

Institutional Learning Outcome (ILO) Student Survey June 2017

Background and Methodology

As part of its comprehensive learning outcomes assessment plan, Cuyamaca College conducted an Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO) assessment in Spring 2017. Based upon the ILO operational definitions and utilizing a revised survey design, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Success, and Equity, in collaboration with the Student Learning Outcome and Assessment Committee (SLOAC), refined the survey. The 2017 survey, the second such survey conducted by the College, was administered via paper and pencil during commencement rehearsal, and email invitation to students who applied for graduation at Cuyamaca College. Surveys were tracked by student ID and were unduplicated in the event that a student completed both the paper and electronic versions of the survey. The goal of the survey was to assess students' perceptions of their learning experience at Cuyamaca College, as well as to gather self-assessment data related to the College's five ILOs, which include the following:

- Cultural Competency
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Personal and Academic Responsibility
- Communication

The survey included 24 Likert scale items, intended to assess students' perceived mastery of the five ILOs. In addition, the survey included four open-ended items that asked students to identify what most impacted their success at Cuyamaca, share the biggest challenge they faced, discuss their most valuable learning experiences at Cuyamaca College, and provide suggestions for changes or improvements to promote better learning experiences for the future. A copy of the survey instrument can be found in Appendix A. Means and standard deviations for Likert scale items are located in Appendix B, frequencies of responses are provided in Appendix C, and verbatim responses to open-ended survey items are provided in Appendix D.

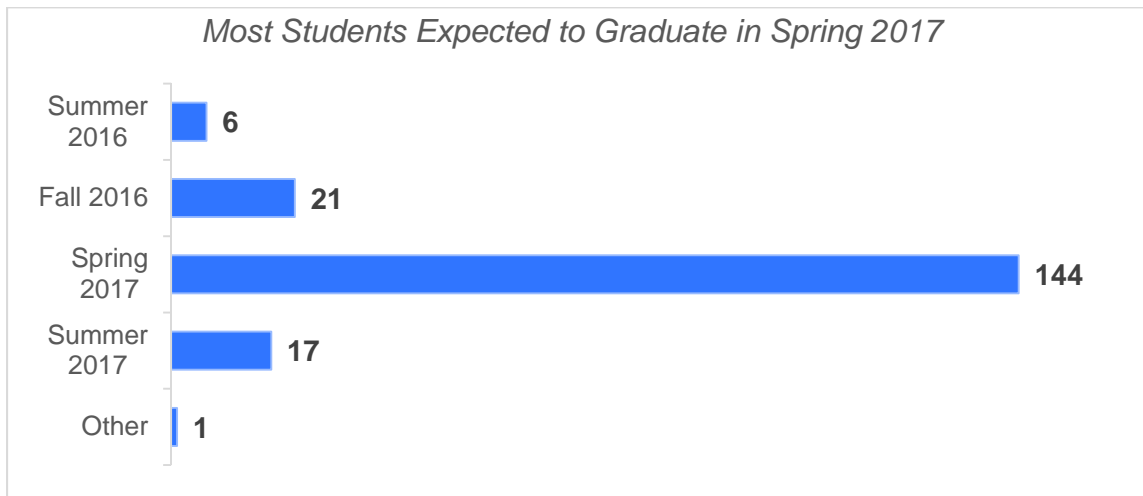
Invitations to complete the survey were sent out via email to 656 students who applied for graduation from Cuyamaca College with an associate degree and/or certificate. Survey respondents were given the opportunity to submit their email addresses to enter a drawing for a commencement cap and gown as an incentive to complete the survey. A total of 191 students responded to the survey, for a response rate of 29%.

Results

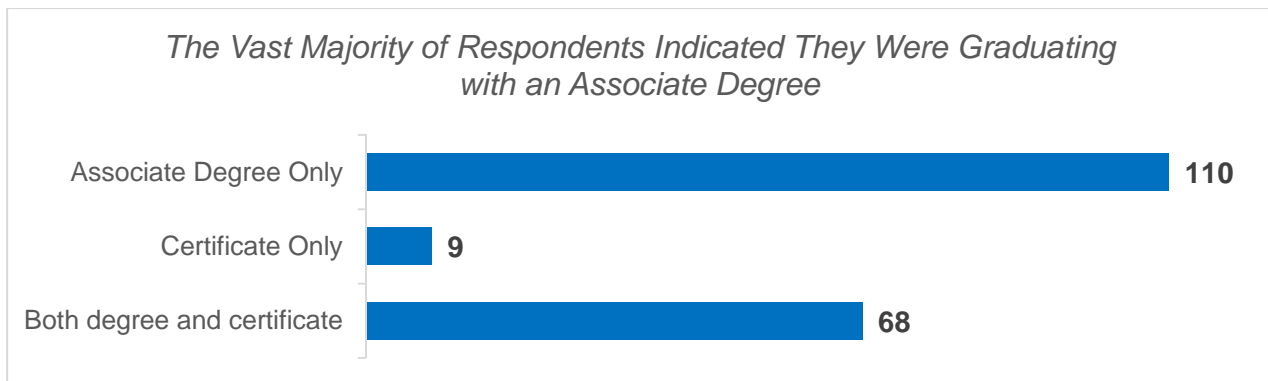
Across all of the five ILOs, most students felt they improved their skills while attending Cuyamaca College. Students were able to explain or elaborate on their Likert scale responses by providing comments after each set of ILO questions. Open-ended comments revealed strengths, challenges, and opportunities for the College to improve its processes, practices, programs, and services for students. The results pertaining to each ILO item are summarized below.

► Graduate Information

For descriptive purposes, respondents were asked to identify their anticipated graduation term. The vast majority of survey respondents reported that they were graduating in Spring 2017 (76%). The remaining students reported that they were planning to graduate in subsequent semesters: twenty-one students (11%) in Fall 2016, seventeen students (9%) in Summer 2017, and six students (3%) in Summer 2016 and one student (1%) in another semester.



Survey participants were also asked what type of educational award they anticipated receiving upon graduation. The majority of students reported that they would be graduating solely with an associate degree (59%), while a small minority (5%) reported that they were graduating solely with a certificate. Furthermore, 36% of respondents indicated that they were graduating with a certificate in addition to an associate's degree.

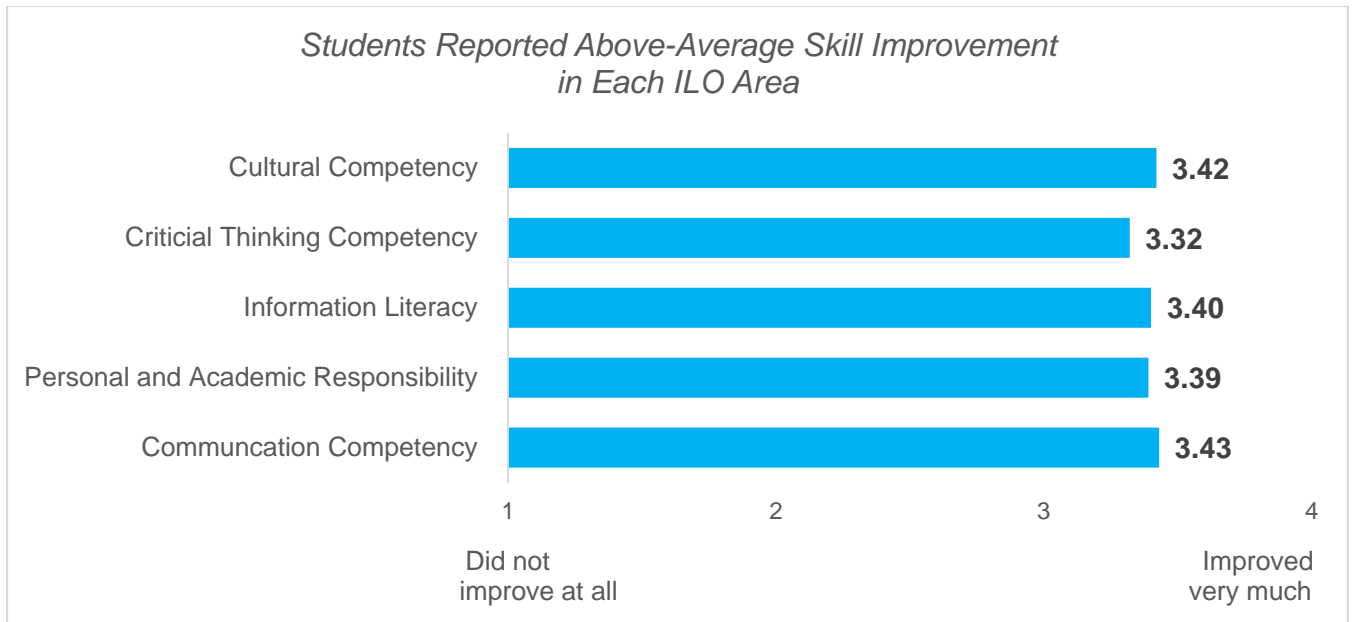


► ILO Assessment

Students were asked to assess their skill and ability improvement in five areas that aligned with the College's ILOs. This portion of the survey contained 24 items intended to measure the five ILOs: Cultural Competency (four items), Critical Thinking (five items), Communication (five items), Information Literacy (five items), and Personal and Academic Responsibility (five items).

At the beginning of each ILO question section, students were prompted with the phrase "My experiences at Cuyamaca College improved my ability to..." Participants then responded to items related to each of the ILO constructs, and rated their skill improvement using a Likert scale from 1 (*Did not improve at all*) to 4 (*Improved very much*). Items for each ILO were presented in a randomized order in the survey across several sections.

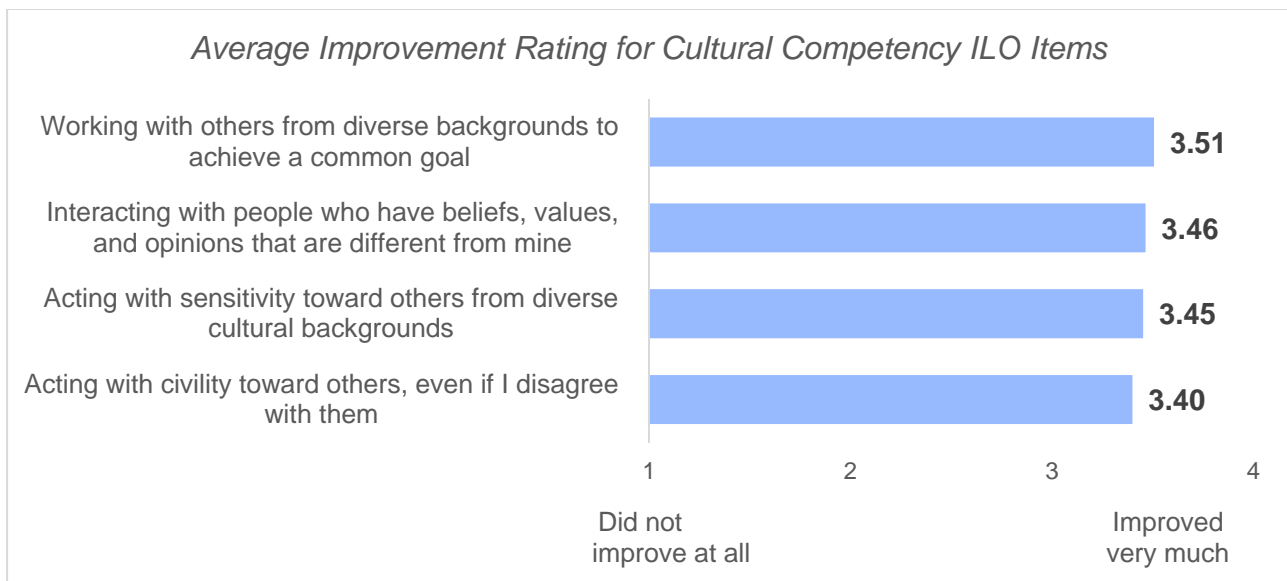
Overall, students provided greater than average improvement ratings for each of the ILO competency scales, with slightly improvement ratings for the critical thinking ILO scale.



