# St. Norbert College Digital Commons @ St. Norbert College

Assessment News

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

11-26-2007

# Volume 7, Issue 2

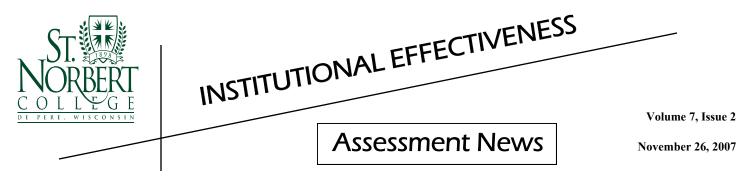
St. Norbert College

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.snc.edu/assessmentnews

#### **Recommended** Citation

St. Norbert College, "Volume 7, Issue 2" (2007). Assessment News. Paper 23. http://digitalcommons.snc.edu/assessmentnews/23

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at Digital Commons @ St. Norbert College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Assessment News by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ St. Norbert College. For more information, please contact sarah.titus@snc.edu.



# The Benefits of Faculty-Supported Student Research: Let us count the ways

By: Jack Williamsen

Retention Coordinator/Data Analyst

The Faculty Development Conference this January will address the topic of Faculty/Student Collaboration. A question on the *Senior Survey* (administered since 2000) offers an entrée into at least one dimension of this collaboration. It reads as follows: *How often have professors at your college provided you with an <u>opportunity to work on a research project</u>? (response options are: <u>Frequently, Occasionally, Not at All</u>). Twenty percent (20%) of the 2015 seniors completing the <i>Survey* endorsed the "Frequently" option. Forty-three percent (43%) selected "Occasionally;" the remainder (37%) chose "Not at all."

We focused on seniors who selected the "Frequently" option. Here are some highlights.

- 20% of female seniors and 19% of male seniors chose the "Frequently" response.
- No academic discipline had less than 10% "frequently" responders. Higher percentages occurred in e.g., Chemistry (53%), Psychology (38%), Music (38%), Biology (32%), Marketing (29%), and English (26%).
- 58% had self-reported GPAs of "B+" or higher; an additional 28% reported GPAs of "B."

The following table compares Seniors reporting frequent opportunities to work on faculty-supported research projects ("Frequently Seniors") to All Seniors on a variety of self-reported increases in knowledge and skills.

SRs. Reporting "Much Stronger"	"Frequently" Seniors	All Seniors
Knowledge of a particular field	75%	65%
General Knowledge	56%	47%
Critical Thinking	46%	38%
Problem-Solving Skills	44%	33%
Writing Skills	45%	33%
Public Speaking Skills	37%	29%
Math Skills	14%	10%
Computer Skills	41%	32%
Interpersonal Skills	43%	36%
Understanding Global Issues	36%	27%
Understanding Social Problems	33%	25%
Understanding Community Probs.	24%	17%
Accepting Diff. Races/Cultures	25%	18%
	N = 405	N = 2015

The table below provides a similar comparison on a variety of "satisfaction" items.

SRs. Reporting "Very Satisfied"	"Frequently" Seniors	All Seniors
Overall Quality of Instruction	34%	26%
Courses in Major Field	50%	41%
Relevance of Courses to Life	15%	11%
Science/math Courses	18%	10%
Social Science Courses	19%	19%
Lab Facilities & Equipment	8%	5%
Library Facilities	4%	3%
Overall College Experience	37%	32%

These findings offer support for the benefits of faculty-supported student research projects and, hopefully, can become a part of the discussion at the January Faculty Development Conference.

# New Course Options Suggested by SNC Alumni

For many years, the annual SNC Alumni Survey has asked graduates to evaluate the range of courses offered in their major. At the request of several faculty, a open-ended follow-up question was added to the most recent administration which asked graduates to identify specific courses they would like to have taken in their major while at SNC. Appearing below are a summary of those responses for the Class of 2005. Each line corresponds to a different respondent.

# Accounting

--practical applications of auditing

### Art

--Dreamweaver, XTML, more webdesign courses

--more technique/skill focused painting courses

--gallery techniques

--more advanced graphic design courses

--welding, casting, art theory, contemporary art history, fibers, metals

--internship opportunities, an art education program

--typography

#### **Biology**

--neuroscience

--field environmental biology

--mammalogy, physiology

--embryology

#### **Business Administration**

--more integration of technology and business

--more marketing courses

--marketing design, advertising classes as well, copywriting

--business etiquette

--logistics or politics and business

#### Chemistry

--medical technology, e.g. hematology, coagulation, clinical chemistry, urinalysis

# Communication, Media & Theatre

--multiculturalism, PR, advertising, diversity, corporate situations

--a sales course

--technological communication

--journalism courses

# **Computer Information Systems**

--enhanced web development & more project management training

#### **Computer Science**

--artificial intelligence

--other programming languages

### Economics

--practical economics where we use econ in real world applications --more econometrics

Education

--classroom management

--balanced literacy for the middle childhood range

--dealing with parents

--special education

### English

--literature courses outside of basic American and English, African-American Literature, more specialized literature classes

--courses in linguistics, grammar, and language theory mixed in with literature courses

--classes focusing on analytical writing

### History

--special topics courses that look in depth in to one specific event/time/ place, e.g. Rape of Nanking, Spanish Inquisition, Civil War, the 1960's in the United States

### International Business & Language Area Studies

--international business law

### **Music Teacher Education**

--instrument repair

--orchestration

--composition

# Physics

--electricity and magnetism II, quantum mechanics II, nuclear physics, solid state physics

#### Psychology

--an internship experience

--more industrial organization courses

#### **Religious Studies**

--standards and curriculum for religious education and youth ministry

--practical applications in religious education

--classes focusing on youth ministry

#### Sociology

--more field placements



Assessment Resources

**Office of Institutional Effectiveness** 

Main Hall, Room 219

(Phone: 403-3855) FAX: 403-4096

Web site: www.snc.edu/oie/