



# 2006 HEDS Senior Survey Summary Report

## 2006 HEDS Senior Survey Participants (Colleges)

School	Class size	Surveys returned	response rate	School	Class size	Surveys returned	response rate
Agnes Scott College	207	191	92%	Macalester College	379	174	46%
Allegheny College	420	304	72%	Mills College	250	226	90%
Centenary College	175	129	74%	Muhlenberg College	468	442	94%
Colby College	452	432	96%	Pitzer College	217	188	87%
Colgate University	695	536	77%	Reed College	325	185	57%
Dickinson College	500	471	94%	Scripps College	224	101	45%
Furman University	640	608	95%	St. Lawrence Univ	271	272	100%
Gettysburg College	600	528	88%	University of Dallas	250	160	64%
Guilford College	440	143	33%	University of the South	290	117	40%
Hamilton College	493	401	81%	Vassar College	610	403	66%
Hamline University	483	193	40%	Washington & Lee U	422	201	48%
Haverford College	303	202	67%	Washington College	325	286	88%
Hobart & Wm Smith	382	355	93%	Whitman College	385	327	85%
Hollins University	173	89	51%	Whittier College	258	217	84%
Lewis & Clark	405	287	71%	Wofford College	262	222	85%
Total						8,400	

\* Please note that the HEDS Universities who participated in the 2006 Senior Survey are not included in this summary report. These schools shared partial information (each sharing information from their own in-house survey), and as a result did not submit substantial information to provide meaningful comparisons for the items used in the summary report.

This summary report was created using key indicators from the HEDS Senior Survey. It is intended to serve as an executive summary for the Senior Survey. Indicators were selected from the survey instrument by the Assessment Advisory Group of the Research Advisory Committee. This group of experts in the field of Assessment worked together to determine which items are the most important determinates of a successful undergraduate experience.

**The key indicators selected by the group for the purpose of the summary report are as follows:**

- Overall Satisfaction Measures
  - Percentage of seniors who are VERY SATISFIED with their undergraduate education
  - Percentage of seniors who DEFINITELY WOULD attend the same institution if given the chance to relive their experience
- Primary activity for the fall after graduation
- Current state of the primary activity
  - Current state of employment plans
  - Current state of educational plans
- Continued educational plans
  - Percentage of seniors planning to pursue a Masters degree of any type (either this fall or anytime in the future)
  - Percentage of seniors planning to pursue a Doctoral degree of any type (either this fall or anytime in the future)
  - Percentage of seniors planning to pursue a Medical degree (either this fall or anytime in the future)
  - Percentage of seniors planning to pursue a Law degree (either this fall or anytime in the future)
  - Percentage of seniors planning on any type of advanced degree
- Average ratings for types of abilities enhanced by undergraduate education (Composite ratings developed using the following items):
  - Critical Thinking scale
    - Write effectively
    - Acquire new skills and knowledge on my own
    - Think analytically and logically
    - Formulate creative/original ideas and solutions
    - Evaluate and choose between alternative courses of action
    - Plan and execute complex projects
  - Skills/Learning scale
    - Use quantitative tools (e.g., statistics, graphs)
    - Use technology
    - Gain in-depth knowledge of a subject area
  - Social/Moral awareness scale
    - Relate well to people of different races, nations, and religions
    - Develop awareness of social problems
    - Place current problems in historical/cultural/philosophical perspective
  - Self Development scale
    - Understand myself; abilities, interests, limitations and personality
    - Function independently, without supervision
    - Establish a course of action to accomplish goals
    - Develop self-esteem
    - Work under pressure
  - Relationship Skills scale
    - Function effectively as a member of a team
    - Communicate well orally
    - Lead and supervise tasks and groups of people
  - Understanding science scale
    - Understand the process of science and experimentation
    - Evaluate the role of science and technology in society
    - Engage in the pursuit of knowledge and truth

- Satisfaction measures for the following services or aspects of college:
  - Quality of course instruction in Humanities and Arts
  - Quality of course instruction in Science and Math
  - Quality of course instruction in Social Sciences
  - Quality of course instruction in Engineering
  - Quality of course instruction in Business
  - Availability of faculty outside of class
  - Student interaction with faculty
  - Computer services and support
  - Library facilities and resources
  - Classroom/laboratory facilities
  - Student voice in policies
  - Student government
  - Climate for minority students on campus
- College activities; percentage of seniors who participated in the following activities during any of their 4 years of college:
  - Semester or year abroad
  - Independent study
  - Fraternity or Sorority
  - Student government
  - Intercollegiate athletics