► Cultural Competency Learning Outcome

The four items pertaining to the Cultural Competency ILO addressed cultural sensitivity, including the ability to interact with people with different beliefs and values, and to act with sensitivity and civility toward others from diverse backgrounds.

Across the four Cultural Competency items, respondents provided the highest improvement ratings on average for working with others from diverse backgrounds to achieve a common goal and slightly lower improvement ratings for acting with civility toward others, even if they disagree with them. Average improvement ratings were relatively similar across all items.



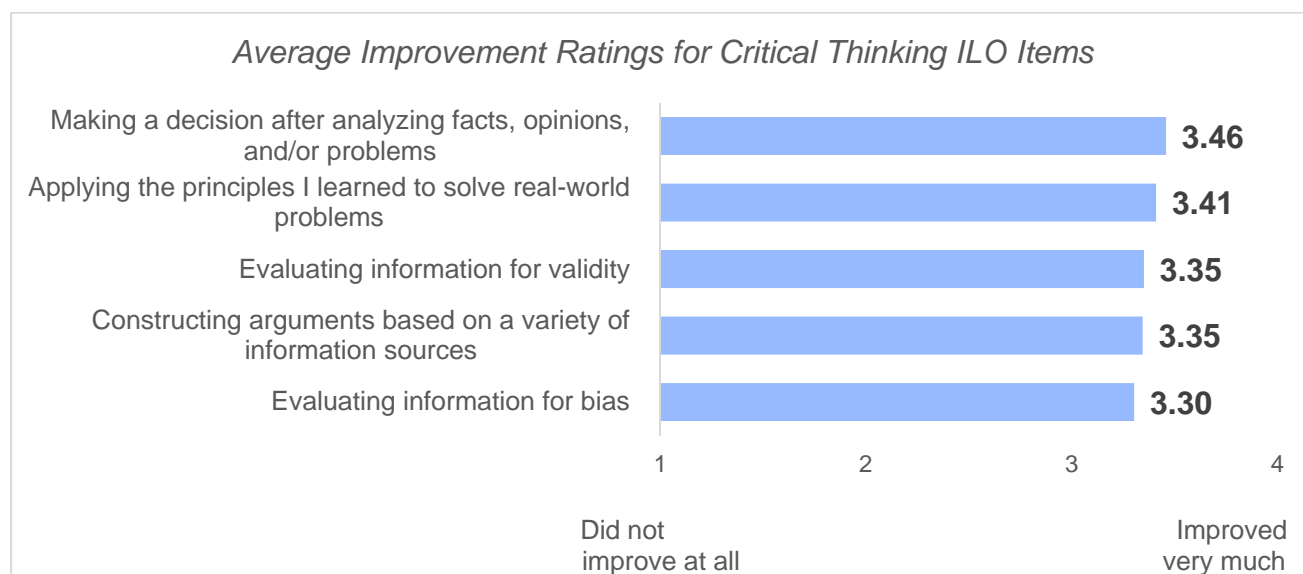
While many students noted that their improvement in this area was due to previous jobs, military service or previous life experiences, other students mentioned specific classes, divisions, or instructors, as well as class assignments. Only 42 students provided open-ended comments related to the Cultural Competency learning outcome.

► Critical Thinking Learning Outcome

The five items pertaining to the Critical Thinking ILO addressed various analytical skills with academic and real-world applications, including the ability to evaluate information for validity; to make a decision after analyzing information and bias; to apply the principles learned to solve problems; and to construct arguments based on various information sources.

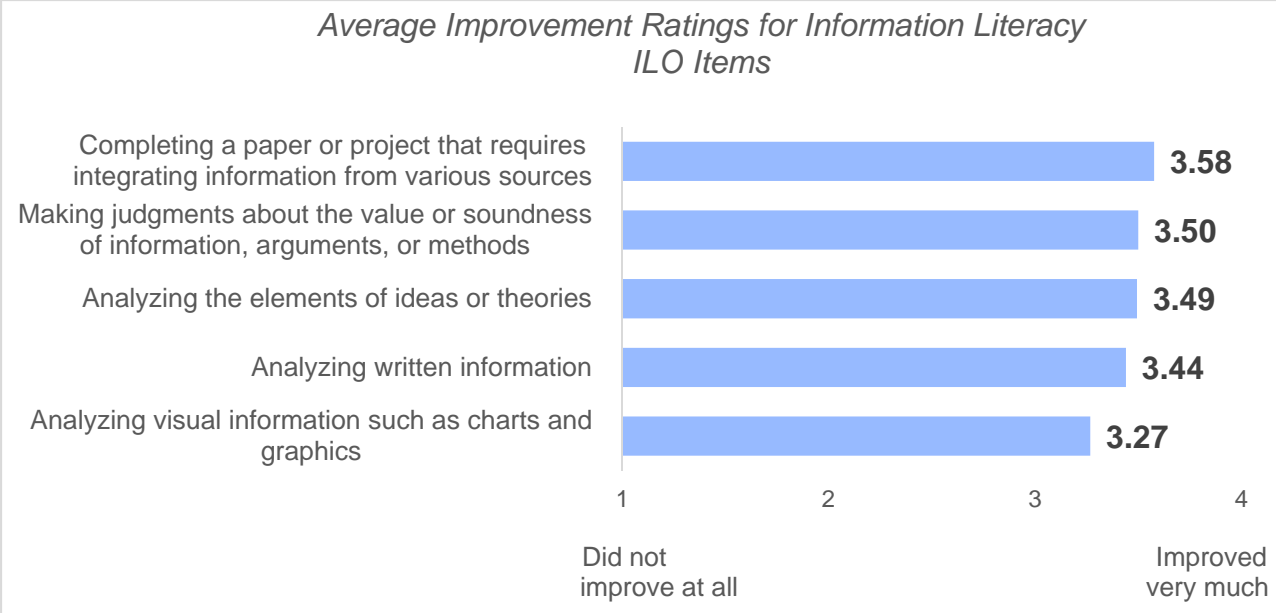
Across the five Critical Thinking items, respondents provided slightly higher improvement ratings for making a decision after analyzing facts, opinions, and/or problems, and somewhat lower improvement ratings for evaluating information for bias. Average ratings for all five items were relatively similar.

Some students cited specific courses, such as math, English, and philosophy, as helping them improve their critical thinking skills, while other students mentioned the value of possessing critical thinking skills such as those noted in the Critical Thinking ILO items. Still other students indicated this particular graduation was not their first higher education completion experience or that they had previously attained competency in this area. Only 19 students provided open-ended comments related to the Critical Thinking ILO.



► Information Literacy Learning Outcome

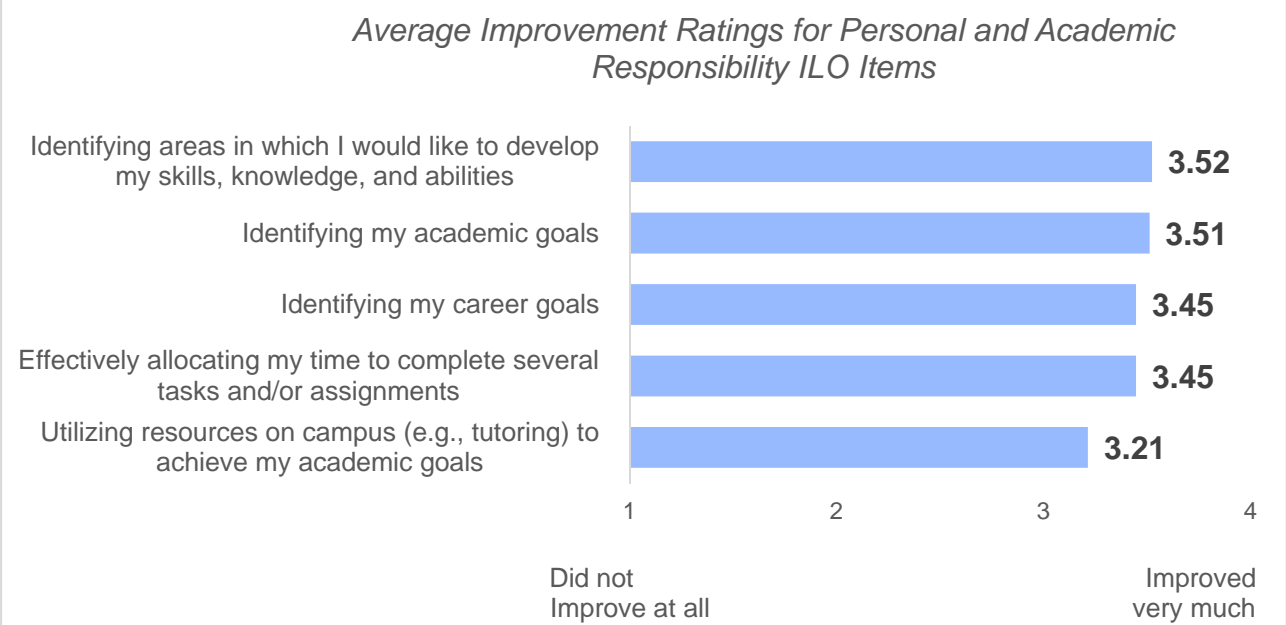
The five items related to the Information Literacy ILO emphasized analyzing information in various forms, integrating information, and making judgments on the value or soundness of information. Overall, students provided above-average improvement ratings for their information literacy skills. Among the Information Literacy items, respondents provided slightly higher improvement ratings for completing a paper or project that requires integrating information, but somewhat lower improvement ratings for analyzing visual information.



In open-ended comments, students mentioned the positive impact of the library and helpful faculty from different departments, their ability to develop a research paper, and overall skill improvement in the information literacy area. Only 20 students provided open-ended comments related to the information literacy learning outcome.

