Foothill College Student Accreditation Survey
Overall Observations, Foothill Research, November 2010

Survey Administration

The student survey was developed in conjunction with De Anza College to provide evidence of student perceptions of the colleges for the accreditation self-study process. The initial questions were based on those asked in the 2004 Accreditation Survey, with additions and modifications made by both Foothill and De Anza College administrators, faculty, staff, and students. The Foothill College survey was reviewed and approved by the shared governance process (Academic Senate, Accreditation Committee, Administrative Council, Associated Students of Foothill College, Classified Senate, and Planning and Resource Council) during Fall 2010. During the last week of October 2010, all enrolled students were invited to participate through an email invitation from President Judy Miner that provided the link to the survey site. The response rate was 10% of 15,353 or 1,480 students.

The survey included five sections for a total of 44 questions. These sections included questions about student demographics, learning experiences, institutional learning outcomes, campus resources, and additional comments/suggestions. In the student demographic and institutional core competencies sections, students provided categorical responses where answers to questions such as gender and age fit into one specific category. Other sections, such as learning areas and other campus experiences, required scaled responses, where respondents rated their agreement level to the statement asked (Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, Don't Know/Doesn't Apply). Finally, there was an open-ended section for additional comments/suggestions. For reporting purposes, the Do Not Know/Doesn't Apply responses and the non-responses were subtracted from the final tallies of each question to get a more accurate representation of the difference between the valid responses and the total responses.
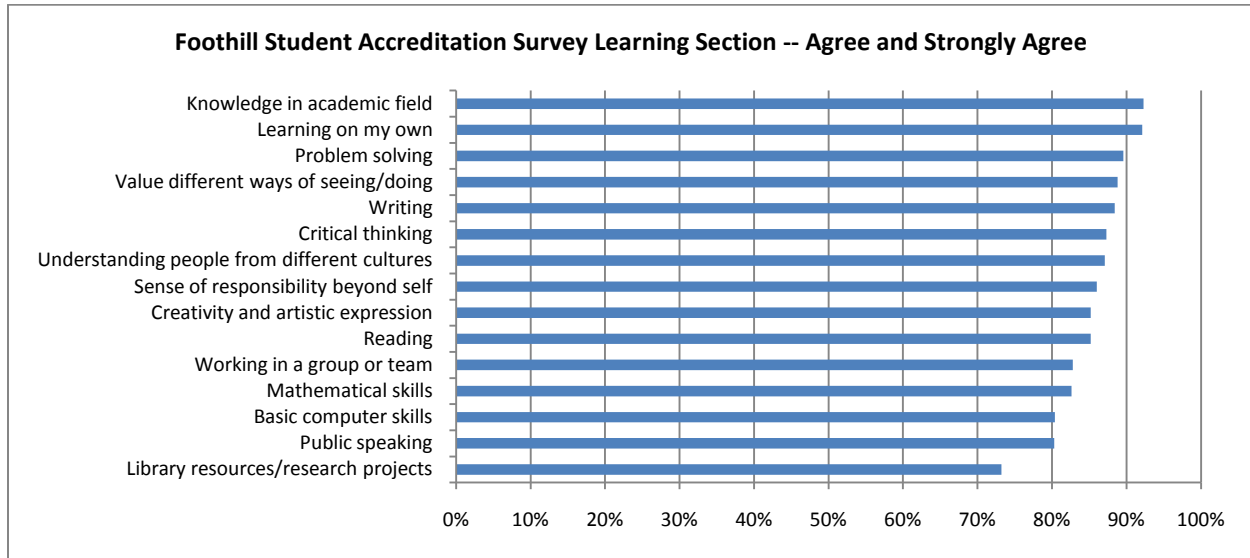
The survey respondents as a group were older and tended to be more female than the Fall 2009 population of enrolled students. The percentage of respondents identifying themselves as White is more than 10% higher than students identifying themselves as White in the overall Foothill population. The respondent group included a slightly higher percentage of students identifying themselves as Pacific Islander and Decline to State and a slightly lower percentage of students identifying themselves as Asian, Black, and Hispanic. Since the percentage differences in regards to ethnicity are small (1-2 percentage points) the results are still considered applicable to the overall population.
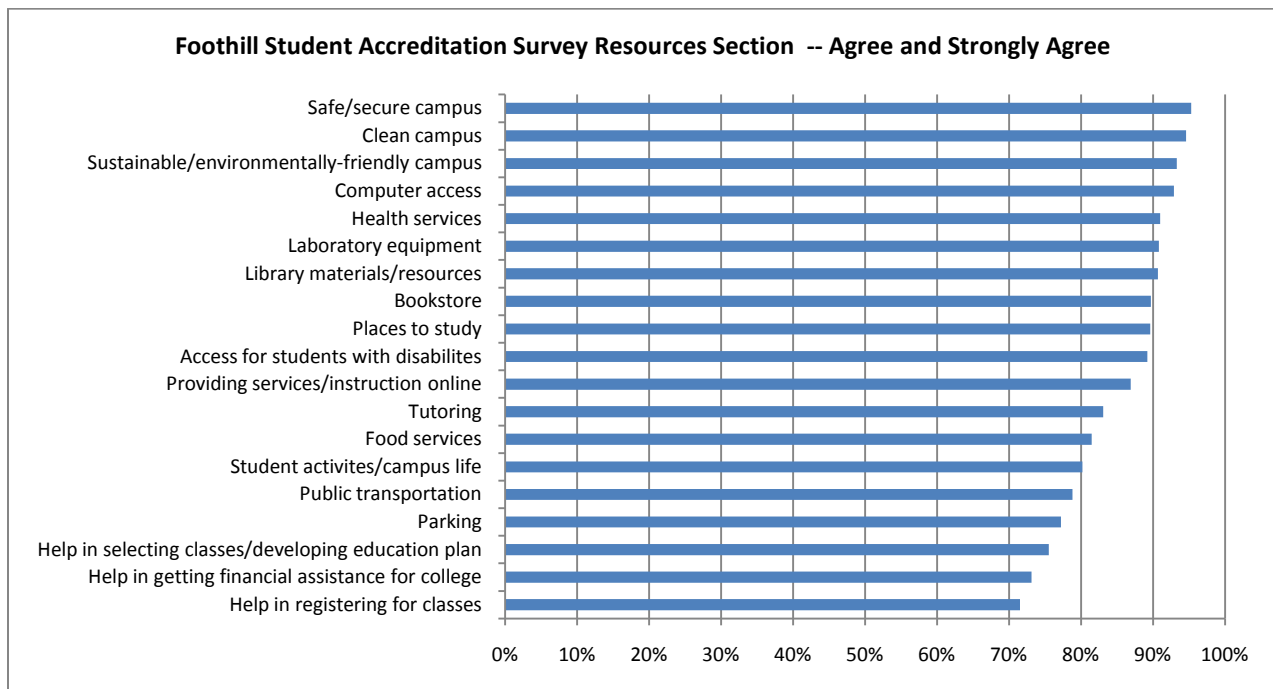
General Observations

