

2014 Graduating Student Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO) Survey Results (June 2014)

Background and Methodology

As part of its comprehensive learning outcomes assessment plan, San Diego Mesa College conducted an Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO) assessment in Spring 2013. A survey was designed and administered to spring graduates to assess student perception of learning and growth in each of the six ILOs. Two questions were created for each of the six ILOs, based upon each ILO's operational definition. Findings from the survey were then vetted through multiple venues, including workshops conducted in conjunction with Fall 2013 convocation, meetings of the Learning Assessment Task Force, the Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee, and other groups. Analysis of feedback from the vetting process led the Learning Assessment Task Force to make two recommendations for 2013-2014: (a) the College should revisit the operational definitions of its ILOs, which were created in 2003-2004, for relevancy and clarity with current practice; and (b) survey design should be revised to provide more meaningful feedback to the College.

The Learning Assessment Task Force initiated work to revise operational definitions of the six ILOs in late Fall 2013. A draft of the new operational definitions was vetted with both senates and then approved by the task force and forwarded to the Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee for review. The new operational definitions were recommended by the President's Cabinet and ultimately approved by the President in April 2014.

Based upon the new operational definitions and utilizing a revised survey design, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness drafted new survey items. The survey was administered via the internet to students who applied for graduation at Mesa College. The goal of the survey was to assess students' perceptions of their learning experience at Mesa College, as well as to gather self-assessment data related to the College's six Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs). Mesa College's six ILOs include the following:

- Critical Thinking
- Global Awareness
- Personal Awareness
- Self-Awareness
- Communication
- Technological Awareness

The survey included 28 Likert scale items, intended to assess students' perceived mastery of the six ILOs. In addition, the survey included two open-ended items that asked students to identify their most valuable learning experiences at Mesa College and provide suggestions for changes or improvements to promote better learning experiences for the future. A copy of the survey instrument can be found in Appendix A. Internal consistency analyses were conducted for each of the six sets of ILO items. All ILO scales had internal Cronbach's Alpha values of .80 or above (see Appendix B).

Invitations to complete the survey were sent out via email to 868 students who applied for graduation from Mesa College with an associate degree and/or certificate. Survey respondents were also given the opportunity to submit their name in a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card as an incentive to complete the survey. A total of 224 students responded to the survey; however, only 216 completed the survey, for a response rate of 25%.

Results

The results of the survey are summarized in the following sections, and a distribution and averages to all survey items can be found in Appendix C.

▶ Participants

Participants included 216 Mesa College students, contacted via e-mail, who had registered for upcoming graduation. For descriptive purposes, respondents were asked to identify their anticipated graduation term. The majority of survey respondents reported that they were graduating in Spring 2014 (94%). The remaining students reported that they were planning to graduate in upcoming semesters: seven students (3%) in summer 2014, four students (2%) in Fall 2012, and two students (1%) in spring 2015 (see Figure 1).

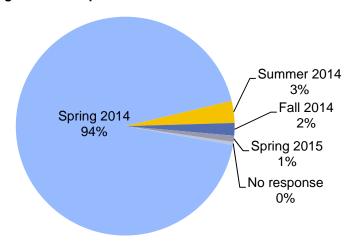


Figure 1. Anticipated Graduation Semester

Due to the specific focus of this survey research, the subsequent demographics and learning outcome results pertain to the Spring 2014 graduates (N=202) only.

Survey participants were also asked what type of educational award they anticipated receiving upon graduation. Most students reported that they would be graduating solely with an Associate's degree (77%), while a small minority (7%) reported that they were graduating solely with a Certificate. Furthermore,16% of respondents indicated that they were graduating with a Certificate in addition to an Associate's degree (see Figure 2).

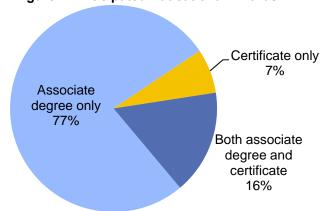


Figure 2. Anticipated Educational Awards

▶ Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO) Assessment

Students were asked to assess their skill and ability improvement in six areas that aligned with the College's Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs). This portion of the survey contained 28 items intended to measure the six ILOs: Critical Thinking (6 items), Global Awareness (4 items), Personal Awareness (7 items), Self-Awareness (4 items), Communication (4 items), and Technological Awareness (3 items).

At the beginning of each question section, students were prompted with the phrase "My experiences at Mesa College improved my ability to…" Participants then responded to items related to each of the ILO constructs, and skill improvement was measured using a Likert scale from 1 (*Not at all*) to 5 (*To a great degree*). Items for each ILO were presented in a randomized order in the survey across several sections.

Skill improvement scores were calculated by averaging the subset of items for each ILO. Overall, the improvement scores for each of the ILOs were above the midpoint of the scale (range: 3.85 to 4.06), indicating that students felt that their skills in these areas increased more than a moderate amount in each ILO area (see Figure 3). Responses to specific survey items are summarized in the following sections by ILO.

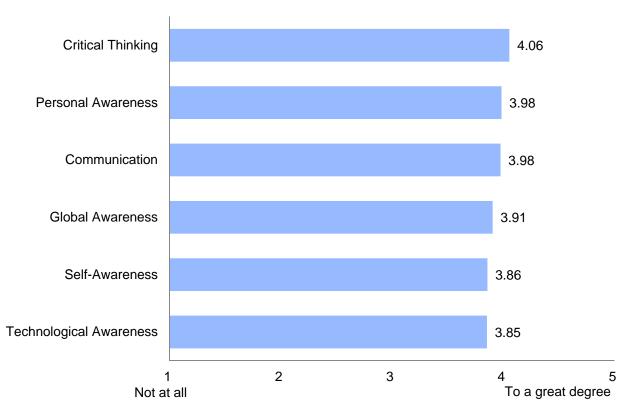


Figure 3. Average Reported Skill Improvement Ratings for Each ILO Area

▶ Critical Thinking Learning Outcome

The six items pertaining to the Critical Thinking ILO addressed various analytical skills with academic and real-world applications, including the abilities to analyze and evaluate sources of information, to use evidence effectively, to summarize and share material in a coherent manner, and general problem-solving.