► Personal and Academic Responsibility Learning Outcome

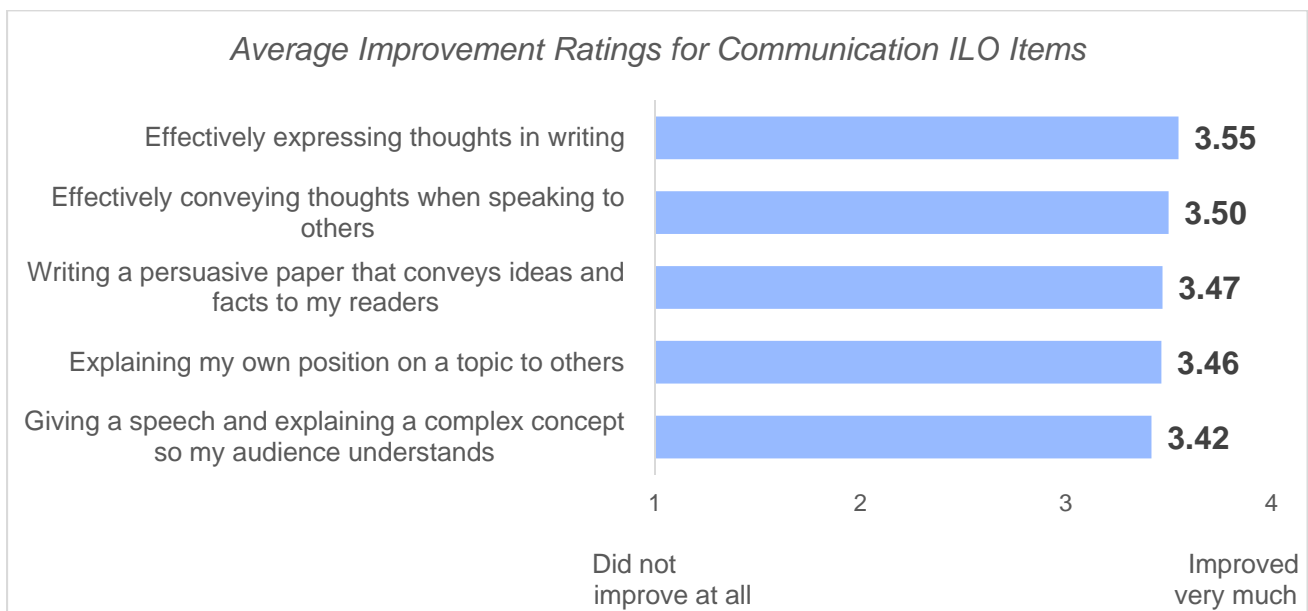
The Personal and Academic Responsibility ILO was measured using five items focusing on respondents' ability to: identify career goals and academic goals as well as areas for skill development and knowledge; utilize on-campus resources; and effectively manage their time. Among the Personal and Academic Responsibility items, respondents provided somewhat higher improvement ratings for identifying areas in which they would like to develop skills, knowledge, and abilities, but lower improvement ratings for utilizing resources on campus to achieve academic goals.



In open-ended comments, students expressed gratitude for instructional faculty and counselors, as well as specific departments, such as DSPS and tutoring, for helping them focus on their academic and personal goals. Other students expressed thanks to the College as a whole for helping them identify and meet their educational goals, and a few students noted that their skills related to Personal and Academic Responsibility were well developed before they enrolled at Cuyamaca. Only 29 students provided open-ended comments related to the Personal and Academic responsibility learning outcome.

► **Communication Learning Outcome**

Five items were used to assess the Communication ILO, which was defined as the ability to effectively present information in various forms. Across the Communication-specific items, respondents provided similar ratings, all of which indicated above average improvement. Respondents provided slightly higher improvement ratings for the ability to effectively express thoughts in writing, and slightly lower improvement ratings for giving a speech and explaining a complex concept so an audience understands. Through open-ended comments, students indicated their experiences at the College helped improve their communication skills, specifically their written communication skills, and expressed gratitude in reflection on their overall college experience. Only 42 students provided open-ended comments related to the Communication learning outcome.



► **What most contributed to graduating student’s success at Cuyamaca College?**

Respondents were asked to identify the most impactful thing that supported their success during their experience as a Cuyamaca College student. A total of 126 Spring 2017 graduates responded to this question. Verbatim responses to this item are included in Appendix D.

Although responses to this item covered a wide range of reasons, several themes emerged from the responses, including:

- Helpful, caring, motivating, encouraging, and engaging instructional faculty and counselors
- Helpful and supportive staff
- Support services and programs, such as DSPS, EOPS, tutoring, and first-year experience (FYE)
- Classmates and peer support from other students
- Students’ own self-determination

In describing instructional faculty, counselors, and staff, students noted the following positive impacts:

- “The instructors were great and I felt they provided real-world insight. The counselors I worked with really helped me with my plan of action and kept me on track.”
- “Encouragement from a professor /professors. Encouraging words that brings out the best in you.”
- “What most impacted my success at Cuyamaca College has to be the amount of effort professors put into their students and classes. Although it might not be recognized as a university, Cuyamaca College has some of the best professors I have had.”

► **What were the biggest challenges graduates faced while at Cuyamaca College?**

Survey participants were asked what their biggest challenge was while attending Cuyamaca College. A total of 126 Spring 2017 graduates responded to this item. Verbatim responses to this item are included in Appendix D.

A number of common themes emerged from the responses, including the following:

- Balancing college responsibilities with work, family, and other responsibilities, and time management in general
- Language barriers for English language learners
- Math (perceived or actual challenge of the subject)
- Class scheduling that either does not fit their availability, or capstone/major courses that are only offered in alternate semesters or years
- Financial challenges in attending college
- Uncertainty in selecting a major or program of study

The most frequently cited challenges related to balancing college-work-home responsibilities and time management.

► **What was the most important or valuable thing graduates learned during their experience as a Cuyamaca College student?**

Survey participants were asked to identify the most important or valuable thing they learned while attending Cuyamaca College. A total of 122 Spring 2017 graduates responded to this item. Verbatim responses to this item are included in Appendix D.

Among the items frequently cited as the most valuable thing learned in their Cuyamaca experience, respondents mentioned:

- Learning about and respecting cultural diversity
- Embracing a positive, can-do attitude or mindset and believing in oneself
- Persistence, regardless of the amount of time it takes to complete one’s educational goal
- Time management and study skills
- Self-advocacy and understanding that it is good to speak up regarding issues of particular interest and to ask for help when needed
- Improved ability to work in teams and build relationships with others
- Importance and value of continuous learning/lifelong learning

► **What could Cuyamaca College have done to improve graduates’ learning experiences?**

Survey participants were asked what Cuyamaca College could have done to improve their learning experience. A total of 105 Spring 2017 graduates responded to this item. Verbatim responses to this item are included in Appendix D.

Among the suggestions students made were the following:

- Offer more classes in a variety of formats and at different times (evening and online classes, specifically)
- Provide more modern and comfortable desks
- Extended hours (evenings and weekends) for the library and tutoring
- Provide more consistent advising information

- Increased and continuous access to counseling services (beyond the first semester of enrollment)
- Improved classroom management (e.g., curtailing disruption from other students)

Conclusions and Recommendations

The present study was intended to assess students' perceived improvement related to Cuyamaca College's ILOs: Cultural Competency, Critical Thinking, Information Literacy, Personal and Academic Responsibility, and Communication. In general, survey respondents felt that their learning experience had positively impacted their abilities and skills in each of the five ILO areas. Of these five areas, respondents indicated they had the greatest improvement in Communication Competency. The Cultural Competency ILO, along with Information Literacy ILO, had the second highest average rating for skill improvement. Though the average Personal and Academic Responsibility ILO and Critical Thinking Competency ILO scores were at the lower end of the average improvement score range across the five ILOs, responses related to these ILOs showed improvement over students' entering skills. This survey, the second such survey the College has undertaken, may be used as a benchmark for future surveys and as a way to assess the overall impact of the Cuyamaca College experience on student learning in each of these five competency areas.

The results of this survey will be analyzed by the Student Learning Outcome and Assessment Committee as well as other committees and groups across the campus to

Appendix A: Cuyamaca College ILO Survey Instrument 2017



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Cuyamaca College Graduating Student Survey 2017

Congratulations on your graduation from Cuyamaca College!

Please take a moment to tell us about your experiences as a Cuyamaca College student. The College will use the information gathered in the survey to measure progress toward its institutional learning outcomes. Your honest feedback is greatly appreciated and will help us improve college services in the future. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary, and you may stop participating at any time. If you feel uncomfortable answering an item, please leave it blank.

Note that responses will not be linked to any personally identifying information.

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* 1. What is your seven-digit student ID number? Include any leading zeros (for example, 0712345). Please note that your ID number will be separated from your responses.



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Graduation

2. For which of the following terms did you apply to graduate with a degree and/or certificate from Cuyamaca College?

- Summer 2016
- Fall 2016
- Spring 2017
- Summer 2017
- Other (please specify)

3. Did you or will you graduate with an associate degree, a certificate, or both?

- Associate degree only
- Certificate only
- Both degree and certificate

3

4. How long did it take to complete the degree and/or certificate you earned from Cuyamaca College?

- Less than 2 years
- 2 years
- 3 years
- 4 years
- 5 years or more

5. What is your major or program of study?

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Cuyamaca College Graduating Student Survey 2017

Communication Competency

The next few items are about your experience as a Cuyamaca College student.

6. Using the scale below, please rate the degree to which your experiences at Cuyamaca College have improved your skills and abilities in each of the following areas.

	Did not improve at all	Improved very little	Improved somewhat	Improved very much
Effectively conveying thoughts when speaking to others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effectively expressing thoughts in writing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Explaining my own position on a topic to others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Writing a persuasive paper that conveys ideas and facts to my readers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Giving a speech and explaining a complex concept so my audience understands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Please provide any comments you have regarding your responses to the above items.

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Information Literacy

8. Using the scale below, please rate the degree to which your experiences at Cuyamaca College have improved your skills and abilities in each of the following areas.

	Did not improve at all	Improved very little	Improved somewhat	Improved very much
Analyzing written information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Analyzing visual information such as charts and graphics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Analyzing the elements of ideas or theories	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Completing a paper or project that requires integrating information from various sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making judgments about the value or soundness of information, arguments, or methods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Please provide any comments you have regarding your responses to the above items.



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Cuyamaca College Graduating Student Survey 2017

Critical Thinking Competency

10. Using the scale below, please rate the degree to which your experiences at Cuyamaca College have improved your skills and abilities in each of the following areas.

	Did not improve at all	Improved very little	Improved somewhat	Improved very much
Evaluating information for validity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evaluating information for bias	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making a decision after analyzing facts, opinions, and/or problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Applying the principles I learned to solve real-world problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Constructing arguments based on a variety of information sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Please provide any comments you have regarding your responses to the above items.



