

Reported Gains by Graduating Seniors, Spring 2003

Introduction

A telephone survey of Texas A&M seniors who planned to graduate in May of 2003 was conducted in the spring semester. A total of 843 completed surveys were obtained from all students who graduated in May of 2003. An attempt was made to reach each student three times on different days and times.

Survey

The survey consisted of a total of 45 items. A subset of 25 items was taken from the College Student Experiences Questionnaire (CSEQ), 4th edition by The Center for Postsecondary Planning and Research, Indiana University. These items asked students to estimate their gains in specific academic areas. The CSEQ items were selected because normative data from other doctoral-granting universities were available.

CSEQ/Norms

The CSEQ was initially published in 1979 following two years of development and testing under a grant from the Spencer Foundation. The current edition was revised in 2003. In contrast to previous editions, four sets of norms are available for the fourth edition: first-year student norms, sophomore norms, junior norms, and senior norms. The norms presented in this report are based on responses of senior students in twenty-nine Doctoral/Research-Extensive universities. Strictly speaking, it is not a representative norm group but the number of students and institutions makes for a reasonable level of stability in the results.

Doctoral/Research-Extensive universities providing the norm data are: Brigham Young University, Cornell University, Duke University, Georgia State University, Indiana University Bloomington, Iowa State University, Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, North Carolina State University at Raleigh, **Pennsylvania State University**, Stanford University, Syracuse University, **University of California - San Diego**, University of California - Santa Barbara, University of Chicago, University of Delaware, University of Hawaii at Manoa, **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, University of Missouri - Columbia, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, University of Rochester, University of Southern California, University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, Utah State University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Washington State University, Yeshiva University.

Information about the College Student Experiences Questionnaire can be obtained at <http://www.indiana.edu/~cseq/>

* Universities listed in **boldface** are part of the Vision 2020 list of comparison institutions.

Results

In eleven areas, Texas A&M students reported making more gains than did students in the norm group. Specifically, the gains reported by TAMU students that are significantly greater than the norm group are the following:

- Functioning as a team member
- Thinking analytically
- Speaking effectively
- Analyzing quantitative problems
- Understanding new developments in science and technology
- Understanding the nature of science and experimentation
- Gaining knowledge about other parts of the world
- Developing good health habits and physical fitness
- Acquiring knowledge and skills applicable to a specific job or type of work
- Developing your own values and ethical standards
- Developing the ability to get along with different kinds of people

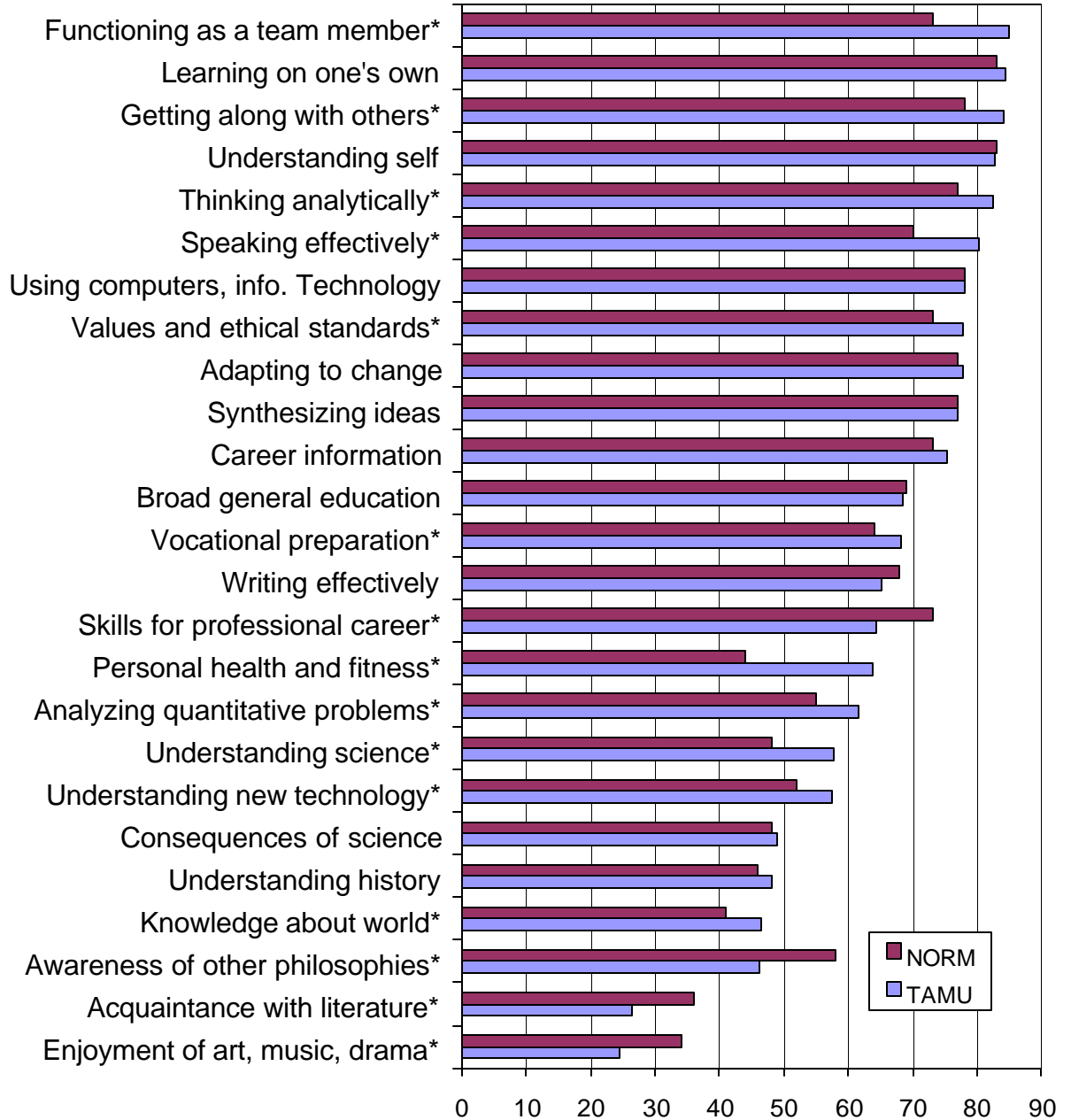
In ten areas, the reported gains by TAMU students were not statistically significant from the norm group.

In four areas, the gains reported by TAMU students were significantly less than those of the norm group. They are:

- Acquiring background and specialization for further education in a professional, scientific, or scholarly field.
- Becoming aware of different philosophies, cultures, and ways of life
- Developing an understanding and enjoyment of art, music, and drama
- Broadening your acquaintance with and enjoyment of literature

These results are generally consistent with the survey results from the previous years. For comparisons with previous years, please see past Measurement and Research Services Data Summaries.

Percent of Reported Gains by Texas A&M Graduating Seniors, Spring 2003



**Data Summary #226
Measurement and Research Services
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