Among the six ILOs, respondents reported that they had the greatest improvement in Critical Thinking. Across the six Critical Thinking items, respondents provided the highest improvement ratings for drawing their own conclusions based on available evidence and lowest improvement ratings for applying principles learned from their classes to solve real-world problems (see Figure 4).

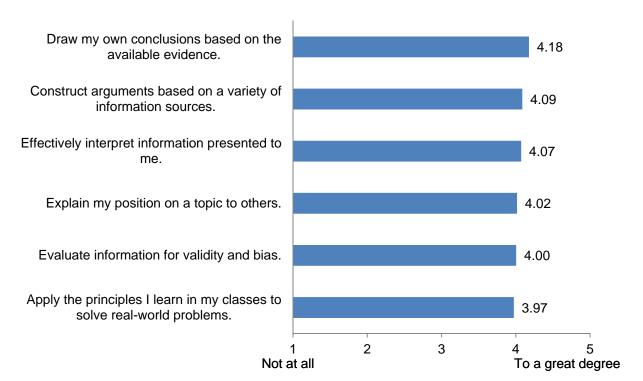


Figure 4. Average Skill Improvement Ratings for Critical Thinking ILO Items

▶ Global Awareness Learning Outcome

The Global Awareness ILO included four items that emphasized cultural sensitivity and competency, civility, and awareness of the impact that humans have on the world's resources. Among the Global Awareness items, respondents provided the highest improvement ratings for acting with civility towards others even if they disagreed with them, and the lowest improvement ratings for assessing the impact of human behavior on the world's resources (see Figure 5).

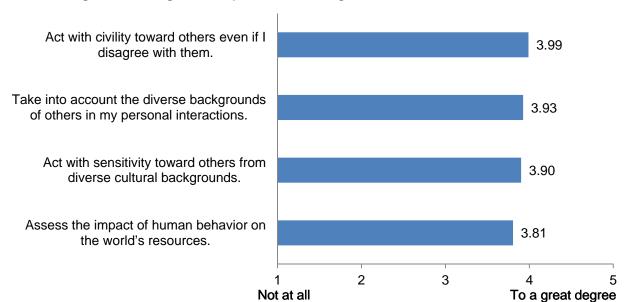
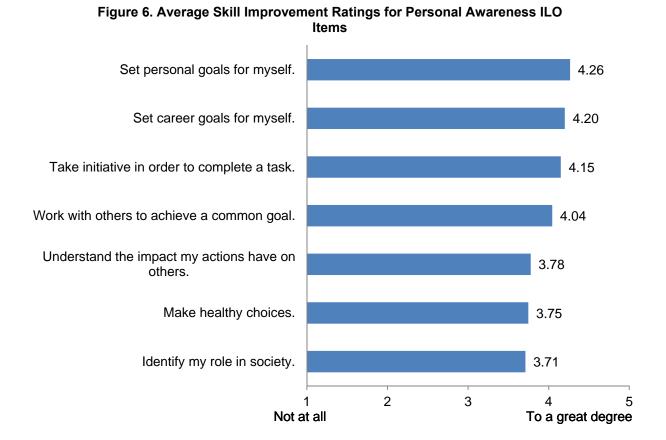


Figure 5. Average Skill Improvement Ratings for Global Awareness ILO Items

▶ Personal Awareness Learning Outcome

The seven items related to the Personal Awareness ILO emphasized personal responsibility, goal setting, and healthy lifestyle choices. The Personal Awareness ILO items were intended to assess whether students had improved their skills and abilities in the following areas: goal-setting, teamwork, taking initiative, and making healthy choices.

Among the Personal Awareness items, respondents provided higher improvement ratings for both personal and career goal setting but notably lower improvement ratings for understanding their personal impact on others, making healthy choices, and identifying their role in society (see Figure 6).



▶ Self-Awareness Learning Outcome

The Self-Awareness ILO was measured using four items focusing on collaboration skills and developing relationships with others. Improvement ratings for Self-Awareness items were split between the building relationships items and teamwork items (see Figure 7). Respondents provided higher improvement ratings for working as an effective member of a team and collaborating with others than for developing relationships with instructors and other students.

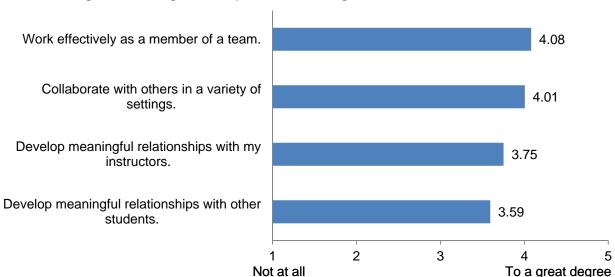


Figure 7. Average Skill Improvement Ratings for Self-Awareness ILO Items

▶ Communication Learning Outcome

Four items were used to assess the Communication ILO, which was defined as the ability to effectively present information in speech, written, or visual forms. Among the Communication-specific items, respondents provided the highest improvement ratings for the ability to analyze written information and the lowest improvement ratings for analyzing visual materials, such as graphics, charts, or art forms (see Figure 8).

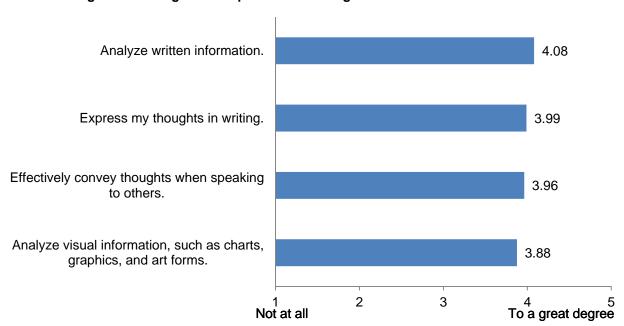


Figure 8. Average Skill Improvement Ratings for Communication ILO Items

▶ Technological Awareness Learning Outcome

The Technological Awareness ILO was measured using three items. These items included using technology as a learning tool, ability to identify technological weaknesses, and using technology for effective communication purposes.

Technological Awareness had the lowest average skill improvement ratings of the six ILOs. Among the Technological Awareness items, respondents provided the highest improvement ratings for utilizing technology to enhance their learning and the lowest improvement ratings for identifying areas to improve their technology skills (see Figure 9).