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Cultural Competency

12. Using the scale below, please rate the degree to which your experiences at Cuyamaca College have improved your skills and abilities in each of the following areas.

	Did not improve at all	Improved very little	Improved somewhat	Improved very much
Interacting with people who have beliefs, values, and opinions that are different from mine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acting with sensitivity toward others from diverse cultural backgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acting with civility toward others, even if I disagree with them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working with others from diverse backgrounds to achieve a common goal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Please provide any comments you have regarding your responses to the above items.



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Cuyamaca College Graduating Student Survey 2017

Personal and Academic Responsibility

14. Using the scale below, please rate the degree to which your experiences at Cuyamaca College have improved your skills and abilities in each of the following areas.

	Did not improve at all	Improved very little	Improved somewhat	Improved very much
Identifying my academic goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identifying my career goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identifying areas in which I would like to develop my skills, knowledge, and abilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Utilizing resources on campus (e.g., tutoring) to achieve my academic goals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effectively allocating my time to complete several tasks and/or assignments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Please provide any comments you have regarding your responses to the above items.



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Cuyamaca College Graduating Student Survey 2017

16. What most impacted your success at Cuyamaca College?

17. What was the biggest challenge you faced while at Cuyamaca College?

18. What was the most important or valuable thing you learned during your experience as a Cuyamaca College student?

19. What could Cuyamaca College have done to improve your learning experience?

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Cuyamaca College Graduating Student Survey 2017

Future Plans

20. If you plan to work after graduation, which of the following best describes your plans?

- I will continue working at my current job (for pay)
- I have a new job (for pay)
- I am searching for a job (for pay)
- I will continue my current internship (unpaid)
- I have a new internship (unpaid)
- I am searching for an internship (unpaid)
- I will serve in the armed forces
- I do not have plans to work after graduation
- Other (please specify)

21. If you plan to continue college after graduation or in Fall 2017, which of the following best describes your educational plans?

- Continue taking courses at Cuyamaca College
- Transfer to a different community college
- Transfer to a four-year college/university
- I do not plan to continue college after I graduate or in Fall 2017
- Other (please specify)

Appendix B: Means and Standard Deviations for ILO Scales

Table 1. Communication Scale

No.	Item	N	Mean	SD
Q6.1	Effectively conveying thoughts when speaking to others	168	3.50	.68
Q6.2	Effectively expressing thoughts in writing	168	3.55	.64
Q6.3	Explaining my own position on a topic to others	168	3.46	.67
Q6.4	Writing a persuasive paper that conveys ideas and facts to my readers	168	3.47	.78
Q6.5	Giving a speech and explaining a complex concept so my audience understands	168	3.42	.70

Table 2. Information Literacy Scale

No.	Item	N	Mean	SD
Q8.1	Analyzing written information	168	3.44	.72
Q8.2	Analyzing visual information such as charts and graphics	168	3.27	.84
Q8.3	Analyzing the elements of ideas or theories	168	3.49	.66
Q8.4	Completing a paper or project that requires integrating information from various sources	168	3.58	.66
Q8.5	Making judgments about the value or soundness of information, arguments or methods	168	3.50	.69

Table 3. Critical Thinking Scale

No.	Item	N	Mean	SD
Q10.1	Evaluating information for validity	168	3.35	.76
Q10.2	Evaluating information for bias	168	3.30	.83
Q10.3	Making a decision after analyzing facts, opinions and/or problems	168	3.46	.75
Q10.4	Applying the principles I learned to solve real-world problems	168	3.41	.81
Q10.5	Constructing arguments based on a variety of information sources	168	3.35	.81

Table 4. Cultural Competency Scale

No.	Item	N	Mean	SD
Q12.1	Interacting with people who have beliefs, values, and opinions that are different from mine	168	3.46	.83
Q12.2	Acting with sensitivity toward others from diverse cultural backgrounds	168	3.45	.86
Q12.3	Acting with civility toward others, even if I disagree with them	168	3.40	.86
Q12.4	Working with others from diverse backgrounds to achieve a common goal	168	3.51	.83

Table 5. Personal and Academic Responsibility Scale

No.	Item	N	Mean	SD
Q14.1	Identifying my academic goals	168	3.51	.90
Q14.2	Identifying my career goals	168	3.45	.96
Q14.3	Identifying areas in which I would like to develop my skills, knowledge and abilities	168	3.52	.88
Q14.4	Utilizing resources on campus (e.g., tutoring) to achieve my academic goals	168	3.21	1.05
Q14.5	Effectively allocating my time to complete several tasks and/or assignments	168	3.45	.87

Please note that each scale had an open end question: for responses see Appendix D

Appendix C: Distribution of Responses to ILO Survey Items

Q2. When do you expect to graduate with a degree and/or certificate from Cuyamaca College?	Number	Valid Percent
Summer 2016	5	3.0%
Fall 2016	19	11.3%
Spring 2017	127	75.6%
Summer 2017	16	9.5%
Other	1	0.6%
<i>Total</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>100%</i>

Q3. Did you or will you graduate with an associate degree, a certificate, or both?	Number	Valid Percent
Associate degree only	96	57.8%
Certificate only	8	4.8%
Both associate degree and certificate	62	37.4%
<i>Total</i>	<i>166</i>	<i>100%</i>

Q4. How long did it take to complete the degree and/or certificate you earned from Cuyamaca College?	Number	Valid Percent
Less than 2 years	10	6.0%
2 years	33	19.6%
3 years	46	27.4%
4 years	35	20.8%
5 years or more	44	26.2%
<i>Total</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>100%</i>

Q5. What is your major or program of study? See Appendix D

Q7. Open Response for Communication Competency See Appendix D

Q9. Open Response for Information Literacy See Appendix D

Q11. Open Response for Critical Thinking Competency See Appendix D

Q13. Open Response for Cultural Competency See Appendix D

Q15. Open Response for Personal and Academic Responsibility See Appendix D

Q16. What most impacted your success at Cuyamaca College? See Appendix D

Q17. What was the biggest challenge you faced while at Cuyamaca College? See Appendix D

Q18. What was the most important or valuable thing you learned during your experience as a Cuyamaca College student? See Appendix D

Q19. What could Cuyamaca College have done to improve your learning experience? See Appendix D

Q20. If you plan to work after graduation, which of the following best describes your plan? Please select one	Number	Valid Percent
I will continue working at my current job (for pay)	58	34.5%
I have a new job (for pay)	14	8.3%
I am searching for a job (for pay)	53	31.6%
I will continue my current internship (unpaid)	2	1.2%
I have a new internship (unpaid)	0	0.0%
I am searching for an internship (unpaid)	7	4.2%
I will serve in the armed forces	0	0.0%
I do not have plans to work after graduation	10	6.0%
Other	12	7.1%
No Response	12	7.1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>100%</i>

Q21. If you plan to continue college after graduation or in Fall 2017, which of the following best describes your educational plans? Please select one	Number	Valid Percent
Continue taking courses at Cuyamaca College	29	17.3%
Transfer to a different community college	2	1.2%
Transfer to a four-year college/university	97	57.7%
I do not plan to continue college after I graduate or in Fall 2017	15	8.9%
Other	13	7.7%
No Response	12	7.1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>100%</i>

Q22. In which of the following services and program did you participate at Cuyamaca College? Please select all that apply	Number	Valid Percent
First Year Experience/Pathway Academy	16	8.9%
Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE)	4	2.1%
Borderless Spaces Program	3	2.1%
Cooperative Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES)	3	1.6%
Unlimited Potential (UP!)	2	1.0%
Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS)	26	16.8%
Veterans Resource Center	9	5.8%
On-Campus Tutoring (including the Writing Center)	65	37.8%
Library Resources and Services	62	36.1%
Other	24	15.7%
<i>Total</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>100%</i>

Respondents were asked to select all that apply, so the total responses might exceed the total number of respondents (168)

Appendix D: Verbatim Responses to Open-Ended Questions

Q5. What is your major or program of study?

Accounting (3)	English
Accounting and Business Administration	Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
Allied health/Nursing	Environmental Health and Safety
American sign language	Filmmaking
Arabic	General Education, Communication and Language Arts
Art Education and Communications	Graphic Design (3)
Art Emphasis in Graphic Design	History and Fine Art
AS- Networking & AS - Telecommunications	History/political science
AS- Pre Allied Health	Horticulture
ASSET program	Humanities and Fine Arts (2)
Associates in Arts	Humanities fine arts
Automotive	Humanities in fine arts (2)
Automotive Technology (5)	IGETCI
Automotive technology (3)	Kinesiology (3)
Behavioral Science	Kinesiology exercise science
Biochem	Management (2)
Bio-Chemistry	Math & Science
Biochemistry-Molecular Biology	Mathematics (2)
Biology (3)	Mechanical Engineering
Biology	Nursing (4)
Biology pre-allied health	Nursing (2)
Building Design Industry (2)	Nursing / Public Health
Business (2)	Ornamental Horticulture- Nursery Technology
Business Admin	Ornamental Horticulture: Arboriculture and Sustainable Urban Landscapes
Business Administration (18)	Paralegal
Business Administration/ Accounting	Paralegal Studies (6)
Business Administration	Paralegal Studies and Business Administration
Business General	Physics (2)
Business Office Technology	Political Science/ History
Business office technology	Psychology (6)
Business/communication	Real Estate
Business Office Technology	Social & behavioral sciences
Cadd Technology	social and behavioral sciences
Child Development (12)	Social and Behavioral studies
CIS NETWORK ENTERPRISE	Social Behavioral Sciences
CIS- Web Development and Graphic Design	Social Sciences
civil engineering	Social Work (13)
Communication	Social work (5)
Communications (3)	Social work / universal studies/ medical office assistant
Communications ADT	Social work and emphasis in behavioral science
Computer and Information Systems	social work and social science and behavior
Computer information Systems	social work, behavior science and studies, AAT transfer
Computer information technology	Sociology (10)
Digital Arts	Spanish
Electric engineering	
Electrical and computer engineering	
Electrical Engineering	
Electrical engineering	
Elementary Education	

Speech Language Pathology
studio arts, humanities and history 3 degrees
University studies Math & Science
University transfer studies
water treatment and wastewater treatment
Water Treatment Operator

Water/Wastewater Technology Program
Web development

Total Responses: 191

Q7. Open-Ended Response for Communication Competency

All my life, I was told by others that I was smart. I always believed that I was smarter than my classmates. I knew that I wasn't "the best" but I wasn't a total failure. I did have struggles, but I didn't let that hinder my education. So, I was always eager to learn and to better myself. I was able to get into honor roll courses, and received above average grades. However, when I entered high school, specially, my senior(12th grade) I realized that I wasn't "the best" and there were others who were more gifted. I realized that I wasn't "all that"(as in I wasn't 'better'). At first, it was hard to deal with that realization, but I used that for inspiration and motivation. I wanted to improve myself and I did better myself. When I first entered at Cuyamaca, I thought I had "it all and I knew everything", but I still had plenty to learn and improve. Now, I can with certainty, that I've improved a lot that I'm excited for the future. I'm ready to transfer to SDSU and to someday go to graduate school and achieve my Master's in social work. Cuyamaca definitely improved my education and I'm grateful for it. Thank you.