- More females (63%) responded to the survey than males (37%).
- The largest age group to respond to the survey is the 19-24 year olds (24%) followed by 50-59 year olds (17%) and 25-29 year olds (13%).
- White students were 58% of the respondents, followed by 18% Asian, 8% Hispanic and 7% Decline to State.
- Respondents with a high school diploma/GED made up 40% of the sample with 27% having a Bachelor's degree and another 20% with a Masters/Doctorate.
- The majority of respondents stated that English is their primary language spoken at home (79%).
- The majority of respondents (44%) are fairly new to Foothill College having only attended one to three quarters. Students who attended four to six quarters represented 22% of the respondents, followed by those who attended ten or more quarters (21%).
- A quarter of the students (26%) reported that they are familiar with Foothill's Institutional Learning Outcomes; this question is new to this year's survey.

- "Knowledge related to my academic field of interest" received the highest mean score rating in the learning section, while "using library resources for a research project" received the lowest mean score in that section.
- "Clean campus," "computer access," and "safe and secure campus" received the highest mean score ratings in the resources section, while "help in selecting classes and developing an educational plan," "help in getting financial assistance to pay for college," and "help in registering for classes" received the lowest mean scores in that section.

Students were asked to rate their agreement to whether or not Foothill College had improved their knowledge, skills, and abilities in each learning area.

Foothill Student Accreditation Survey Learning Section -- Agree and Strongly Agree

Category	
Knowledge in academic field	~92%
Learning on my own	~91%
Problem solving	~88%
Value different ways of seeing/doing	~87%
Writing	~87%
Critical thinking	~86%
Understanding people from different cultures	~86%
Sense of responsibility beyond self	~85%
Creativity and artistic expression	~85%
Reading	~84%
Working in a group or team	~82%
Mathematical skills	~82%
Basic computer skills	~80%
Public speaking	~80%
Library resources/research projects	~73%

(X-axis: 0% to 100%)

Students were asked to rate their agreement to whether or not Foothill College had provided resources that met their needs as a student in the listed areas.

Foothill Student Accreditation Survey Resources Section -- Agree and Strongly Agree

Category	
Safe/secure campus	~95%
Clean campus	~94%
Sustainable/environmentally-friendly campus	~93%
Computer access	~93%
Health services	~91%
Laboratory equipment	~91%
Library materials/resources	~91%
Bookstore	~90%
Places to study	~90%
Access for students with disabilites	~89%
Providing services/instruction online	~87%
Tutoring	~84%
Food services	~82%
Student activites/campus life	~80%
Public transportation	~79%
Parking	~78%
Help in selecting classes/developing education plan	~76%
Help in getting financial assistance for college	~73%
Help in registering for classes	~71%

(X-axis: 0% to 100%)

Foothill Student Accreditation Survey Tables

Note: There were 1,480 respondents to the survey - tables listed here only give valid, non-missing responses on each question.

Table 1. Age Groups

Age Group	N	%
18 or younger	125	9%
19 to 24	356	24%
25 to 29	196	13%
30 to 34	110	8%
35 to 39	97	7%
40 to 49	182	12%
50 to 59	245	17%
60 or over	159	11%
Total	**1,470**	**100%**

Table 2. Gender

Gender	N	%
Female	903	63%
Male	538	37%
Total	**1,441**	**100%**

Table 3. Ethnicity

Ethnicity	N	%
Asian	267	18%
Black	33	2%
Filipino	17	1%
Hispanic	117	8%
Native American	9	1%
Pacific Islander	20	1%
White	843	58%
Other	63	4%
Decline to State	96	7%
Total	**1,465**	**100%**

Table 4. Highest Degree Earned

Highest Degree	N	%
No High School Degree	53	4%
HS/HS Equivalent	588	40%
Associate's Degree	129	9%
Bachelor's Degree	403	27%
Masters/Doctorate	293	20%
Total	**1,466**	**100%**

Table 5. English is Primary Language Spoken at Home

English is Primary Language at Home	N	%
No	304	21%
Yes	1,157	79%
Total	**1,461**	**100%**

Table 6. Number of Quarters Attending Foothill

Number of Quarters	N	%
One to Three	637	44%
Four to Six	325	22%
Seven to Nine	192	13%
Ten or More	305	21%
Total	**1,459**	**100%**

Table 7. Summary of Responses to Learning Outcomes Item

Note: Students were asked whether they were familiar with Foothill's Institutional Learning Outcomes.

Familiar with Foothill's Institutional Learning Outcomes	N	%
No	1,072	74%
Yes	369	26%
Total	**1,441**	**100%**

Table 8. Summary of Responses to Learning Experiences Items

Note: Students were asked to rate their agreement to whether or not Foothill had improved
their knowledge, skills, and abilities in each area.
Note 2: Mean scores are calculated on SA=4, A=3, D=2, SD=1 scale.
Note 3: Mean scores are calculated using Valid Ns.
Note 4: Items are ranked by their mean scores.