Utilize technology to enhance my own learning.

Communicate effectively using technology (i.e., office and technical software, social media).

Identify areas in which I would like to develop my technology skills.

3.87

3.87

3.81

Figure 9. Average Skill Improvement Ratings for Technological Awareness ILO Items

▶ Most Important Learning Experience of Spring 2014 Mesa College Graduates

Respondents were asked to identity the most important thing they learned during their experience as a Mesa College student. A total of 147 Spring 2014 graduates responded to this question. Verbatim responses to this item are included in Appendix B.

Although responses to this item covered a wide range of topics, several themes emerged from the responses, including the following skills, abilities, and realizations:

- Time management skills
- Communication skills, communicating effectively with people from diverse backgrounds
- Hard work, discipline, and dedication lead to positive outcomes
- Self-reliance
- Self-efficacy and confidence
- Effectively working as a member of a team: collaboration
- Setting and achieving personal, educational, and/or professional goals
- Resilience: overcoming adversity, staying focused on goals instead of obstacles
- Openness to other perspectives, cultures, and worldviews

▶ Graduating Student Recommendations to Improve the College Learning Experience

Lastly, survey participants were asked what Mesa College could do to improve their learning experience. A total of 145 Spring 2014 graduates responded to this item. Verbatim responses to this item are included in Appendix B. A number of common themes emerged from the responses, including the following:

- Campus facilities and learning environments
 - Increase parking capacity/improve parking situation
 - Expand and modernize facilities
 - Alleviate issues caused by campus construction projects (noise, detours)
- Improve technology infrastructure
 - Modernize instructional technology
 - o Maintain industry-standard software applications and instructional technology
 - Increase wifi bandwith/capacity
- Improve college resources to support student success
 - Expand access to educational planning, advising, and counseling services
 - Provide additional tutoring options
 - Improve consistency and accuracy of information provided by counseling department
- Expand access to classes
 - o Restore summer term
 - o Provide additional online course options
 - Provide additional scheduling options (day, evening) for core courses
- Improve consistency in quality of instruction
- Provide additional opportunities for student interaction
 - Campus events
 - Networking
 - o Extracurricular activities
 - o Improved communication to the campus community
 - o Interaction during class activities

It is important to note that a substantial number of students mentioned that nothing was needed to improve their learning experience at Mesa College. Several other respondents also used this item to provide positive feedback about their experiences.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The present study was intended to assess students' perceived mastery of Mesa College's ILOs: Communication, Critical Thinking, Global Awareness, Personal Awareness, Self-Awareness, and Technological Awareness. Several survey items were developed for each ILO based on the College's ILO operational definitions, and a survey was administered online to students who applied for graduation from Mesa College in Spring 2014. A total of 202 Spring 2014 graduates and 14 students who expected to graduate in a subsequent term completed the survey, for a response rate of 25%. The survey data analysis focused on Spring 2014 graduates only.

As a whole, survey respondents generally felt that their learning experience had positively impacted their abilities and skills in each of the six ILO areas. Of these six areas, respondents indicated they had the greatest improvement in Critical Thinking. The Personal Awareness ILO, along with Communication, had the second highest average rating for skill improvement. Though the average Global Awareness ILO and Self-Awareness ILO scores were in the middle of the score range for the six ILOs, qualitative data from the open-ended responses suggest that students felt that some of their most poignant learning experiences pertained to these learning outcome areas. Specifically, students cited the following as their most important learning experiences: perseverance, resilience, self-efficacy, time management, teamwork, and interpersonal communication. The ILO with the lowest average skill improvement scores was Technological Awareness.

Students also provided a variety of recommendations for improving learning experiences, including improvements in the following areas: campus facilities and learning environments, technology, college resources and support services, access to classes, and opportunities for interaction. It should be noted

that many students also utilized this survey item as an opportunity to express satisfaction and gratitude for the excellent instruction or overall experience they had at Mesa College.

The findings of the present survey are consistent with those of previous studies conducted at Mesa College. For example, data collected via focus groups conducted for the College's educational master plan revealed the need for a stronger sense of community on campus, a more robust technological infrastructure, and the an effort to maintain a variety of course offerings in terms of content, modality, and scheduling. Additionally respondents in both the present survey and the educational master plan focus groups mentioned the need for expanded access to advising services and more consistent information provided during counseling sessions.

It should be noted that the present study, as in any study, included a number of limitations. First and foremost, just one in four students who were invited to participate in the survey actually went on to complete the survey. In addition, survey participation was completely voluntary, meaning survey results may not necessarily be representative of all Mesa College graduates. In addition, this represents the first deployment of the scale items intended to assess each of the College's ILOs per the revised ILO operational definitions. Further studies are needed in order to refine the scale and improve it for future iterations of the ILO assessment process. Thus, the survey results outlined in this report should be interpreted with a degree of caution.

Finally, the ILO survey is a self-reported, indirect measure of student learning outcomes. It is part of the College's multiple measures assessment plan, including SLO-ILO mapping and analysis and other direct assessment methods.

Appendix A: 2014 Graduating Student ILO Survey

Graduating Student Survey 2014 Please take a moment to tell us about your experience as a Mesa College student. Your honest feedback is greatly appreciated and will help us improve college services in the future. Participation in the survey is completely voluntary, and you can stop participating at any time without penalty. If you feel uncomfortable answering an item, please leave it blank. Note that no individual responses will be identified, and only aggregate data will be reported. At the end of the survey, you will have the opportunity to enter a drawing for a \$50 Amazon.com gift card. The drawing will be held on May 23, 2014. To proceed with the survey, click Next. 1. When do you expect to graduate with a degree and/or certificate from Mesa College? () Spring 2014 Summer 2014 Fall 2014 Spring 2015 2. Do you expect to graduate with an associate degree, a certificate, or both? Associate degree only Certificate only Both associate degree and certificate