Beside all the skills that i got from the college, i have a great experience working on campus since 2013 untill now. Working in DSPS, mathe lab and tuter in ARC center

Best college

Cuyamaca and the courses I took pushed me to be more open and communicative. Staff were friendly and willing to help.

Cuyamaca College provides me with the best education. I have learned and understand more than I thought I would. Thank You. Love the Coyote ????

Cuyamaca is cool. I'd recommend them to anybody.

everything want very well for me, learned hard work pays off.

Great experience!

Great school.

I 4 in writing,and speaking when I attended at Cuyamaca College.

I am an adult re-entry student and found much of the curriculum topics in which I have learned through life... more or less.

I am glad to be one of Cuyamaca students, this college helps me to learn not only speaking, and writing English language, but also culture and tradition of this great country. I feel confident now to apply for a job and to work with others. Thank you Cuyamaca college

I am so happy to finally graduate & transfer

I am so happy to reach this point.

I am very thankful regarding to what I learned from the this college

I do much better conveying my thoughts in writing, I still have issues speaking in public. I should have taken Public speaking instead of interpersonal communications to help me get over this phobia.

I feel that going back to school after many years helped me to open my mind and explore both sides of an issue. I also discovered that I enjoy writing and I plan to take more classes in the future after I obtain my Nursing license.

I feel the English writing classes I took have hindered my ability to write. I used to get all A's on essays and other writen material, but since taking the classes I cannot write as well as I used to. I found the classes confusing with students teaching one another. It was like the blind leading the blind.

I have eight years of service in the U.S. navy. The English classes I have taken has assisted my professional life as well as personal.

I improved a lot for my day started at college
 I love cuyamaca college
 I was already able to express my own position on topics and I did improve my writing skills.
 I went to Grossmont College for many of the classes of the major.
 I will improve my skills and my experiences
 Im an english second language student my other language is arabic so my language skills are still developing greatly
 My class, Eng124, with **** came to my mind when crossing/marking my experience. She's the best!
 My Critical Thinking class and Public Speaking class were extremely valuable classes that provided me with skills that will make my transition to SDSU very easy. I am also very grateful for the amazing math teachers I encountered. They made me even more excited to continue learning about my area of study.
 My skills have improved after all!
 N/A
 No comments
 Nona
 none
 Overall, I have grown as an individual with my education with Cuyamaca College.
 Recognize Professors: ****, ****, ****, **** - all amazing!
 Thanks to my English professors they helped me become a skilled writer
 Thanks to the advice and feedback of amazing teachers, such as **** and ****, helped me to fully improve my writing and speaking skills.
 The college did well
 The English class I took at Cuyamaca was online and the professor was not very responsive or helpful and somewhat accepted plagiarism, but all of my sciences were great as well as physical education. The campus and teachers in person are great.
 The professor's I was fortunate to have were very impacting towards my educational journey.
 This degree improve my skills in writing and reading English
 When it came to the 120 and 124 English class, my writing started to improve because I started to be more critical of what I was writing about and choosing topics that challenged me to think.
 With better self-esteem you'll get the benefits listed above. You'll be more stable and able to handle tough times better. You'll be less needy and more of a natural giver

Total Responses: 43

Q9. Open-Ended Response for Information Literacy

Already possessed these skills so there wasn't really any improvement.
 At the begining, scholarly research papers were difficult to understand, but with the help of my professors I was able to fully comprehend the argument of a scholarly journal. Aswell with the Cuyamaca College library was very helpful to find resources.
 Besides the skills my Philosophy class gave me, my History class also increased my skills in all these areas tremendously. History has long been my poorest subject but my teacher improved my analyzing skills very much and taught me how to write very successful papers. Both were areas I struggled in most as a previous history student.
 everything want very well for me.
 Helix Charter introduced me these types of concepts, and I had a good grasp of making judgements, and analyzing paper work and projects. However, Cuyamaca helped me to retain all this essential skills and I have better my writing. I was fortunate enough to have great and helpful professors.
 Thank you.
 I admit that I've improved my skills after attending Cuyamaca College.
 I can write a research paper for about 11 pages which helped a lot improve my writing

I have nothing but high praise for the improvements that my education at Cuyamaca College has improved all aspects of my life and career. I conceptualize and analyze things in a different way now, with the tools that this new education has provided me.

"

i love Cuyamaca College"

I will work hard to improve very much

My abilities and skills have improved after all!

Nona

None

Shout out to ****, best stats teacher

The program I attended was topic specific and many of these question do not apply to the topic.

They did numerous of assignments and lectures that helped with this process

They helped my understanding drastically!

This degree improve my skills to writting better.

This is not my first degree, thus there was not as much new learning.

With better self-esteem you'll get the benefits listed above. You'll be more stable and able to handle tough times better. You'll be less needy and more of a natural giver

Total Responses: 20

Q11. Open-Ended Response for Critical Thinking Competency

Already possessed most of these skills.

Cuyamaca College educated me well

everything want very well for me.

I am a very old graduate. I learned many of these skills my first couple of years in college way back in the 70's.

I had a good experience at Cuyamaca College!

I improved after attending Cuyamaca College.

I think that of all of the new information that my education has provided me, the most enlightening is the way I establish my opinions in real world situations. I didn't realize the biases a person of my generation has acquired. I am more open to alternate ideas that I never would have been open to before.

I will

In critical thinking courses, such as philosophy, I learned these skills and abilities.

My Critical Thinking class has helped me most in the above areas. I loved how the material had concepts

I had learned in my discrete mathematics class. It was extremely interesting to me to see the roll math could play in philosophy.

Nona

none

Professor **** was one of my English teachers that taught me how to do this and always provided real-life examples.

Shout out to ****, best Phil teacher.

They opened my eyes to working hard and asking questions!

This degree improve my skills to solve the problems after i studey it carfully by analyzing facts and opinions.

This is not my first degree.

very good

With better self-esteem you'll get the benefits listed above. You'll be more stable and able to handle tough times better. You'll be less needy and more of a natural giver

Total Responses: 19

Q13. Open-Ended Response for Cultural Competency

Cultural diversity has increased throughout generations, especially in the U.S.A. But, due to that it has helped me with my mindset, especially since I want to become a social worker and working with different cultural is an important aspect. Cuyamaca College and the professors helped me become a better understanding person, their values, beliefs and interests will always lead me to become a successful social worker.

everything want very well for me.

I already do this at my job. Night students do not interact much.

I appreciate what I've taught after attending Cuyamaca College.

I feel I already have strong skills in this regard, however, my experience at Cuyamaca helped foster those skills.

I have always been sensitive to others and interested in the customs and lifestyles of other cultures. So I answered "3" because there's always room for growth.

I learned it all

I learned many of these skills from the military.

I think that my humanities classes was most beneficial in this area. I learned mostly of the things we had in common rather than our differences

I will provide

I'd say my involvement in the LGBT+ community provided me with a lot of these skills. It's an extremely diverse community with very different beliefs and opinions on both the communities rolls and the rolls of the members themselves.

In different classes and in many situations, classmates and I were required to work in teams. Even though we all have different backgrounds, I never experienced a bad situation in which having different opinions was a problem, on the contrary, the wide variety of opinions of the group members always benefited our projects.

I've obtained this ability in the military.

Nona

Once again, these are skills I have already learned and use at my job daily.

Please see my comments from the previous question. They apply better here.

Previously worked in an education environment with people from diverse backgrounds. I had already developed the skills needed.

Professor's from Cuyamaca always enforce these ideas and make sure everyone feels safe in their classroom.

Shout out to **** & ****, best comm teachers

The history classes have opened my eyes to the effects of discrimination and racism, even though I have always been non racists I never thought about the bias going on.

This provid my skills to achive my goal by using backgrounds for everything.

With better self-esteem you'll get the benefits listed above. You'll be more stable and able to handle tough times better. You'll be less needy and more of a natural giver

Yea, especially since there's so many different races among the students in Cuyamaca.

Total Responses: 23

Q15. Open-Ended Response for Personal and Academic Responsibility

Already knew what degree I wanted. Was mislead by a counselor and took classes I did not need. Should have graduated a year ago.

At the beginning, I was struggling with school, work and volunteering. But, with the resources Cuyamaca College has provided me has helped me improve my academic goals. I was very horrible at organizing and mentally preparing myself for an exam, but professors had given me advices on

what to do before an exam. I am truly grateful for having such amazing professors and counselors who care for my learning and success. It took me a while to find myself, but with the help of everyone at school I choose my career and I am very happy.

At the time, my professors were all great. There was a counselor that would strive to help me figure out what I career I wanted in my life, ****, Thank You!

Because of the greatest counselors and greatest teachers, my goal is achieved
Cuyamaca College helped me grow in many areas, especially helping with my career goals.
everything want very well for me.

Going to DSPS on what I want to do
I 4 after attending Cuyamaca College.

I am not planning a career, but certainly enjoyed the classes, which helped me to meet personal goals.
I am returning to college after 35 years to complete my bachelors, counseling department was of great help in navigating the transfer process

I came back to school to accomplish my goal of learning new skills to enable a career change. I had to really focus on my goals and keep the end result of obtaining an Associate Degree as the prize.

I came into this program and this school with career and educational goals firmly in mind. Cuyamaca did a great job supporting those goals, but did very little to change them.

I hardly ever had to use any of the tutoring centers.

I was so grateful to **** for tutoring me through algebra.

I was sort of lost with what I wanted to do. At first, I wanted to be a nursing student, but I realized that I didn't have the essential skills or knowledge. I'm too clumsy and obviously that I wouldn't make a great nurse. But I always knew, even as a little girl, I wanted to help people. I want to provide support and comfort for others. When I went to cuyamaca, one of my professors introduced me with alternative career options. She told me "I think you could be someone who works within public health and public serve. Have you ever thought of being a social worker?" When she told me that, I searched "social worker" in google and knew that this was the career for me. Then, when I took **** social work 110 and 120, I knew with clarity that I wanted to continue in social work. I want to have a Master's in social that I may be become a school social work, or study in gerontology.

I will identify
Its improve develop my skills by using toutring.
My skills and abilities are A1, thanks cuyamaca
Nona

The DSPS office really kept me going. I did not know how to study before. I had three tutors to get me through the unnecessary algebra classes. Two of them were on campus, one I paid after hours.

The information I have learned and gained at Cuyamaca college greatly impacted my life.

The only reason I answered second question as I did is because I, being an older student, am in an established career and nearing retirement

The only reason I answered the question in regards to my career goal as I did is that I am already at the top of my career. I sought my continued education as a personal goal, a "bucket list" goal as I am at an age where I am ending my career. I have always had the discipline to apply the time and effort to achieve my academic goals.