#	Learning Experience Item	Valid N	Mean Score	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Do Not Know Does Not Apply N
10.	Knowledge related to my academic field of interest	1,171	3.40	2%	5%	42%	51%	253
7.	Learning on my own	1,137	3.29	2%	6%	53%	40%	288
2.	Writing	798	3.20	2%	10%	54%	34%	631
5.	Creativity and artistic expression	857	3.19	4%	11%	47%	38%	566
9.	Problem solving	1,051	3.19	2%	8%	58%	32%	369
8.	Critical thinking	1,063	3.17	3%	9%	57%	32%	356
14.	Value different ways of seeing and doing	1,054	3.17	3%	8%	57%	32%	366
15.	Sense of responsibility beyond self	955	3.17	3%	11%	52%	35%	461
13.	Understanding people from different cultures	968	3.14	4%	9%	55%	32%	458
1.	Reading	736	3.11	2%	12%	56%	29%	690
4.	Mathematical skills	671	3.10	4%	14%	52%	31%	740
6.	Working in a group or team	958	3.07	3%	14%	55%	28%	465
12.	Basic computer skills	798	3.04	5%	15%	52%	29%	620
3.	Public speaking	659	3.03	3%	16%	54%	26%	761
11.	Using library resources for a research project	713	2.97	5%	20%	49%	26%	704
	Total	**1,480**						

E. Kuo and M. Newell
Draft 5 11.22.10

Table 9A. Summary of Responses to Resources Items

Note: Students were asked to rate their agreement to whether or not Foothill had provided resources that met their needs as a student in the listed areas.

Note 2: Mean scores are calculated on SA=4, A=3, D=2, SD=1 scale.

Note 3: Mean scores are calculated using Valid Ns.

Note 4: Items are ranked by their mean scores.

#	Resource Item	Valid N	Mean Score	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Do Not Know Does Not Apply N
5.	Clean campus	1,209	3.41	1%	4%	47%	47%	229
1.	Computer access	1,004	3.40	2%	5%	44%	49%	429
7.	Safe and secure campus	1,163	3.37	1%	4%	52%	43%	268
6.	Sustainable and environmentally-friendly campus	1,051	3.35	2%	5%	50%	44%	374
11.	Health services	666	3.30	3%	6%	49%	42%	756
10.	Access for students with disabilities	537	3.26	3%	8%	49%	40%	886
14.	Places to study	910	3.25	3%	8%	51%	39%	513
13.	Laboratory equipment	684	3.24	3%	6%	55%	36%	742
12.	Library materials and resources	791	3.22	2%	7%	58%	33%	631
3.	Bookstore	1,118	3.21	3%	8%	56%	34%	307
19.	Providing services and instruction online	1,079	3.21	6%	12%	48%	34%	336
15.	Tutoring	590	3.13	6%	11%	47%	36%	815
2.	Food services	923	3.08	5%	13%	49%	32%	501
4.	Student activities & campus life	681	3.05	5%	15%	51%	29%	739
9.	Public transportation	605	3.03	7%	14%	47%	31%	818
	Total	**1,480**						

E. Kuo and M. Newell

Table 9B. Summary of Responses to Resources Items, Continued

Note: Students were asked to rate their agreement to whether or not Foothill had provided resources that met their needs as a student in the listed areas.

Note 2: Mean scores are calculated on SA=4, A=3, D=2, SD=1 scale.

Note 3: Mean scores are calculated using Valid Ns.

Note 4: Items are ranked by their mean scores.

#	Resource Item	Valid N	Mean Score	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Do Not Know Does Not Apply N
8.	Parking	1,189	2.98	7%	16%	49%	28%	249
18.	Help in selecting classes and developing an educational plan	840	2.97	9%	16%	46%	30%	576
17.	Help in getting financial assistance to pay for college	564	2.96	9%	18%	41%	32%	852
16.	Help in registering for classes	1,031	2.90	9%	19%	44%	28%	391
	Total	**1,480**						