raduating Student Survey 20				4.8				
3. Using the scale below, please rate College have impacted your skills an					lesa			
My experiences at Mesa College improved my ability to								
	Not at all	2	3	4	To a great degree			
Analyze written information.	\circ	\bigcirc	0	0	5			
Develop meaningful relationships with other students.	Ö	Ö	Ö	Ö	Ö			
Evaluate information for validity and bias.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc				
Utilize technology to enhance my own learning.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc			
Identify my role in society.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc	\bigcirc			
Take into account the diverse backgrounds of others in my personal interactions.	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ			
4. Using the scale below, please rate College have impacted your skills an My experiences at Mesa College imp	nd abilities in	n each of t	_		lesa			
College have impacted your skills an	nd abilities in	n each of t	_		To a great degree			
College have impacted your skills and My experiences at Mesa College important light and light street with the	nd abilities in proved my ab	n each of t	he followin	g areas.	To a great			
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My experiences at Mesa College imp Identify areas in which I would like to develop my technology skills. Understand the impact my actions have on others. Effectively interpret information presented to me. Develop meaningful relationships with my	nd abilities in proved my ab Not at all	n each of t	he followin	g areas.	To a great degree			

i. Using the scale below, please rate	the degree	to which y	our experie	ences at N	lesa
College have impacted your skills an	d abilities i	n each of t	he followin	g areas.	
My experiences at Mesa College imp	roved my al	oility to			
	Not at all				To a great
	1	2	3	4	degree 5
Set personal goals for myself.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Effectively convey thoughts when speaking to others.	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ
Apply the principles I learn in my classes to solve real-world problems.	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Collaborate with others in a variety of settings.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Assess the impact of human behavior on the world's resources.	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	0
Communicate effectively using technology (i.e., office and technical software, social media).	0	\circ	0	\circ	0
					lesa
6. Using the scale below, please rate College have impacted your skills an My experiences at Mesa College imp	d abilities i	n each of t			
College have impacted your skills an	d abilities i	n each of t			lesa To a great degree 5
College have impacted your skills an	roved my al	n each of the	he followin	g areas.	To a great degree
College have impacted your skills and My experiences at Mesa College imports with the work effectively as a member of a team.	roved my al	n each of the	he followin	g areas.	To a great degree
College have impacted your skills and My experiences at Mesa College imposes where the Mork effectively as a member of a team. Set career goals for myself. Act with civility toward others even if I disagree	nd abilities i	n each of the	he followin	g areas.	To a great degree
College have impacted your skills and My experiences at Mesa College imposes work effectively as a member of a team. Set career goals for myself. Act with civility toward others even if I disagree with them.	nd abilities i	n each of the	he followin	g areas.	To a great degree
College have impacted your skills an	nd abilities i	n each of the	he followin	g areas.	To a grea

Graduating Student Survey 2014								
7. Using the scale below, please rate the degree to which your experiences at Mesa College have impacted your skills and abilities in each of the following areas.								
My experiences at Mesa College improved my ability to								
	Not at all 1	2	3	4	To a great degree 5			
Take initiative in order to complete a task.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc			
Work with others to achieve a common goal.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc			
Construct arguments based on a variety of information sources.	0	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ	\circ			
Explain my position on a topic to others.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc			
Make healthy choices.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc			
9. What could Mesa College have do	one to impro	ve your lea	arning expe	rience?				
10. If you would like to be entered in your email address in the space pro separated from your responses. Email Address:			-					

Appendix B: Internal Consistency Analysis for ILO Scales

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics and Reliability Analysis for the Critical Thinking Scale

					Item-Total	α if Item
No.	Item	N	Mean	SD	Correlation	Deleted
Q3.1	Evaluate information for validity and bias.	178	4.07	.94	.68	.90
Q4.1	Effectively information presented to me.	178	4.10	.91	.76	.89
Q5.1	Apply principles I learned in my class to solve real-world problems.	178	3.98	1.12	.69	.90
Q6.1	Draw my own conclusions based on the available evidence.	178	4.17	1.04	.76	.89
Q7.1	Construct arguments based on a variety of information sources.	178	4.08	.97	.81	.88
Q7.3	Explain my position on a topic to others.	178	4.01	1.04	.79	.89

Cronbach's Alpha=.91

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics and Reliability Analysis for the Global Awareness Scale

No.	Item	N	Mean	SD	Item-Total Correlation	α if Item Deleted
Q3.2	Take into account the diverse backgrounds of others in my personal	182	3.98	1.12	.67	.84
	interactions.					
Q4.2	Act with sensitivity toward others from diverse cultural backgrounds.	182	3.92	1.11	.79	.79
Q5.2	Assess the impact of human behavior on the world's resources.	182	3.81	1.20	.65	.85
Q6.2	Act with civility toward others even if I disagree with them.	182	3.99	1.09	.74	.82

Cronbach's Alpha =.86

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics and Reliability Analysis for the Personal Awareness

		,				
No.	ltem	N	Mean	SD	Item-Total Correlation	α if Item Deleted
Q3.3	Identify my role in society.	176	3.78	1.13	.75	.91
Q4.3	Understand the impact my actions have on others.	176	3.78	1.18	.74	.91
Q5.3	Set personal goals for myself.	176	4.26	.97	.77	.91
Q6.3	Set career goals for myself.	176	4.14	1.02	.79	.90
Q7.2	Work with others to achieve a common goal.	176	4.03	1.04	.82	.90
Q7.4	Take initiative in order to complete a task.	176	4.14	1.02	.77	.91

Cronbach's Alpha =.92

Table 4. Descriptive Statistics and Reliability Analysis for the Self Awareness Scale

No.	Item	N	Mean	SD	Item-Total Correlation	α if Item Deleted
Q3.4	Develop meaningful relationships with other students.	184	3.64	1.26	.52	.80
Q4.4	Develop meaningful relationships with my instructors.	184	3.78	1.16	.60	.76
Q5.4	Collaborate with others in a variety of settings.	184	4.02	.99	.70	.72
Q6.4	Work effectively as a member of a team.	184	4.09	1.03	.66	.73

Cronbach's Alpha =.80

Table 5. Descriptive Statistics and Reliability Analysis for the Communication Scale

No.	Item	N	Mean	SD	Item-Total Correlation	α if Item Deleted
Q3.5	Analyze written information.	183	4.13	.89	.65	.80
Q4.5	Analyze visual information, such as charts, graphics and art forms.	183	3.90	1.12	.59	.83
Q5.5	Effective convey thoughts when speaking to others.	183	3.98	1.01	.73	.77
Q6.5	Express my thoughts in writing.	183	3.99	1.09	.72	.77

Cronbach's Alpha =.84

Table 6. Descriptive Statistics and Reliability Analysis for the Technological Awareness Scale

					Item-Total	α if Item
No.	ltem	N	Mean	SD	Correlation	Deleted
Q3.6	Utilize technology to enhance my own learning	182	3.96	1.07	.75	.77
Q4.6	Identify areas in which I would like to develop my technology skills.	182	3.83	1.17	.68	.83
Q5.6	Communicate effectively using technology (i.e., office and technical	182	3.88	1.15	.74	.77
	software, social media).					