The water/wastewater technology program has given me a leg up on life, an internship program (paid), resources to pass my state exams and now I'm in a career in which I can retire. Using my brain not my back.

There has been an amazing transformation between the **** who went to Steele Canyon High School and the **** who went to Cuyamaca Community College. My effort increased substantially. I became extremely goal oriented. And most importantly, I learned how to use resources that were provided to me. I would have NEVER been able to graduate in a year if it weren't for the amazing tutors that were available to me at Cuyamaca.

They showed me valuable resources.
Tutoring help me a lot to achieve my goals
Tutoring was a huge factor in my success!
With better self-esteem you'll get the benefits listed above. You'll be more stable and able to handle tough times better. You'll be less needy and more of a natural giver

Total Responses: 29

Q16. What most impacted your success at Cuyamaca College?

A college education impacted my life by providing me with the opportunity to excel in today's society. It has been my observation that the only way one can achieve a life worthy of acknowledgement is by receiving a quality education. Many people do not achieve their full potential and I feel college is one way someone can find what it is they want from life.

Advisers were very influential in encouraging me to reach higher. Several teachers were a strong support as well.

all the professors they are motivating us

Asking questions was the most impact-full tool in my success at Cuyamaca College. I had to learn to ask and to make my voice be heard. Before, I was afraid and submissive, but now I can speak my concerns and if I had objections, I made sure it was CLEAR and HEARD.

Assistive programs

Being able to get help in the labs or math building

Being able to plan out what classes I needed with an education plan with the Counselors

Class schedule was great. Most Professors were very engaged.

committed

Counselling center help me alot to achive my goals.

Disabilities programs, including extra time on the test.

Diversity

DSPS and the tutors, especially ****

Encouragement from a professor /professors. Encouraging words that brings out the best in you.

Eops

Eops the book voucher because I didn't have to worry if I was going to have enough money to buy book EOPs, wonderful teachers like Professor **** and Professor ****.

Everything

Everything

Family Pressure

Fellow students support

Finding friends that share the same goal in academics that I have and being able to study with them

Finding my niche. More specifically, finding passionate professors that helped supplement my education and motivation to get through my undergraduate studies. Speaking to those who are experts in my realm of interest, I feel, contributed the most towards my success as a CC student.

Getting a degree

Getting help from tutors has impacted my success as well as not being afraid to speak up and ask questions.

Getting the feeling to keep going for people around on campus, having people continously push me.

Good teachers.

Graphic Design Dept. Teachers: ****, ****, **** & "coach" ****

Group work/ studying

Hands on studies

Hardworking

Having great instructors.

helpful teachers and staff

How important we were to our professors.

I met an good professor that helped me succeed in my goal

I think working with a conselour and choosing my degree

I was fortunate to get the science classes I needed and my professors were great.

Improving my communication skills

Instrucures

Keep up with my homework and tests

Lack of time!

Learn new career

Learning from teachers and students in the EHS program that are working in the industry
 Learning how to study hard and achieve your goal
 Less distractions and better professors.
 Making home work, attend classrooms, and make all duties seriously.
 Meeting with a counselor that cared about students and helped by giving steps to accomplish goals
 My academic counselor was very helpful throughout the years in providing me with all the information I needed to be successful.
 my ambitious allows me to success and keep going to thrive in the future.
 My communications skills
 My counseling 120 class
 My counselors at DSPS. ****. My Counselor through EOPS. ****
 My counselors **** **** and **** from DSPS. DSPS was a huge part of my success! Scholarships were very helpful. NASA club helped me to reach out to others. Tutoring was also a awesome success!
 My dedication and some wonderful teachers
 My family impacted my success, but in a positive way.
 My friends
 My mother
 My motivation and guidance from the instructors
 My own drive, perseverance and dedication to succeed.
 My passion to become a teacher drove me to be a successful as possible. I wanted to teach as soon as possible and Cuyamaca helped me take the first step.
 My personal determination. I worked really hard and got a feeling of accomplishment.
 My professors and the classmates I had along the way
 My professors. They were very helpful and kind people and were always willing to help.
 My teachers
 My teachers impacted my success at cuyamaca college. As a pre-nursing student, it is very important to learn from my teachers and gain the knowledge needed to transfer to a nursing school. The way my teachers set up their curriculum in there classes and taught the material is what helped me succeed at Cuyamaca.
 My teachers were awesome. I actually learned from them.
 My teachers who helped me when i was struggling with the English language
 My very good professors
 New creating skills
 Night classes so I could work in the day time.
 Nona
 Nothing. I have not enjoyed Cuyamaca much. My classes have been very loud, and the students rude to the teachers.
 Online classes.
 Open bio labs helped me succeed in my classes!
 **** my counselor..
 Parents
 Personal drive
 Positive relationships with my professors.
 Proactive water instructors who work in the field of interest
 professors
 Public Speaking
 Reading and have work
 Self-driven goals
 Some of the professors throughout my semester actually making the topic interesting and workable
 Speaking w/ counselors, instructors, student resources - library.
 Staff
 Study hard
 Study read, and write to be successful.
 Studying
 Summer Anatomy was the first challenging class I faced and the professor was the first person to tell me that I could do what others had said I couldn't.

Support from family, friends and teachers
 Support of staff members.
 Taking a summer course, GD105, I fell in love and decided to pursue it as a career.
 Taking psychology courses impacted my success tremendously by allowing me to gain knowledge of the human mind, behavior and environment.
 Teacher, financial aid, and EUPS most impacted my success at Cuyamaca College.
 Teachers
 Teachers and Classmates
 Teachers and the help provided around campus and in the STEM Center
 Teachers that are helpful and push you to reach your goals and not give up
 The amazing faculty & staff, amazing.
 The counselors and teachers.
 The disability center and the tutor ****.
 The excellent instructors I had.
 The experienced and knowledgeable faculty and staff at the Ornamental Horticulture Department were the people who had a deep impact on my success, because without their help, I would not have found my great passion for gardening and landscaping.
 The friendliness of the professors. Being able to connect with a Professor and have a conversation about the topic is crucial.
 The help I received from my instructor.
 The help of professors
 The help the tutors gave me. Grossmont, also helped.
 The instructors were great and I felt they provided real-world insight. The counselors I worked with really helped me with my plan of action and kept me on track. Kudos to **** and ****. They were both very helpful and knowledgeable.
 The motivation I was given by the counselors, and the feedback of personal stories the professors would share during class.
 The patience and dedication of instructors
 The Professors
 The professors at this college. Outstanding professors that I learned so much from.
 The professors I came into contact with
 The professors made all the difference. ****, ****, ****, ****, and Coach *** (****) kept me motivated in a friendly and helpful environment
 The professors that I had at Cuyamaca college because they pushed me to strive for the best.
 The professors that really did make em feel like they care about my grades.
 The professors were the most impacting towards my success.
 The professors, all of mine were awesome in their own way. Also, online classes were most important to me in the beginning as I was working full time and was able to complete classes at night without leaving my home.
 The resources from counselors and the library.
 The staff
 The students and Teachers that actually wanted you to succeed.
 The support and guidance of my teachers and counselors.
 The support from the professors
 The support of instructors
 The teaching stuff
 The Teachers
 The teachers
 The teachers and the ASSET program.
 the teachers and the help they gave me.
 The teachers and their friendliness and energy.
 The teachers that have helped me along the way, the tutoring center and writing center
 The teachers.
 The thing that most impacted my success at Cuyamaca College has to be the FYE program that was offered in my first year which helped me know what major and career I wanted. Not only that, but my counselor from FYE who also impacted me on my goals and going for success.

The transfer to SDSU made me want to study harder to reach my goals

Time

Trials and Tribulations

Trying to reach my goal

Tutoring with great tutors

Tutors, Notes, Etc.

What most impacted my success at Cuyamaca College has to be the amount of effort professors put into their students and classes. Although it might not be recognized as a university, Cuyamaca College has some of the best professors I have had. This has impacted my success, because I look forward to having a good professor, one who can teach, understand, and explain the subject material. Having dedicated professors definitely changed the environment for me as a student.

What most impacted my success at Cuyamaca College was essays. My writing used to be awful, but thanks to professor **** I was able to express my thoughts, feelings, arguments, ect, on many subjects I wasn't able to. My writing might not be the best, but my poetry has improved a lot.

When I took ESL language

work full time and be a student

Work study

Working at the VRC with ****

Writing essays

Q17. What was the biggest challenge you faced while at Cuyamaca College?

Algebra (2)

Any math related subject.

As an active duty military member making classes was difficult at times.

At the beginning, when I started at college I faced problem with the language because English is not my first language.

Balance between work and school. Financial aide with my taxes. Understanding the consequences with financial aide and failing classes.

Balancing classes that requires a lot of attention while working. Especially while taking the class Paramedical Microbiology

Balancing full time work with full time schooling

balancing my class schedule with my personal life

Balancing school work

Balancing work and studies

Balancing work, school, family and hobbies

Being able to keep up with all the work

Being able to work and go to school.

Being an older person around the younger ones. I had to realize they did not have the experience I have had.

Carrying a lot of equipment

Chosing whether leaving school for a semester to go to the Sheriff's Academy, or continuing and finishing my degree.

Coming out of my bubble

Commitment and success

Dealing with an online professor.

dealing with parking, i never had any problem with anything.

Deciding on a major/transfer school.

Distance commuting

Distance of travel

Distance.

Doing my work and reaching to my goal.

Everything I did on cuyamaca college it was good

Failing the same math course twice. I failed Math 280 twice, and I took a shot with my final attempt on this campus, and I received an A. I felt extremely discouraged at one point, that I contemplated on changing my major. However, I reflected upon my progress thus far as a biology major and I realized that my achievements at that point were a testament of my resilience and capabilities towards my academic challenges. Thus, forfeiting my aspirations was not an option.

Failing.

Financial help was not available to me my first few years at Cuyamaca college, but I eventually got help. Financially, due to working part time.

Find time to study

Finding a great tutor for math.

finding classes to fit my schedule.

Finding time to study

General education classes

Getting into classes without having to waitlist

Getting into the class that I needed.

Getting over my fear of algebra and realizing that I was over thinking it. Also, in 2015 both of my parents passed away so staying focused while caring for them was difficult.

Getting the classes I needed to graduate. There were a couple of required classes that kept getting cancelled. I really wanted to take the Capstone class for CIS Web Development. It was cancelled at least twice which means a whole year before it would be offered again. I ended up having to enroll in the Work Experience class instead which was the other option to fulfill the degree requirements. Math was my other challenge. It had been years since I had a math class and it was like learning a foreign language from the beginning. The tutors were great.

Having time to study

History 108

Homework

I didn't really face any big challenges. I knew what I was doing and I had help from the Up! program and EOPS.

I hit a bump in the road one fall, and I gave up on my semester so it was a challenge trying to come back from the the next year

I was ambivalent about my major. I didn't know if I wanted to be a nurse or to do something else.

