

Methodology of Indirect Assessment Measures

Multiple measures are used to triangulate evidence of student proficiency in the core objectives. In addition to the direct measure taken by assessing student work using the faculty-designed rubrics adapted from the AAC&U LEAP VALUE rubrics, indirect measures are taken from the results of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) and the graduation survey.

Palo Alto College participates in the CCSSE during the spring of odd-numbered years. The CCSSE is designed to provide student perspectives on the learning environment at PAC. To more closely align these perceptions to the core curriculum objectives, faculty have aligned customized CCSSE questions to these respective core areas. Students responding to the CCSSE answer questions pertaining to the development of their critical thinking skills, their ability to write and speak well, their opportunities for teamwork, their use of support services at the college, the level of support faculty and staff provide, and the intellectual rigor of their classes.

1. Alignment of CCSSE Survey Questions to the Core Objectives

Each CCSSE survey question corresponding to the core objectives are compiled from the three most recent survey administrations.

Core Objective	CCSSE Survey Question
Critical Thinking	<p>Question 4: In your experiences at this college during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? (Very Often, Often, Sometimes, Never)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4d-Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources. <p>Question 5: During the current school year, how much of your coursework at this college emphasized the following mental activities? (Very Much, Quite a Bit, Some, Very Little)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5b-Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory. • 5c-Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences in new ways. • 5d-Making judgments about the value or soundness of information, arguments, or methods. • 5e-Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations. • 5f-Using information you have read or heard to perform a new skill. <p>Question 12: How much has your experience at this college contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? (Very Much, Quite a Bit, Some, Very Little)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12e-Thinking critically and analytically. • 12i-Learning effectively on your own.
Communication	<p>Question 4: In your experiences at this college during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? (Very Often, Often, Sometimes,</p>



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	<p>Never)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4b-Made a class presentation • 4c-Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in. • 4d-Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources. <p>Question 6: During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done <u>at this college</u>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6c-Number of written papers or reports of any length <p>Question 12: How much has your experience at this college contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? (Very Much, Quite a Bit, Some, Very Little)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12c-Writing clearly and effectively. • 12d-Speaking clearly and effectively.
Empirical and Quantitative	<p>Question 12: How much has your experience at this college contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? (Very Much, Quite a Bit, Some, Very Little)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12f-Solving numerical problems.
Teamwork	<p>Question 4: In your experiences at this college during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? (Very Often, Often, Sometimes, Never)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4f-Worked with other students on projects during class. • 4g-Worked with classmates outside of class. • 4h-Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary) <p>Question 10: About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10c-Participating in college-sponsored activities (organizations, campus publications, student government, intercollegiate or intramural sports, etc.) <p>Question 12: How much has your experience at this college contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? (Very Much, Quite a Bit, Some, Very Little)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12h-Working effectively with others.
Social Responsibility	<p>Question 4: In your experiences at this college during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? (Very Often, Often, Sometimes, Never)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4i-Participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course. • 4s-Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity other than your own. <p>Question 9: How much does this college emphasize each of the following? (Very Much, Quite a Bit, Some, or Very Little)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9c-Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds. <p>Question 12: How much has your experience at this college contributed to your</p>

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	<p>knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? (Very Much, Quite a Bit, Some, Very Little)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12k-Understanding people of other racial or ethnic backgrounds. • 12m-Contributing to the welfare of your community.
Personal Responsibility	<p>Question 4: In your experiences at this college during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? (Very Often, Often, Sometimes, Never)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4t-Had serious conversations with students who differ from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values. <p>Question 12: How much has your experience at this college contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? (Very Much, Quite a Bit, Some, Very Little)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12j-Understanding yourself. • 12l-Developing a personal code of values and ethics.

2. Graduation Survey

The graduation survey provides a second indirect measure. Students registering for graduation are asked to complete a survey which includes questions regarding their perception of the degree to which their experience at Palo Alto College contributed to their attainment of the core curriculum objectives. A five-level Likert scale is used to assess the following:

Core Objective	Graduation Survey Question
Critical Thinking	My educational experience at Palo Alto College increased my ability to think critically.
Empirical and Quantitative Skills	My educational experience at Palo Alto College increased my ability to solve problems requiring quantitative information.
Communication	My educational experience at Palo Alto College increased my ability to communicate in written, oral, or visual formats.
Teamwork	My educational experience at Palo Alto College increased my ability to work with others to achieve a goal.
Social Responsibility	My educational experience at Palo Alto College increased my ability to understand issues from various cultural perspectives.
Personal Responsibility	My educational experience at Palo Alto College increased my ability to explore the consequences of ethical decisions.