Assembly.

Senior Survey

The Senior Survey is also part of the GNST 401 senior assessment package. This in-house survey is designed to elicit reflective opinions about a wide range of topics related to the student experience at PUC. Campus offices and services, residence life, classroom instruction, academic advising, programming, and a variety of other areas, including preparation for life post-PUC are included. Results of the Senior Survey are typically reported to Ad Council and College Assembly.

Student Course Survey

Familiarly known as teacher or course evaluations, a purposeful change in the name was made in 2008, along with a re-designed survey, to suggest a less adversarial approach to acquiring student input. The course surveys are conducted on-line every quarter for every class with five or more students. Results are housed in Academic Administration office and reported to individual instructors and to department chairs.