However, I learned and found my love for social work. **** ***'s social work class was an eye opener and greatly motivated me. It made me make a final decision that social work is something that I am passionate about, and I am no longer ambivalent. I can say with confidence that I'm going to continue my education and get my Master's in social work.

In spring 2016, I was in a accident, where I was injured I still came back to school, when I wanted to quit. Passing Statistics!

Juggling my schedule

Juggling studies, part-time work and parenting two young kids.

Juggling various responsibilities.

***** ***[Comment omitted]

Lack of guidance from the counselors
language

Language was the biggest challenge for me but I improved. Which is good.

Limited class availability. Semester-locked classes

Lol, my age, I am 54 returning to school, when I finally made it to the campus for online classes, I was pleasantly surprised at how welcoming everyone was, and I am not the oldest on campus either!

Loud unorganized classes.

Making my academic work fit into my professional work and home life/parenting.

Managing my time and balance between school, work and my family.

Managing my time between work and my own life to balance my coursework

Managing my time with track, work and school

Math (3)

Math. In not very good at math and that was my biggest weakness and challenge.

Miscommunication of major requirements and transfer acceptance

Modern technology.

My biggest challenge was learning the skills of writing in English because English is my second language

My biggest challenge is that I am a mother and at same time working and studying, so it was a big challenge for me to complete my goal

My biggest challenge was facing some health issues as well as financial issues.

My biggest challenge was my paramedical microbiology course my last semester at Cuyamaca College. Having very little knowledge about how to perform in lab and the subject itself was difficult for me. At first, it was a big learning experience for me. However as I gained practice and learned all that I needed to know from my instructor, it no longer became a challenge. Instead, it became a class I look forward to and enjoyed.

My biggest challenge was to solidify my major. It wasn't until my 4th year at Cuyamaca when I made a counseling appointment to layout more options.

My biggest challenge was trying to balance work and school.

My biggest challenge would be understanding statistics.

My biology teacher did not seem to care about my success or the success of the class.

My challenge was to work hard to be done

My disability. I have Major Depression and General Anxiety Disorder; and several other related challenges.

My language

My major was with many classes required

My math sequence

Never failing

Nona

None.

Not being as focused as I should have been.

Organizing my time.

Overcoming hard classes

Public speaking and having to answer questions on the spot. But each semester I was able to improve those skills by practicing speaking in front of everyone and prepping for class beforehand.

Public speaking at one of my classes.

Putting my whole life on hold to study.

school should provide more classes

Science has always been a challenge for me! And nobody expects that because I'm part of the STEM community. Before Cuyamaca, I hadn't ever been offered the opportunity to learn about evolution so I am extremely grateful that I finally had that opportunity after 18 years of my life.

Some classess

Some instructors where difficult to work with

Some teachers

Statistics

Struggling to keep going, after going to school there for five years it was hard to be motivated.

Studying

Summer semester.

Taking statistics. I failed the first time but because of tutoring and my Teacher **** and **** I was successful! I passed both statistics class!

Talking with counselors because majority of the counselors give different responses

Technology

The biggest challenge I faces while at Cuyamaca College was the English language and English class because English is not my first language.

The biggest challenge I faced at Cuyamaca College is the fact that certain art and graphic design courses were not available and therefore I had to go to other colleges to be able to take those courses. Having to go to another school and still attend Cuyamaca or Grossmont, then having to send transcripts over and have them evaluated was a long process, but I was able to complete my educational goals.

The biggest challenge I faced at Cuyamaca College was learning English.

The biggest challenge I faced was keeping above a 2.0 GPA while providing for 3 teen daughters.

The biggest challenge I faced while at Cuyamaca was taking challenging courses and having to manage my time with all the homework and tests as a full time student

The biggest challenge I faced while being at Cuyamaca College was working, going to school, and volunteering. It was a hassle but I haven't received a lower grade than a B. So, I'm proud of myself for working really hard to graduate, maybe not with honors, but I made it alive :)!!!!

The biggest challenge that I face was and has been getting on my feet after failing a class

The biggest challenge that I faced is hard because I have a learning disability that makes it hard to study.

The biggest challenge was focusing on doing well in my classes while juggling a social life and a job.

The biggest challenge was juggling the classes and assignments as I am an over achiever.

The biggest challenge was myself and procrastination

The biggest challenge was passing my physiology class during my last semester at Cuyamaca College

the biggest challenge was when I will complete my degree this semester, although I face many financial problems, especially when financial aid refuse to pay to me

The biggest challenge I faced at Cuyamaca had to be my Psychology 120 class which had me in the middle of two grades. Even though I did study for the exams, it still was my biggest challenge when it came to the exams.

The class size is big and not having enough teacher to teach that subject

The counselor availability and that their info is not accurate with SDSU requirements

The language since my English is a second language!

The old school high school desks. Difficult to learn in such an uncomfortable posture. Small rooms also make it difficult.

The program only offered classes once every two years, so if you missed out on something you needed to wait a REALLY long time to get it. Classes like PE and Chemistry were difficult to find to fit a night class schedule.

The time

The time.

This last semester is most challenging because I'm taking so many classes.

Time

Time and commuting. Public transportation not being available after 9:00 pm has made my time with studying cut in half.

Time management (2)

time management (2)

Time Management. Depression Social problems

Time management. I was so busy with 13 units and working full time.

To get a degree and working at the same time

**** [Comment omitted]

Trouble straightening out my classes with counselors

Understand English completely

Understanding the English language because I'm not a native speaker

Unprofessional staff.

VA and Vet office communications

Well, not easy to understand all the subjects because of my second language

Well, one of the bigger challenges I faced involved feeling like I belonged. The student body isn't very unified.

When I didn't know what I should major on. But I finally found what I am interested in and love my major.

Work and study

Work load

Working and going to school at the same time.

Working full time and studying full time

Working full time and taking classes full time too

Writing essays

Total Responses: 147

Q18. What was the most important or valuable thing you learned during your experience as a Cuyamaca College student?

Acceptance
Acceptance of others, and having the courage to embark on my educational journey as an "older student"
Accessing and evaluating Information
Always ask for help if you are struggling.
Automotive Technology
Be confident
Be open minded & ask questions
being creative
Build connections with instructors that can help me get into the work field.
College may seem like an intimidating prospect if you are not sure what to do after graduating from high school. The benefits of obtaining a college degree are life-changing and can create opportunities for you that a high school diploma cannot provide. From more employment and advancement opportunities to higher salaries, the value of a college degree is undeniable. In today's changing and competitive economy, knowledge is definitely power.
Communication skills, my communication skills definitely improved over time.
Confidence! I learned confidence in myself, confidence in "fitting in", confidence to not just pass, but to excel. I also learned patience. Anything worth having was worth waiting for. I feel that I was more like the proverbial "tortoise than the hare" in my educational journey.
Consistency and resolve is the most important factor for success
Continue my education
Cuyamaca took really good care of me! My education there was fun, helpful, insightful, and I was very determined to graduate. Cuyamaca helped me to come out of my shell and gave me so much confidence! If it wasn't for Cuyamaca I believe I would have never made it to State! I had a very awesome time and I miss it today!
Different fields of study
diversity
Don't make excuses.
don't wait for things to happen, and you have to fight for yourself others won't always be there to help
Education
ESL classes
Everything
Everything about my lovely Major(Child Development).
Everything belong to my major
Everything I learned has been invaluable since I work in the water and wastewater industry
Falling in love with water.
Focus on my major and how deal with others and respect different cultures
Goal setting and never giving up.
Hard work pays off
How to fight for what you want.
How to operate on ZERO sleep.
How to properly research law.
How to read scientifically and analyze data
How to talk to the instructors. I was afraid of them. I never knew how helpful they are if you ask.
I can do anything i set my mind to
I can persevere
I get a lot experience from my teachers
I had to really stay on task and manage my study time and stay organized. I definitely came away with new tools and skills that will hopefully get me the job I need and will enjoy.
I have a purpose in life. I am valuable and deserve happiness. Hard work pays off! Never give up!
I have been able to identify my career focus in life and how to communicate efficiently.
I have learned a lot of staff that helped me during my study
i learn how to repair cars

I learned how to manage my time and how to stay dedicated with my education despite all the challenges I faced.

I learned many things how to communicate with many kind of people.

I learned that all I had to do was ask for support and guidance and I was able to achieve my long denied goal of completing my bachelor's degree. The counseling department, the professors and the students were all part of my success

I learned that I must be more interactive in my classes because that will impact my understanding of the material.

I learned that instructors are there to help you succeed, I love that the school is filled with people from all walks of life and I learned a lot about other people's cultures.

I learned that repetition is the key to learning, and everyone can learn new things it just takes repetitive practice!

I learned that you should take your time and roll with the punches.

I learned to not be afraid to ask for help

I learned writing skills very wel.

I think that the most valuable thing I learned was the connections I would make at Cuyamaca College by working on campus and knowing different people, professor, chancellors, presidents, and many others who would teach me great value at how to go for my goals and how to take the steps necessary to achieve my dreams.

I'm finally going to graduate from this college

Integration with the American community, English language

It did not matter how long it takes you to complete a goal, as long as it gets done.

It doesn't matter if you're the last of your friends to graduate.

It's never too late to get what I want

Learn read effectively and write long paper

Learned real study skills. Wished I had them for the first two degrees

Learned well about business

Learning about different cultures

Learning and speaking English.

Learning has no age limit!

Learning to better multitask.

Life is not a race, it is completely okay to take longer to accomplish your goals.

Making time

Manage time

Managing money, time and effort.

More studying and hardworking

Most important thing I learned during my experience was creating a study plan for all my courses. Once I developed a study plan that worked for me, I altered it to each nursing pre-requisite course that I took every semester. As a student, the most valuable thing you can do for yourself and your grade is to create a study routine that you are able to succeed with.

My career path

My education was very important and valuable for me when I entered Cuyamaca College during fall 2014. It was a great experience.

My majors

Networking

Networking, determination, time management...

Networking, Teamwork and communication

Never give up (2)

No matter how old or long you've been studying there as long as you finish it was all worth it.

No matter what your end goal is, Cuyamaca will help you on your way to achievement.

Not to give up even if it takes awhile

One important thing that I learn is to take advantages of the opportunity that life gives you.

Overall General Studies

Patience and clarity of thought. Being able to communicate an idea effectively.

perseverance

Practice

Professionalism

Reach for help when you need it

Respect, value, and relationships

Respecting political views of those that differ from mine during class discussions.

Returning student from years past. Only needed a few classes to graduate. Didn't have much interaction with school resources

Science can be for anyone.

Social work profession is all about self awareness, listening and reflecting.

Social Work Skills Sometimes, people aren't perfect. Even if they're suppose to be your counselors and "know what's best for you" YOU know YOU. I am the only one who cares about my OWN education, and I know what's BEST FOR ME. I can heed others's advice, but I need to depend on me on what I think it's best for me. Asking is important and it the only thing that can help me better myself. Asking is smart because it's what got me to experience things and learn.