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**Counts per institution**

		Whitman College	All Participants
		Count	Count
Institution ID	Guilford 2006		143
	Wofford 2006		222
	Centenary 2006		129
	Vassar 2006		403
	Hamilton 2006		401
	Colby 2006		432
	Dickinson 2006		480
	Gettysburg 2006		528
	Macalester 2006		174
	Hamline 2006		182
	H&Wm Smith 2006		355
	Lewis & Clark 2006		287
	Mills 2006		226
	Agnes Scott 2006		191
	Muhlenberg 2006		444
	Pitzer 2006		188
	Reed 2006		187
	St Lawrence 2006		272
	U South 2006		117
	WashC 2006		286
	Whitman 2006	327	327
	Allegheny 2006		304
	Colgate 2006		542
	Hollins 2006		90
	Whittier 2006		217
	U Dallas 2006		160
	Furman 2006		609
	Haverford 2006		202
	Scripps 2006		101
	Wash & Lee 2006		201
VALID N		327	8400

**Overall satisfaction measures**

	Whitman College	All Participants
% Seniors who are VERY SATISFIED with undergraduate education	55.7%	43.8%
% Seniors who DEFINITELY WOULD attend the same institution again	45.0%	35.6%

Percentages are based on total number of seniors

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**Primary activity this fall**

		Whitman College		All Participants	
Employment, full or part-time (includes Military)		205	65.9%	4894	64.9%
Graduate School, full or part-time		46	14.8%	1603	21.2%
Other Activity (volunteer, family, travel, etc)		40	12.9%	683	9.1%
Undecided		20	6.4%	365	4.8%
Valid Cases		311	100.0%	7545	100.0%

**Current state of primary activity**

		Whitman College		All Participants	
Current state of employment plans	Accepted a position	71	31.1%	1556	27.2%
	Considering offers or declined offer	21	9.2%	746	13.0%
	No offers yet or undecided	136	59.6%	3417	59.7%
Valid Cases		228	100.0%	5719	100.0%
Current state of educational plans	Accepted and will attend	46	76.7%	1481	77.2%
	Deferred admission	4	6.7%	96	5.0%
	No acceptances, waitlisted	10	16.7%	341	17.8%
Valid Cases		60	100.0%	1918	100.0%

**Continued education plans**

(duplicate count of plans for this fall or any time in the future)

	Whitman College	All Participants
% planning to pursue Masters degree	54.4%	54.6%
% planning to pursue Doctoral degree	22.9%	20.3%
% planning to pursue Medical degree	7.6%	7.4%
% planning to pursue law degree	16.5%	13.6%
% planning on any type of advanced degree	78.9%	70.9%

Percentages are based on total number of seniors

**Average ratings for types of abilities enhanced by undergraduate education**

	Whitman College	All Participants
Critical Thinking	3.4	3.3
Skills/Learning	3.0	3.0
Social/Moral Awareness	3.1	3.0
Self Development	3.4	3.3
Relationship Skills	3.1	3.1
Understanding Science	2.9	2.8

Scale: 4=Greatly 3=Moderately 2=A Little 1=Not at All

Note: Items above are a COMPOSITE of ratings from question 11.

See attached notes page for elements included in each scale

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**Percentage of seniors who reported being VERY SATISFIED with the following items**

		Whitman College	All Participants
Quality of course instruction in Humanities and Arts	Valid N % Very Satisfied	317 56.5%	7464 52.5%
Quality of course instruction in Science and Mathematics	Valid N % Very Satisfied	305 42.0%	7005 37.3%
Quality of course instruction in Social Sciences	Valid N % Very Satisfied	303 48.5%	7276 48.8%
Quality of course instruction in Engineering	Valid N % Very Satisfied	24 41.7%	1493 24.2%
Quality of course instruction in Business	Valid N % Very Satisfied	30 26.7%	2547 33.9%
Availability of faculty outside of class	Valid N % Very Satisfied	319 74.3%	7862 61.7%
Student interaction with faculty	Valid N % Very Satisfied	318 71.4%	7841 60.8%
Computer services and support	Valid N % Very Satisfied	307 42.3%	7637 29.4%
Library facilities and resources	Valid N % Very Satisfied	308 69.5%	7763 43.5%
Classroom/laboratory facilities	Valid N % Very Satisfied	311 54.0%	7717 40.7%
Student voice in policies	Valid N % Very Satisfied	274 23.7%	6954 14.9%
Student government	Valid N % Very Satisfied	262 12.2%	6663 13.9%
Climate for minority students	Valid N % Very Satisfied	248 10.5%	6331 13.3%

valid n = total valid responses to each item

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**Percentage of seniors who participated in the following activities during any of their 4 years of college**

	Whitman College	All Participants
Semester or year abroad	52.0%	43.5%
Independent Study	47.1%	38.0%
Fraternity/Sorority	35.8%	26.0%
Student government	12.8%	13.1%
Intercollegiate athletics	34.6%	32.2%

Percentages are based on total number of seniors