

Executive Summary of Student and Alumni Survey Results

The objective of the student and alumni survey was to identify what students felt was their best *and* their ideal classroom experiences, and to understand what students' believe "active learning" to be, as well as to gather student ideas regarding employing this type of learning. These surveys were conducted during the spring of 2006 and included a sample size of n=224. The targeted groups were the student opinion leaders and UT Arlington Alumni, thus the groups surveyed include the Alumni Board, current Peer Counselors 2005-2006, Freshman Leaders on Campus, housing apartment managers, international students through the International Office, Pan Hellenic students, Peer Counselors in training for 2006-2007, student athletes, student recreation employees, Student Government Executive Board, as well as those who attended the EXCEL/Student Affairs Retreat, Multicultural Affairs Retreat, Student Leadership Retreat, and the Student Governance May Retreat.

In analyzing the survey answers of all respondents to the open ended questions, some common themes began to appear. When respondents were asked to "Describe your best classroom experience here at UT Arlington (e.g., teaching style, activities, etc.)", the common responses included words such as: interaction, hands-on, class discussion, group work, visual aids, teaching style/skills, real-world experience/applications, participation, presentations, application, lab-work, and excitement. When respondents were asked to "Describe your ideal classroom learning experience", the common words used included: engaged, part of the learning process, discussion, hands-on, interactive, small class, activities, real world experience, enthusiastic instructors, caring and approachable instructor, group activities, teaching style, visuals, and application. The common answers respondents' provided when asked "What does the term "active learning" mean to you?" included words such as: participation, activity, application, interactive, open discussion, hands-on experience, real world examples, visual aids, presentations, technology, feedback, student involvement in teaching, engaging students, asking questions, and out of class involvement. When respondents were asked "What suggestions might you have in your own area of study as to how "active learning" could be employed?", the responses frequently included words such as: hands-on experience, internships, field trips, guest speakers, technology, application of material, lab-work, projects, presentations, group projects, practicing, communication, activities, interaction, seminars, real world examples/experience, and discussion.

The survey answers of all alumni respondents were also analyzed and produced some common themes as well. When alumni were asked to "Describe your best classroom experience here at UT Arlington (e.g., teaching style, activities, etc.)", the following were common answers: interactive (working, students, teaching, and with professors), hands-on (experience/activity), small classes, active participation, and lab-work. When alumni were asked to "Describe your ideal classroom learning experience", frequent answers included words such as: application, feedback, use of technology (computers, Internet, videos, and multi-media), active participation, hands-on activities, interactive, and group or teamwork. The third question asked alumni "What does the term "active learning" mean to you?" and the common responses were: participation, active, research opportunities, application of what is learned, communication, thinking, hands-on activities, and real world experiences. The final open-ended question asked of alumni was "What suggestions might you have in your own area of study as to how "active learning" could be employed?", and the common

survey answers included words such as: technology, internships, field trips, group assignments, real world exposure, application, and lab-work.

In conclusion, by analyzing the overall student answers to all of the open-ended questions, the most commonly used words in all four questions were: interactive, hands-on, discussion, real-world, and application. The most commonly used words in at least three of the questions also include: visual aids, presentations, and activities. Common words that were used in at least two of the questions include: group work, teaching style, participation, lab-work, engaging, and technology.

Summary Tables of Respondent Demographics:

Student Status	No.	%
Alumni	18	8.0%
Freshman	23	10.3%
Sophomore	30	13.4%
Junior	33	14.7%
Senior	24	10.7%
Not Answered	96	42.9%
Total	224	100.0%

Years since graduation (for UT Arlington Alumni)	No.	%
Less than 1	1	5.5%
01-10	7	38.9%
11-30	3	16.7%
31-50	3	16.7%
51+	1	5.5%
Not Answered	3	16.7%
Total	18	100.0%

Gender	No.	%
Male	87	38.8%
Female	131	58.5%
Not Answered	6	2.7%
Total	224	100.0%

International Status	No.	%
International Student	42	18.8%
Non-International Student	179	79.9%
Not Answered	3	1.3%
Total	224	100.0%

Age	No.	%
Less than 18 years	3	1.3%
18-24	172	76.8%
25-35	29	13.0%
36-49	9	4.0%
50+	7	3.1%
Not Answered	4	1.8%
Total	224	100%