FRESHMAN SURVEY Questions Addressing Gen Ed learning

The questions below are asked of all freshman students during orientation as part of a larger Freshman Survey. Please note that the “n” (number of students responding) jumps significantly in fall 2003. This is due to changes in how the survey is administered.

Please indicate your confidence and level of preparedness in the area of written communication skills:

a) I am a confident and effective writer and can communicate in writing with a variety of audiences, including academic and workplace audiences.

b) I am a proficient writer but need to improve my ability to write effectively.

c) I am not confident about my ability to communicate effectively.

Please indicate your confidence and level of preparedness in the area of oral communication skills:

a) I am a confident and effective public speaker and can communicate orally with a variety of audiences and in a variety of settings.

b) My oral communication skills are adequate, but I need to improve my ability to speak before a variety of audiences and in a variety of settings.

c) I am not confident about my ability to communicate orally before a variety of audiences and in a variety of settings.

Please indicate which set of behaviors best describes you:

a. I stay informed on a weekly or daily basis about worldwide events through television, radio, print, or Internet media, and I am highly aware of global trends, news, developments, and concerns.

b. I stay somewhat informed about worldwide events, developments, concerns, and global issues but do not purposefully search the Internet or read, watch, or listen to information sources on a daily or weekly basis.

c. I am familiar with global trends, news, developments, and concerns but not well informed enough to debate or discuss topics in depth.

d. I am not particularly well informed about global trends, news, and developments even though I may be informed about local or national issues.

Please indicate your confidence and level of preparedness in the area of mathematics:

a) I am well-prepared in mathematics and am confident using my math skills and knowledge in science courses.

b) My mathematics knowledge and skills are adequate, but I need to improve my ability to apply these in other courses.

c) Mathematics does not come easily to me and I am not confident that I can apply my math knowledge and skills in other courses.
Fall 2002, n = 29

Written Communication Skills
Fall 2002

EFFECTIVE 22%
NOT CONFIDENT 11%
BLANK 1%
NEED IMPROVEMENT 66%

Oral Communications Skills
Fall 2002

EFFECTIVE 22%
NOT CONFIDENT 11%
BLANK 1%
NEED IMPROVEMENT 66%

Current Events Knowledge
Fall 2002

INFORMED 19%
SOMewhat INFORMED 46%
UNINFORMED 6%
BLANK 4%
UNKNOWN 25%

Math Skills: Fall 2002

WELL PREPARED 43%
NEED IMPROVEMENT 46%
BLANK 4%
Spring 2003, n = 29

Written Skills
Spring 2003

Oral Communication Skills
Spring 2003

Current Affairs Knowledge
Spring 2003

Math Skills
Spring 2003
Fall 2003, n = 413

**Written Communication Skills**
- Not Confident: 8%
- Blank: 7%
- Effective: 30%
- Need Improvement: 55%

**Oral Communication Skills**
- Not Confident: 16%
- Blank: 6%
- Effective: 24%
- Need Improvement: 54%
This chart contains the most recent data from Spring 04 (not given in the charts above)

**Freshman Survey from Summer Orientations June 20-21, June 24-25, July 11-12, July 15-16 & August**

**Spring 2004**

**Please indicate your confidence and level of preparedness in the area of written communication skills:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am a confident and effective writer and can communicate in writing with...</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am a proficient writer but need to improve my ability to write effectively.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am not confident about my ability to communicate effectively.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blank</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 21 (100.0%)

**Please indicate your confidence and level of preparedness in the area of oral communication skills:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am a confident and effective public speaker and can communicate orally...</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My oral communication skills are adequate but I need to improve my ability...</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am not confident about my ability to communicate orally before a variety...</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blank</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 21 (100.0%)

**Please indicate which set of behaviors best describe you:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I stay informed on a daily or weekly basis about worldwide events through...</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I stay somewhat informed about worldwide events, developments, concerns,...</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am familiar with global trends, news, developments, and concerns but...</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am not particularly well informed about global trends, news, and developments...</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blank</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 21 (100.0%)

**Please indicate your confidence and level of preparedness in the area of mathematics:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am well-prepared in mathematics and am confident using my math skills...</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My mathematics knowledge and skills are adequate, but I need to improve...</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics does not come easily to me and I am not confident that I can...</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blank</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 21 (100.0%)