Cronbach's Alpha =.85

Appendix C: Distribution of Responses to 2014 Graduating Student ILO Survey Items

Q1. When do you expect to graduate with a degree and/or certificate from Mesa College?	Number	Valid Percent
Spring 2014	202	94%
Summer 2014	7	3%
Fall 2014	4	2%
Spring 2015	2	1%
No response	1	0%
Total	216	100%

Q2. Do you expect to graduate with an associate degree, a certificate, or both? (Spring 2014 Graduates only)	Number	Valid Percent
Associate degree only	155	77%
Certificate only	14	7%
Both associate degree and certificate	33	16%
Total	202	100%

NOTE: Each of the following scale items is linked to a specific ILO as indicated in parentheses:

- Critical Thinking (CT)
- Communication (CO)
- Global Awareness (GA)

- Personal Awareness (PA)
- Self-Awareness (SA)
- Technological Awareness (TA)

Q3. My experiences at Mesa College improved my ability to	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation
Q3.1. Evaluate information for validity and bias. (CT)	201	4.00	0.97
Q3.2. Take into account the diverse backgrounds of others in my personal interactions. (GA)	202	3.93	1.16
Q3.3. Identify my role in society. (PA)	201	3.71	1.18
Q3.4. Develop meaningful relationships with other students. (SA)	202	3.59	1.26
Q3.5. Analyze written information. (CO)	201	4.08	0.93
Q3.6. Utilize technology to enhance my own learning. (TA)	201	3.89	1.11

Q4. My experiences at Mesa College improved my ability to	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation
Q4.1. Effectively interpret information presented to me. (CT)	194	4.07	0.92
Q4.2. Act with sensitivity toward others from diverse cultural backgrounds. (GA)	194	3.90	1.13
Q4.3. Understand the impact my actions have on others. (PA)	193	3.78	1.16
Q4.4 Develop meaningful relationships with my instructors. (SA)	194	3.75	1.15
Q4.5. Analyze visual information, such as charts, graphics, and art forms. (CO)	193	3.88	1.13
Q4.6. Identify areas in which I would like to develop my technology skills. (TA)	192	3.81	1.17

Q5. My experiences at Mesa College improved my ability to	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation
Q5.1. Apply the principles I learn in my classes to solve real-world problems. (CT)	185	3.97	1.12
Q5.2. Assess the impact of human behavior on the world's resources. (GA)	185	3.81	1.21
Q5.3. Set personal goals for myself. (PA)	185	4.26	0.96
Q5.4. Collaborate with others in a variety of settings. (SA)	186	4.01	0.99
Q5.5. Effectively convey thoughts when speaking to others. (CO)	186	3.96	1.03
Q5.6. Communicate effectively using technology (i.e., office and technical software, social media). (TA)	184	3.87	1.14

Q6. My experiences at Mesa College improved my ability to	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation
Q6.1. Draw my own conclusions based on the available evidence. (CT)	186	4.18	1.04
Q6.2. Act with civility toward others even if I disagree with them. (GA)	184	3.99	1.09
Q6.3. Set career goals for myself. (PA)	185	4.20	1.01
Q6.4. Work effectively as a member of a team. (SA)	185	4.08	1.03
Q6.5. Express my thoughts in writing. (CO)	184	3.99	1.09

Q7. My experiences at Mesa College improved my ability to	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation
Q7.1. Construct arguments based on a variety of information sources. (CT)	182	4.09	0.96
Q7.2. Work with others to achieve a common goal. (PA)	182	4.04	1.03
Q7.3. Explain my position on a topic to others. (CT)	181	4.02	1.04
Q7.4. Take initiative in order to complete a task. (PA)	180	4.15	1.02
Q7.5. Make healthy choices. (PA)	182	3.75	1.28

Q8. What was the most important thing you learned during your experience as a Mesa College student?

Became more aware of global and political issues as well as how we are all interconnected Business management etiquette

College is not a race

Communication is the most valuable tool to learn and master

Critical thinking

Develop a drive to succeed in school

Discipline

Don't wait on others to do something you can do

Field experience in Anthropology.

Find a good counselor, stay in touch with them, and follow their advice. It would have saved me anxiety over whether I was on the right path to transfer. I also could've graduated much earlier had I sought the proper guidance!

get to the parking garage early

Go to office hours, create a relationship the professors, and don't be affrade to ask questions

having a great amount of students enroll in campus can have a great impact on the amount of time you spent on college. From the time you enter till the time you graduate.

Having faith that I can get this done.

How to achieve my goals with hard work.

How to apply myself in a college environment, where one's success is determined solely on their personal efforts

How to appropriately interact with people of different ages and cultures and to remain civil even when I disagree.

How to be a valuable asset in my career field

How to communicate effectively with peer Is from a diverse background and upbringing.

How to communicate with my professors and how to get help on topics that were unclear during class.

How to connect with others and establish relationships for future references.

How to crash a class.

How to effectively interact with the younger generation

How to learn and set goals

How to organize time

How to safely anesthetize and animal

How to set a goal for myself and achieve it

How to trouble-shoot problem situations with other people so we could work as effective team.

How to utilize my learning a in class in the real world and communicating with others.

How to work as a team in collaboration with my peers

How to work effectively with people from many different backgrounds

I became much more educated with computer informational science such as using excel, access, and general knowledge about computer technology. Technology is a huge influence in every job and society in general. The online class and instructors have been very informative and helpful.

I enjoyed the support and encouragement I received to accomplished my goal at Mesa college.

I expanded my knowledge of diversity and personal and global health.

