

Macalester College
 College Student Experiences Questionnaire
 Institutional Research – August 2007

Student Estimates of Gains

The Estimate of Gains section of the CSEQ asks students to reflect on their entire experience at Macalester and to estimate how much progress they feel they have made on 25 goals of higher education. The areas of gains include a student's general education, intellectual skills, personal development, science and technology, and vocational preparation. The top four areas in the 2007 CSEQ where the most students listed gains of "quite a bit" or "very much" include gains in a broad general education (83%), awareness of other philosophies (81%), self-understanding (81%), and learning on their own (80%).

CSEQ: Estimates of Gains

	Percentage responding "quite a bit" or "very much"			Change from 2003 to 2007
	1998	2003	2007	
<i>General Education</i>				
broad general education	74.3	84.3	82.6	-1.7
acquaintance with literature	45.8	49.2	42.9	-6.3
understanding history	56.2	62.7	64.9	2.2
knowledge about the world	65.0	76.7	76.3	-0.4
enjoyment of art, music, drama	46.5	46.9	40.3	-6.6
awareness of other philosophies	76.0	82.6	81.1	-1.5
<i>Intellectual Skills</i>				
writing effectively	60.2	74.1	72.5	-1.6
synthesizing ideas	73.4	84.9	77.5	-7.4
thinking analytically	66.7	79.6	75.6	-4.0
speaking effectively		71.6	67.8	-3.8
learning on one's own	74.4	85.4	80.2	-5.2
using computers, other info tech	62.2	52.2	33.4	-18.8
<i>Personal Development</i>				
functioning as a team member	53.6	62.7	62.4	-0.3
getting along with different peoples	74.5	79.3	73.6	-5.7
understanding self	77.7	85.1	81.1	-4.0
values and ethical standards	72.3	81.7	77.3	-4.4
personal health habits and fitness	30.9	41.2	37.5	-3.7
adapting to change		76.3	70.7	-5.6

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CSEQ: Estimates of Gains (continued)

	Percentage responding "quite a bit" or "very much"			Change from 2003 to 2007
	1998	2003	2007	
<i>Science and Technology</i>				
analyzing quantitative problems	38.2	47.4	44.5	-2.9
understanding new technology	31.6	37.1	34.4	-2.7
understanding science	35.7	39.7	37.6	-2.1
consequences of science, tech	33.7	42.8	43.2	0.4
<i>Vocational Preparation</i>				
vocational preparation	30.1	44.1	38.9	-5.2
skills for professional career	65.7	82.2	78.5	-3.7
career information	60.7	74.3	66.9	-7.4
Number of surveys	1005	1084	716 *	

* average, number of respondents to this section of the survey ranges from 702 to 728

Note: Shaded areas indicate statistical significance, where the 95% confidence intervals for each proportion do not overlap.