

LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES

In Spring 2012, St. Olaf gathered evidence from seniors and alumni about how well the College prepared them for their post-graduate lives. Both seniors and alumni reported considerable institutional impact on their critical thinking, effective writing, integrative thinking, careful reading, and research abilities — the competencies that characterize well-prepared college graduates.

During the 2011-12 academic year, St. Olaf faculty also gathered evidence of the effectiveness of the general education curriculum.

Each faculty member teaching one or more general education courses was asked to assess a sample of student work in relation to one of the general education learning outcomes that had been identified for the course. Across all the courses assessed, representing a broad cross-section of courses drawn from every department in the College, 82 percent of students had completed work that the instructor judged to be either proficient or exemplary in relation to the general education outcome being assessed.

ESSENTIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT — SENIORS, CLASS OF 2012

“How often during college did you work on developing each of the following skills?”

	% Frequently	% Frequently/ Sometimes
Critical thinking	87%	100%
Effective writing	68%	98%
Problem-solving	68%	98%
Integrative thinking	66%	91%
Information literacy and research skills	59%	96%
Careful reading	57%	95%
Understanding quantitative information	56%	86%
Teamwork	53%	94%
Creative thinking	42%	93%
Ethical reasoning and action	42%	91%
Effective speaking	38%	83%
Intercultural competence	38%	80%
Civic engagement	19%	63%

Scale = Frequently, Sometimes, Rarely, Never, I'm not sure what this means

HEDS CONSORTIUM ALUMNI SURVEY — CLASS OF 2007

“To what extent did your experiences as an undergraduate contribute to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?”

Percent responding “Sufficiently” or “Considerably”

	St. Olaf College	15 selective liberal arts institutions
Careful reading	96%	91%
Critical thinking	94%	95%
Effective writing	90%	93%
Information literacy and research skills	90%	90%
Integrative thinking	89%	88%
Ethical reasoning and action	86%	80%
Understanding quantitative information	83%	72%
Problem-solving	82%	82%
Creative thinking	82%	82%
Teamwork	79%	75%
Effective speaking	75%	78%
Intercultural competence	73%	72%
Civic engagement	63%	64%

Scale = Considerably, Sufficiently, Somewhat, Very Little