I feel that the most important thing that I learned here at Mesa College was time management. This is what helped me personally to keep up with daily assignments and prepare for tests.

I have discovered myself, and what subject I want to study.

I have worth and what I do matters

I learn to be open minded on new experiences and you can never learn too much

I learned a lot from my instructors. I had only one terrible instructor (***** *****) the rest were absolutely terrific! I was given a lot of different information on programs from counselors which was confusing, frustrating, and concerning.

I learned a lot. However, I think that the most important thing that I learned is that I an't rely on a class or a teacher to learn. I have to proactive and seek out learning opportunities. Even within my major, the classes barely had time to scratch the surface of many of the technologies that I want to learn more about.

I learned about resources available to me as a student, such as those available in the Learning Resource Center, that can assist me with doing research, and completing projects. I learned that Mesa was more than just classes; the student life opportunities at Mesa helped to keep me motivated, and helped me make new friends from all different backgrounds.

I learned about self-discipline, and taking pride in a job well-done.

I learned how important it is to make sure that I strive for academic excellence in my work and to never let myself fell in to a trap that I cannot achieved whatever I want to achieve in my life no matter what it is!

I learned how to balance work and school and maintain good grades

I learned how to believe in myself.

I learned how to fit into my major study and how to reach out to those who can help me become a more successful student and person.

I learned how to take advantage of the many, many resources in front of me.

I learned not to give up my dreams. Keep dreaming till it become a reality. I thought i will not be able to finished me education but i beleiev in my self and proved others that i can dp it with high honors .

I learned that because of ***** and ***** that I want to be a Psychologist and help children and adolescents to varying degrees.

I learned that hard work can get you though even the most stressful day.

I learned that I can achieve my goals. It may take time and lots of hard work but eventually I can get through obstacles when I put my mind to it.

I learned that if I needed information for transferring to a 4 year university that had to look it up myself and not all the counselors know the information they should know!

I learned that it is important to stay in touch with a counselor so that I am on the right track for a faster transfer.

I learned that it was important to talk with your fellow classmates as well as instructors that deal with your major. Since counselors usually don't have the right information on them.

I learned that Mesa College is great college that offers different types of program such as health allied careers.

I learned that nothing gets done without hard work. Even things that look simple to you might have taken a while for someone to develop. You have to go out there into the world and make things happen. I wanted to prove to myself that I had it in me to graduate with an Associates degree in Multimedia and now that I'm finished I feel like all of the hard work paid off.

I learned that students are coming very unprepared from high school.

I learned that there are a variety of different culture backgrounds on campus.

I learned the art and science of Interior Design in a practical way! I compared the Mesa program to SDSU and think Mesa offers a much more realistic and comprehensive program. Plus I could get into the classes I needed.

I learned the value of education and the key role it plays in achieving ones goals in life and that without education you limit yourself in many ways.

I learned to apply myself and be comitted.

I learned to follow my passion instead of trying to achieve goals by going for the money.

I learned to never give up on my self. Sometimes I would forget that getting an education was for my benifit and it seemed more like a chore.

I learned to not be afraid to ask questions to professors. I learned to walk into their office, be persistent, and not leave until my questions were answered.

I learned to value myself and to believe in my academic abilities. Especially, the Honors Program was crucial in preparing me for a university life after Mesa.

I need to take initiative if I want to teach my goals

I really enjoyed Personal Growth 120 - College Success and Lifelong Learning. I took this class during my third semester and I wish I had taken it sooner. I am very pleased that it is a requirement to get in touch with counselors for an Education Plan. Having this plan really made me focus on the end goal, and I wish I had established an Education Plan during my first attempt at college. This is my second attempt and is a success!

I was taught to have a broad perception for diversity. During the time I went to Mesa College, the professors, staffs and most of my friends have helped me to set a goal for my future.

I'm in the AHT program so I would say everything I learned in order to become a registered veterinary technician.

I'm never too old to learn new things. I can achieve my goals.

In-depth analysis toward various subjects, Math skills, Diversity, University preparation, and Personal growth.

It is possible to go back to school even if you are a matured individual. I went back at 55 and two years later I am receiving my AA degree!!

Just the all of the knowledge!

Knowledge is power and it's achievable if one sets his/her desire for it.

Leadership skills and setting personal goals

Make sure you do your work and do it properly how it was asked by the teacher.

my clinical rotations

Never give up

Not everyone in life will agree with you

not to give up

Not to give up on myself

Nothing

Open my eyes to new ways of seeing the world.

Personal responsibility

Planning, implementing and maintaining my educational plan to achieve both a computer science programming certificate and an Associates in Computer Science.

Prepare. Preperation is key.

Professionalism.

psychology

Resilience.

Set a career goal for my self

Set my goal

skills to become RVT

Some classes changed my life for the better; for example, psychology and marketing, taught me critical personal development and growth techniques to bring along into the real world.

Study hard

Teamwork

That by being involved with a club many more opportunities and friendships become available to me.

That I can return to school and do well academically after an absence of several decades and that I can stick with and complete something I start regardless of the difficulty

That I could do it.

That I need to think bigger.

That I should have seeked advise from representatives from universities before attending mesa so I wouldn't had wasted almost 2 years of my life getting a sub par education.

That its okay to get a degree from a community college

That not all teachers are good teachers

That the whole school experience is important and that teachers are there to help you.

That there are a myriad of ways to achieve a goal.

that they cared about giving a student the best education possible and are ready to help you in any way That you are in charge of your education. You take out what you put in.

That you can do anything if you apply yourself.

The importance of staying ahead of the curve. To not set goals, with deadlines, and accomplish them.

The most important thing I have learned during my experience at Mesa College is that I love learning. I did not know that I even liked school until I took my first class. The professors are amazing and I will take everything I have learned with me for the rest of my life.

The most important thing I learned at Mesa is to continue striving for excellence and stay focused.

The most important thing I learned during my experience as a Mesa College student is how important it is to have personal relationships with your fellow students as well as your professors. Without these interactions it is very difficult to achieve ones goals. Help is the best and most important thing one could ask for and aides in the success of your college career.

The most important thing I learned during my experience as a Mesa College student was how to work together with other members in a group in order to get work done efficiently.

