

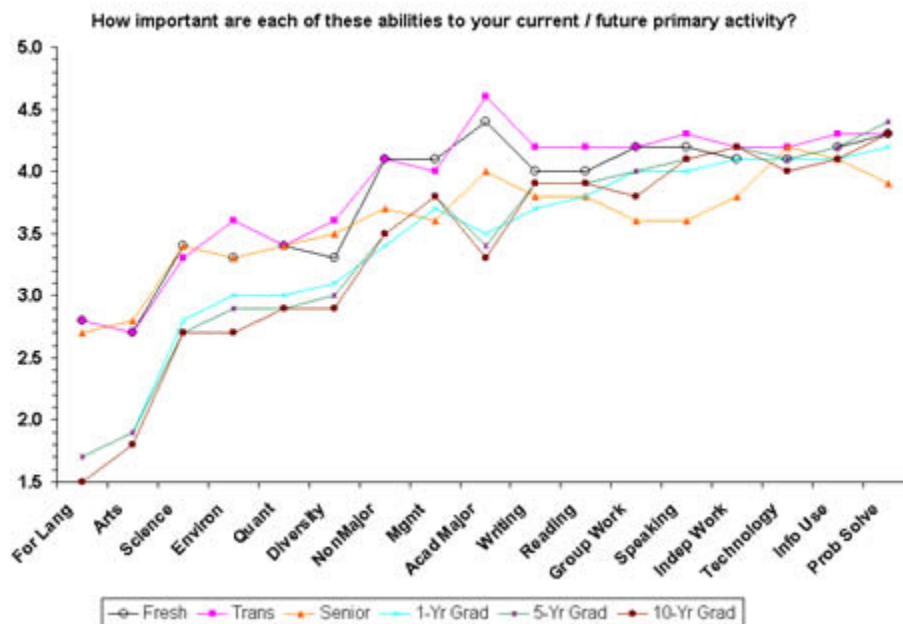
Some Assessment Findings, 2003

*OEA Assessment Group
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This is the first in a series of dynamic reports created by the OEA Assessment Group to highlight particular findings of interest. Throughout the year we undertake a variety of studies, both large and small, that address a wide range of topics. At times our research is very pointed and at times more general, but there is always the potential to learn something we didn't expect, or to look again from a different angle at things we thought we knew. We will update this page periodically throughout the year to share our findings with you.

Finding 1

Every two years, OEA surveys six groups of UW students and alumni at various points in their baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate careers.¹ As part of the surveys, each group is asked to rate the importance of seventeen educational outcomes (listed below). Freshmen entrants, transfer entrants, and seniors rate the importance of each outcome relative to their own future, and alumni graduating one, five, and ten years previously rate the importance of the outcomes with regard to their current primary activity. The average item ratings given in the 1999-2000 surveys are graphed for the various groups and summarized below.



- The rank ordering from lowest rated item to highest rated item is quite similar for all six groups.
- New students, both freshmen and sophomores, tend to give the highest ratings to all items. Alumni tend to give the lowest ratings to all items.
- General education skills such as *Defining and solving problems* and *Locating information* are the highest rated items.
- The importance of *Using knowledge from major field* decreases as students progress from entrants to seniors and to alumni.

Table 1. Educational Outcomes

ForLang	Using a foreign language	Writing	Writing effectively
Arts	Appreciating the arts	Reading	Critically analyzing written info
Science	Scientific principles and methods	GroupWork	Working cooperatively in group
Environ	Interaction society and environment	Speaking	Speaking effectively
Quant	Quantitative principles and methods	IndepWork	Working / learning independently
Diversity	Appreciating diverse philosophies	Technology	Working with technology
NonMajor	Outside major	InfoUse	Locating information
Mgmt	Management/leadership skills	ProbSolv	Defining and solving problems
AcadMajor	Using knowledge from major field		

1

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McGhee, D.E. *Senior Survey, 2000: Methodology and Response Frequencies*. [OEA Report 00-05](#), August, 2000.

Kourenina, L. and McGhee, D.E. *1999 University of Washington Graduates, One Year After Graduation: Methodology and Response Frequencies*. [OEA Report 00-07](#), October, 2000.

McGhee, D.E. *University of Washington Undergraduate Degree Recipients, Five and Ten Years After Graduation (2000): Methodology and Response Frequencies*. [OEA Report 00-06](#), April, 2001.