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Speaking English very well that make me to communicate with others easily

Stand up in front of students and talk (presentations)

Stay Focused

Stay on top of course work from the beginning

Study skills

Teamwork and self leadership

That continuing your education no matter how old you are is a wonderful thing. That opening your mind to all the different individuals, cultures, and ideas is a beautiful experience. I am truly enjoying every step of this journey to become a nurse.

That I can still learn and grow as a person, even as an older adult student.

That I really love what I am learning and this is my new found passion

That if you want something you have to ask and pave your way to obtain it. No one will do it for you

That it is never too early to plan ahead and always remember to keep an open mind.

That no matter how hard and bad things are going everyone reminded me to never give up.

That nothing is impossible

That we need to take our time but take it seriously also.

That when you never give up you can achieve anything, keep your head highly and things will come your way.

That you can accomplish many great things once you put your mind to it

That you get what you give. I put a lot of effort into my classes and my grades certainly show that.

the automotive information i gained whiling being in my classes, the hands on work.

The degree

The importance of surveys, to gather information on the thoughts of others for business.

the importance to study human behavior

The most important or valuable thing I have learned was opening up my understanding to different beliefs and cultures.

The most important or valuable thing I learned during my experience as a Cuyamaca College student is the rules of Cuyamaca which are to not cheat, respect the teacher while she's talking. The most important thing I learned during my experience as a Cuyamaca College student was by my psychology professor ****, to never overstudy, take frequent breaks between study sessions that way information will process easier in your brain. And as much as psychology was one of my hardest subjects, I enjoyed it and still enjoying it.

The most valuable thing I learned during my experience as a Cuyamaca College students is the process of critical thinking and how to apply that critical thinking process to an essay.

The most valuable thing I learned was to go into every course with an open mind.

The most valuable thing that I learned as a student at Cuyamaca is that you have to pursue your dreams and never give up no matter what.

the most valuable thing was the amount of information in each class , and also culture diversity

There is nothing to be ashamed of going to community college. As long as you keep your eye on the prize, you're just as worthy of going to a great school as others who began at a university as a college freshman.

Time management

Time management and setting priorities

To always be on time and still show up to class even if its not mandatory.

to celebrate what makes us different and how to bridge the gap that racial misunderstanding causes.

To just keep going

To keep striving towards your dream

To never give up and to always ask for help.

Wanting to major in sociology

When you are going to present in front of class, pretend like you own the topic. Speak with your heart, and always let your presence be known. Also, I learned to listen to others, and respect their feedback even when it was not what I wanted to hear.

With better self-esteem you'll get the benefits listed above. You'll be more stable and able to handle tough times better. You'll be less needy and more of a natural giver

With effort and sacrifice everything is possible.

Work experience @ the water conservation garden w/ Ms. Smarty-Plants Educational program

Work hard to get good grades

Work hard, study and you will reap what you sow.

Work twice as hard to achieve your goals.

Working as a team and learning that if you work hard, you can achieve what you want.

working hard is the most valuable trait as a student.

You have to take classes you actually like in order to pull through them.

Total Responses: 142

Q19. What could Cuyamaca College have done to improve your learning experience?

Advertise that the counselors are extremely helpful and inform students about all the resources they have to use.

Be more vocal about the resources available to students.

Better parking

Better the seats. We sit in desks that are highly uncomfortable. To be specific, the ones that high schools typically use.

By providing excellent professors that improve my education

Clean the bathroom and get your teachers to get control of their classes.

Counselors should be familiar with both cuyamaca and grossmont degrees.

Cuyamaca College can improve by having more classes available and more class times available, this would have definitely been much easier for me as a student.

Cuyamaca college tutored me on the subjects that I got stuck on which helped improve my learning experience.

Cuyamaca has provided everything I needed to achieve my goals

Definitely needed suitable facilities to study late night, especially nearing finals. Other schools have their libraries open with longer hours, or certain other buildings available to students. Many students struggle meeting together off campus and using resources like white boards and such to convey their understanding of concepts. So, in hindsight, I wish I had places to (intensively) study on campus nearing finals week.

During my two years at cuyamaca college, I have had a hard time when it came to registering for classes. I have had to petition for an earlier registration date and time, several times in order to register for my courses that I needed to graduate. Especially with courses in health sciences, there are only one or two courses offered in subjects such as Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, Chemistry

etc. Cuyamaca College needs to change the structure of where each student falls in each category that gives them the appropriate time of when to sign up for classes.

Encourage me to take a course every semester.

Everything (2)

Everything was great.

Everything was well done

Expand the library hours!!! Make more concessions to your night students! Very difficult to get to the bookstore. Always taking time off of work for these things and study shops.

Extend the drop out dates

Extending tutoring and library hours.

For improve my learning Cuyamaca offer every best academic staff which improve my learning

Free parking, and better technology for the automotive programs.

Geography tutors at Cuyamaca.

Get rid of the high school desks and tiny corner or end rooms. Have more social events and start a school paper or page.

Give better or more options with class availability. Ex. Only one professor taught Geography 120 lab throughout both Cuyamaca and Grossmont colleges. Most of the students I talked with dropped this class.

Great teachers

Grossmont College should have their own "Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management" degree

Have a better sense of community in each field so that the students can learn from each other. A better community center

Have a specific counselor assigned for each student. So the student can meet regularly with the same counselor to work on their goals instead of going to several different ones and hearing different things.

Have better counselors who have actual experience. Your counselors SHOULD BE CONSISTENT. Especially, the EOPS counselors. It felt like every time I went to speak to a counselor, I never got the same person. I always had other people and when I tried to schedule appointments with a specific counselor, it was still randomized. I remembered their names and faces, but they never remembered me. That was also hurtful because it was impersonal and felt like they didn't actually care about me and my needs. It should be a REQUIREMENT for all freshmen to meet with a counselor and that said counselor should be the only and same counselor that student met. Have counselor who are supervisors and train new counselors to effectively help ALL students.

Have the computer lab and library open on the weekends.

Having better counselors, some of the counselors I had gave me misinformation on what classes to take which wasted my money and time cause I didn't need those classes.

I believe Cuyamaca has done a wonderful job.

I believe those that are not accustomed to an American school environment should be thought how to act in a class room. I had many classes where the professor could not teach the class properly because they would have to ask people to stop talking or they would just argue with the professor in the middle of the lecture. This is very disruptive and is not a valuable use of the time.

I did not realize that I had an advisor until my last class this semester. It would have shortened the time spent pursuing my degree if I had this information. I was given some poor advise in the counseling center that lengthened the time it took me to achieve my academic goal.

I did receive some poor guidance from the counseling department that extended my length of time at school. I wish I would have better advice on how to plan my educational journey. I only recently found out I had an adviser the whole time.

I feel study guides are really needed for each test

I honestly can't think of anything. After a year, I didn't find much to complain about as I'm sure you could imagine.

I learned a lot and in everything

I looking for a job

I think not cancelling classes or offering them both semesters instead of offering them on staggered semesters would have helped me complete my degrees a little sooner. The two subjects -- CIS Web Development and Graphic Design are very specialized areas of study and are not going to have 30 or 40 students taking the classes at one time. Most of my classes only had 12 to 18

students and that is probably about right for the subject matter being taught. Individual attention could be given because the classes were smaller. Also, offering these specialized classes at night would be beneficial. I had lost my job, so that enabled me to attend day classes. But if I was working a 9 to 5 job, it would be impossible to attend school during the day. One of my fellow classmates is in this position now. She is trying to figure out how to finish her degree as the classes she needs are only offered at school during the day. She works and cannot attend.

i think that cuymaca college is doing their best to teach us
 I would have attended tutoring much more.
 I'm not sure at this time.
 Implemented more group projects.
 "In order to improve my learning I would have loved for it to be more visual and creative learning with the way the teachers explained the material.
 Some teachers were very creatively dry and didn't explain or want to explain when I asked questions."
 Include more benefits and more financial aid
 It could improve good tutoring and good counselling that both helped me to achieve my skills and goals.
 It was great!
 It's amazing
 Keep in mind that those of us attending night classes need not only degree specific coursework but also general studies to be able to graduate. Ensure that classes are available for night students.
 learn reading and writing English
 Less political views from instructors that lean to the far left or right. Especially in classes that don't pertain to politics
 Library is not accommodating for night students.
 Longer tutoring hours
 Longer tutoring hours say maybe two hours and at least five days out of the week would be very helpful!
 A bigger tutoring center!!!
 Lower the threshold for canceling classes due to low enrollment.
 Made graphic design classes more accessible at night. It was hard to find a job that allowed me to do both.
 Made more affordable and better desks in the child development building
 Make sure counselors give out adequate and consistent information
 Maybe encourage students to make a counseling appointment to discuss goals and ambitions.
 More counseling.
 More engineering classes available.
 more events about diversity
 More fluidity w/ program, easier to finish faster
 More math Tutors in Every subject.
 More one on one interaction or appointments to meet with a college advisor or counselor throughout the semester so the students can know what courses they should be taking.
 More paralegal courses.
 More program that helps students to achieve their goals
 More resourceful counselors
 more teacher variety
 more working time
 n/a
 N/A (3)
 Na
 No comment.
 None, it was all great
 Not a **** thing
 Not applicable
 Not much, I cannot speak highly enough of this school. I have attended many community colleges and Cuyamaca was the only one who helped get me on track with a major I am excited about and made it easy for me to complete my AA in University transfer studies
 Nothing
 Nothing I can think of, I feel like this college offers many tools for students to be successful.

Nothing really (2)
Nothing really.
nothing.
Nothing. (2)
Nothing. This campus is amazing.
Offer all the classes I needed at one school instead of wasting time driving to Grossmont and then back to Cuyamaca.
Offer more classes
Offer more classes at night, so student will have equal opportunity to attend the class.
Offer more open lab time for students that work mornings and cannot do open lab in the mornings
Offer more seats in the science department
Offer periodically scheduled counseling to help students stay on track throughout the year.
Offered more class selection for health sciences.
Offered more classes in CD
Offering excellent Professors and excellent information on the materials
Offering free prints
Offering more classes
One one the things Cuyamaca cool. Have done better is to improve there policy on how to treat people when they cheat, not just let them go with a warning .and to improve their tutoring resources because sometimes you forget you have a appointment and theirs no system that will remind you that you have a appointment
Open the coyote grill longer
Opening more classes at night that will help others who has work during the day
Provided for me what i needed to complete my study.
provided good professors and good technical facility
Provided more resources to learn outside of class
relieve the stressors of handicap parking
Returning student from years past. Only needed a few classes to graduate.
Some teachers were rather rude to students so I would check up on them more often.
Spend more time with supportive students (and less time with destructive students)
They already have
They did everything great!
To me, Cuyamaca college doesn't need improvements, as long as it maintains the best professors, anyone's learning experience will be amazing.
Tutoring
Tutoring center
Tutoring senter
Upgrade Horticulture spaces/classrooms
Use better math books. The ones used now are awful.

Total Responses: 120