The most important thing I learned during my experience at Mesa College is to take advantage of all the different resources available. The LRC is a great place to study in groups, print out homework or projects, use the computers, and the books are definitely a great resource for research papers. The tutoring center is very helpful in making you understand a topic in the sciences or mathematics (especially in College Algebra). The transfer center helps you prepare with workshops and application assistance to the colleges. The counseling staff provide a very helpful experience in academic planning and ensure that you are working efficiently each semester. I also learned that you have to put yourself out there. Do not expect anyone to tell you what to do, it is not high school anymore!

The most important thing I learned was taking responsibility of my education.

The most important thing I learned was that I am smart, smarter than I ever thought before.

the most important thing i learned was to deal with a lot of life issue while maintaining my school schedule each semester and following through.

The most important thing that I learned during my experience as a Mesa College student you have to rely on yourself especially when the system change professors. Also, when the teachers does not help you with the curriculum.

The most important think I learned is that there is not a time limit to learning. College is not a rush. Each class should be taken with care:)

The program was applicable to a real life and assisted in hand on learning

The value of life and my fascination for science

There is too much to answer so simply.

There's diversity everywhere and we have to appreciate it.

Things about myself as a student. Also things that are related to the practical industry that my major is in.

Thinking critically

Through out all the tests and essays given. I've learned to always do your best and never give up. Its ok to fail, it happens to everyone.

time management

Time management and dedication

Time management.

To be able to speak out more and be comfortable with who I am as a person

To be focused

To be open minded

To be open minded to people who may have different opinions from me on important topics.

To become a better student and overcome my main goal in achieving my career. With the struggle going back to college, mesa college is a campus that made my time, courses I have taken enjoyable.

To believe in myslef

to have pride in my college.

To make goals and work to achieve them.

To make sure the information counselors were giving me was correct. One of my visits steered me in a wrong direction.

To never give up! After five years I am graduating with honors!! A single mom with a 7 year old trying to better our lives! So worth all the long studying nights!!!

To rely more on myself. I learned many things in many different courses that I can use in the future and in society.

To schedule time accordingly. That way I have time to study.

To take at least 12 units a semester so I would have been done with community college a lot sooner.

To use the resources found on campus to help with my learning

What I want to do with the rest of my life - I finally found my passion, as a musician!

With effort comes reward

Work ahead, and you'll have more time to review and really grasp topics.

Work hard. Perseverance and determination is the key to success

work in group

No response (55)

Q9. What could Mesa College have done to improve your learning experience?

A few instructors were too permissive and not challenging enough. I felt like I didn't have to take them seriously and I could still get away with an A in the class.

Actually building a more bigger campus but thats already a work in progress and I thank you for that.

Actually do something to help veterans and not just have meetings about how they want to help veterans. be able to receive tutoring at Mesa and city regardless of taking the course at each college. I was taking physics at city and was not able to get tutoring at Mesa for physics. This made it little difficult because most of the time. I was spending at Mesa.

be consistent - petitioning for graduation and obtaining transfer credits for courses taken was an absolute nightmare

Better access to current software such as: Visual Paradigm and MS Visio

Better class setting. Often A/C does not work.

Better counselers.

Better facilities

better parking

Better parking

Better teacher student interaction.

Bigger campus wide events.

Cheaper books

Classes near construction zones are really difficult and distracting, so moving them earlier in the year would be helpful.

Confident

Could have improved the modular village classrooms.

Didn't get a chance to learn in the new business building.

Easier access to counselors. Have summer sessions.

Easier to get classes I need

Email notifications about on campus events, speakers, activities, etc.

Email when instructors are unable to show.

Evaluate the materials teaching are using who have been there for years and years.

Everything was awesome, best Community College in San Diego

explain more information in class

Expose the students, like myself, to real life or hands on experience in their current or future career field. Get better counselors

Get more involved. I work full time and take classes full time, so it's hard. It probably would have made my experience different. I loved the experience I had at Mesa though.

Get rid of 3 hour classes.

Getting more resources for the DSPS program

Give the AHT program a larger budget.

Have a better understanding of how important it is to have a full team of student government and club Advisors that are fully trained and motivated to guide students

Have an approved AA-T in English for SDSU

Have better food available in the Cafeteria. Part of being in an effective learning environment is the ability to eat nutritious and satisfying meals. The food offered in the cafeteria is overpriced and very low quality. There have been times when I have been very frustrated that there was no good food to eat on campus, especially when I needed to maximize my studying time. It's often very impractical to leave campus to get food, especially during peak hours when I am not guaranteed to be able to find parking quickly when I come back. For the sake of future students, please consider overhauling the cafeteria and offering higher quality nutrition to the students.

Have classes that apply to the fun theory. make skateboard lanes like students have at sdsu. not give so many skateboard tickets. Have a more environmentally friendly atmosphere. Not lie and spend the native americaan money

Have more classes and have more helpful counseling staff. Going through all the trouble to schedule an appointment just to have them to tell me to go somewhere else.

Have more classes available

Have more cultural clubs

Have more receptive instructors. A few of then didn't offer as much guidance as I would've liked. Have night classes for dental assisting

have on-line professors available more regularly. It would sometimes take up to a week for a response. Have professors keep their political opinions to themselves.

- I am not sure although there is always something that can be improved to up the learning experience I believe that they have already improve my learning experience. The new renovations of the buildings and the advance technology surely have me learning more. I really love the Math/Science building because there are study rooms and hangouts that create a learning atmosphere throughout the building. I am so sad to be leaving this semester and not see the outcome of the other buildings being renovated.
- I believe the students could do a better job networking with one another. As a transient school and city it feels like people go out of there way to stay in a bubble. Maybe the school could implement networking into more classroom setting
- I contribute most of my academic achievements to the help I got from tutors at the Academic Skills Center. They were all great! However, I wish there were more tutors available for Physics and Computer Science.
- I do not believe that there is anything else that Mesa College could have done in order to improve my learning experience.

