

2015 Summary of Key Evidence for UCORE [CAPS] Course Assessment Report Pilot

Background

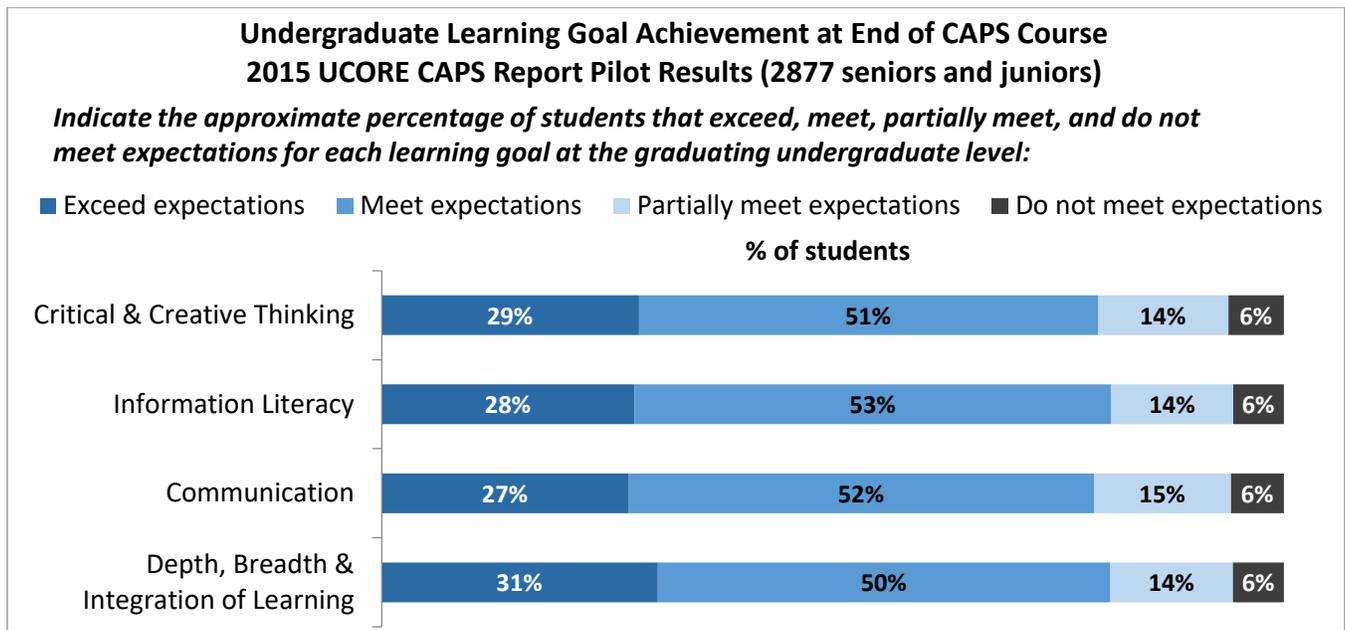
Integrative Capstone [CAPS] courses bring opportunities for integration, application, and closure to the undergraduate experience. Established as part of WSU's new general education curriculum (UCORE) beginning in 2012, [CAPS] courses require students to demonstrate at least four of the seven university learning goals: Critical & Creative Thinking, Information Literacy, Communication, and Depth, Breadth & Integration of Learning (with additional learning goals included as appropriate to the discipline). [CAPS] courses need to be at the 400 level and students need to be at least junior-level.

Respondents

[CAPS] course instructors were asked to complete a pilot course assessment report form for spring and fall 2015. A total of 79 reports were submitted, which represented 2877 students enrolled in [CAPS] courses. Instructors estimated that 53% of students were taking the [CAPS] course in their major.

Results

The form asked instructors to rate students on their ability in each of the four learning goals required in each [CAPS] course. Instructors were asked to base these estimates on students' holistic performance in the course. Overall, instructors indicated that 79% of students exceeded or met expectations at the graduating undergraduate level for Critical & Creative Thinking, 81% for Information Literacy, 79% for Communication, and 81% for Depth, Breadth & Integration of Learning.



Instructors were also asked to what extent students were prepared by their previous courses for the [CAPS] course. Overall, 68% of reports indicated that most students were prepared for the four required learning goals. Over half of reports (54%) indicated that the instructor planned to make changes to improve the [CAPS] course. Most often, instructors indicated plans to adjust assignments (30%) and/or instruction (16%).

In spring 2016, the [CAPS] Course Assessment Report form will be adjusted in response to findings from the pilot. The form will then be distributed to all spring 2016 [CAPS] instructors.