

General Education Survey Summary Spring 2011

Participants were randomly selected students: First years (27); Sophomores (20); Juniors (29); Seniors (31). Total=107

How has your General Education experience challenged you to grow in a profound way?

I have learned to question my beliefs/move out of my comfort zone . . . I have been pushed to think "out of the box"/in a different way . (8 responses)

"Presented me with an opportunity for significant learning in ways that I had not been challenged before"

Required me to use/taught me the importance of Critical Thinking (7 responses)

"My coursework has been challenging by teaching me ways to think critically about bigger topics around the world."

I have been pushed to consider different perspectives . . . (19 responses)

"I am a more consciously aware individual that strives to see the perspectives of others and my impact on other humans and the world in general"

"The experience has allowed me to learn many aspects of study that I had never been exposed to. All of my classes have changed my perception on how I see the people around me and life in general. It has allowed me to keep an open mind to opinions and ideas from various subjects."

I have been pushed to consider different courses/disciplines/topics . . .
_(18 responses)

"Challenged me in that I have taken many different classes allowing me to examine my own strengths and weaknesses . . . I have grown to appreciate many different areas of study."

"My general education experience here at PLU has been phenomenal. It has afforded me the opportunity to learn about other aspects of life that, in a way, was a mystery to me."

Really helped me think about my place in the world/global education (13 responses)

"Through taking these types of classes at PLU, my eyes have been opened to the world around me and to what it is like to live a life that is different from my own."

"These classes really emphasized embracing the positive differences in people and in having equality for all people regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic."

Multidisciplinary/liberal arts perspective/integrated nature (9 responses)

"Led me to think about the world, and my participation in it, in a very interdisciplinary way."

Challenged my learning style/approaches (14 responses)

"The tests and classes go beyond multiple choice; you are challenged to write and articulate yourself and engage in classroom discussion."

Helped me find a focus/my passion/the right fit major/minor (14 responses)

"Having certain required classes made me find my real passion in a major which led to a switch from my intended major (before coming to PLU)."

Overall, positive personal development (21 responses)

"I believe I grew a lot as a person and as a student through my general education classes."

High quality of instructors (5 responses)

IHON (5 responses) (10 responses)

Did not challenge me (10 responses)

If you could change one thing about your general education experience, what would it be?

Provide additional resources (5 responses)

“Library open 24 hours during finals week.”

“I would utilize resources like the academic assistance center and writing center much more if I had the time.”

Class Availability (10 responses)

“I would appreciate more classes being offered. While taking general education requirements, I was looking for more classes that immediately interested me, and could not always find any.”

Design of GenEd Program/Number of Credits (41 responses)

“A lot of times there is no way to pull together the information that we’ve learned in each of these classes. I feel that I have been able to connect the dots over the years, but I don’t think that most of us are able to until very late in our academic career. If there was some kind of way to draw connections between each of these courses, I think that it would have been very helpful.”

Class Dimensions/Faculty/Teaching (8 responses)

“I personally would want specific outcomes from each class written out so that students understand exactly what they need to learn, not just a broad description of what the class is.”

Plan/Schedule of General Education Courses (12 responses)

“I would like to have more flexibility in scheduling the times and days of my classes.”

University Policies (3 responses)

Personal Development (3 responses)

Nothing (7 responses)

How have you encountered the ILOs in your general education courses? Provide specific examples.

Reflection (6 responses)

“The critical reflection comes from all general education courses because of the way they are structured to challenge us to take topics and learnabout areas we have never experienced.”

Integrated nature across courses (26 responses)

“I think the ILOs were subtly integrated into every class.”

Single Elements across multiple/different courses (4 responses)

“Many of my courses have involved in-depth discussions which causes me to see many different people’s points of view.”

Different attributes in different courses (8 responses)

Integrated via particular experiences (18 responses)

“I would say the service learning component I have experienced in some of my classes has been a great example of the ILOs.”

Have not encountered . . . (13 responses)

To what extent did your general education coursework prepare you for your capstone experience?

It didn’t (5 responses)

It did—in these ways (17 responses)

“It was a tremendous help. You can’t just write a huge research paper without practice. Everything I did prior to my capstone served as that practice.”