I enjoyed MEsa

- I feel that Mesa College could improve by having more events that promote the well being among students, so that the students may interact more with each other, like the tent near the library that ***** ***** set up. That was my favorite week here because I got to meet so many students and made friends, which helped me out personally and in the school environment.
- I had a few intolerable teachers that I later found out on Ratemyprofessor.com had excruciating reviews. I wish the campus realized the value of having review of their instructors so that there is a plan of action to require better performance.
- i have learned a lot going to college i was not really educated coming out of high school. i transferred from Grossmont and when i attended Mesa there was something about the campus and staff that i really liked. I felt that they did care and would not hesitate to offer assistance especially my counselors.
- I highly suggest making the education plan someone that students can access at any time ONLINE. This will allow students to keep on-tract and realize what things they still need to do to complete their degree. Making this education plan automatic after being accepted for a major would be greatly beneficial instead of having to apply for it. It would also keep the amount of students in the counseling offices down to those that have problems. State and UC schools already do this, it would help if community colleges did as well.
- I really enjoyed nearly all of the classes I completed at Mesa college. Some of them were much more difficult than I thought they would be, but I don't want to blame anyone besides myself for the challenges I faced. If anything can be fixed in colleges these days it's job placement for graduates. There was a job fair, but it didn't help me find any work because all of the jobs were online applications and the job fair felt unhelpful and very dissapointing,
- I think it would have been helpful if admission to my program had been selective rather than first-comefirst served and involved an interview assessing the applicants suitability.
- I think mesa needs to find more ways to get students to feel like they are apart of a community because it is hard to get to know people you are taking classes with even though they all have the same major. Maybe by having events for those who are all working to reach the same goal, the same associates degree or certificate.
- I think some of the professors should realize there are students who need to be engaged more in class as they learn fast and not let them be bored while other students are going off topic a lot. That has happened to me in my ANTH class a lot.

I was denied financial aid the last two semesters because I was over my credit limits. I find this makes it extremely hard for students to finish when they are losing their financial support so close to the end and near graduation. This hinders many students. When assessing these credits, Physical Education classes should not be considered, because many students take these classes as extra curricular activities. Also, classes taken over five or ten years ago should also not be considered as part of the credits that are counted regarding financial aid. I have PE credits that I acquired when I was six to ten years old taking swimming lessons at the local community college that counted against me when I was being considered for financial aid. This policy should be reassessed.

I was not at mesa long enough to give an accurate judgement of this, however having interactive learning programs to help tutor people would be good.

I wish I had become involved in PTK earlier in my Mesa college experience and wish I had known about the honors program before I had so many units it did not matter any longer.

I wish I would have developed a plan before entering

Im from the bay area northern california I think that they could've shown more compassion and appreciation for women and minorites and considered that thier actions make more of an impact.

Improve on some professors ability to teach material. They may be good at their profession but delivery to students was sometimes confusing

Instead of wasting time and money writing parking tickets, Mesa College could spend their time and money on making more parking spots for students so that it can be a more stress free experience and parking wouldn't be such a hassle for future students. Also, the prices for textbooks should be drastically reduced or the availability of textbooks in the LRC should be more flexible for students who aren't able to afford them. For example, checking out text books like checking out any other book and being able to take it home would be of tremendous help and aid in the success of students greatly. I know that if I was able to check out a text book and take it home I would have done significantly better in half my classes that I was unable to afford the book in. The addition of microwaves in the LRC (first floor) and the Student Services Building (4th floor) would be the best addition to campus. It is very unfortunate that they are only located in the cafe and c-store. It is very inconvenient to have to walk ALL the way across campus if I have class in the modular village and am in between classes. It is imperative for students to eat throughout the day. Some students have very long days because they can only come or want to come 2 days a week to save gas and have time for other obligations such as work, kids, and life as it comes. Having more microwaves would enable students to eat while in between classes, but it won't help if we have to continue to inconveniently trek across campus just to heat up food and make it to class on time. It adds more stress and doesn't allow students to revive themselves with a snack in between classes.

It has what I need when it comes to learning.

Joining more extra activities at Mesa

Less noisy construction during class hours, more classes available to students.

Look at rate my professor and analyze some of the professors at the school because some of them should not be teaching.

made classes easier to register for, especially for someone who works full time and has a limited schedule

Made some of the classes more interactive and better using the online blackboard as a tool to help students in all classes.

Make a lot of the adjunct professors full time.

Make sure the instructors who are doing the one-unit classes or part time teaching are just as passionate and good as the full time instructors. I had an inexperienced teacher for my one-unit class, who sounded like she was going to take the class in a good direction. Then she was replaced by someone with a PhD who did a horrible job in teaching the class.

Maybe have some summer classes available.

- Mesa college could have worked with me on going back to the JC level after obtaining an AS already. It was hard to change majors in hopes of transferring when every semester my registration date kept me from getting into the classes I needed. I was barely able to complete a year and a half's worth of classes in two years. I felt screwed over.
- Mesa college couldn't have done anything my responses are based off online classes only. My on campus classes I have taken are at Miramar.
- Mesa College did everything to help my learning experience. From the challenges of each class to the events that happened on the campus ground. I will always support Mesa College as the best community college in San Diego.
- Mesa College should make student-teacher surveys easier to fill out, such as making them online like this survey. Also, the professor who is being critiqued should not have the power to choose which class fill out the survey. That makes the data bias since the professor will most likely pick a class where s/he would receive the most favorable views, especially if s/he is not a popular professor among the student body. The class which gets to review the professor should be picked randomly or in the case of an online survey, every student who is taking the class should be given the option to fill out the survey. With the birth of the MS building, Mesa should have also done a better job predicting the amount of students and staff accessing the WiFi. Even the WiFI in the LRC became slow, which was not a problem last semester when the MS building was under construction. The criteria for becoming a tutor should be higher as well and they should be given more time per student, especially those helping in tougher subjects. The tutors tend to spit out a formula and an answer off the top of their head and they are unable to explain it well due to time constraints. Therefore, students in lower level classes feel like they received adequate help since those subjects are easier to explain while students in higher level classes, who need tutors may feel like they wasted their time since the tutors are either unqualified or unable to fully explain the concept being asked. If it has not been implemented, there should be academic incentives in place to get more students interested in tutoring. Students who can make \$15-\$30 an hour tutoring outside of school would be less likely to volunteer time tutoring at the tutoring center. Other than that, Mesa College gave the feel of a collegiate community with the quality of most instructors present and it has adequate resources which enable the majority of the student body to succeed and achieve their goals.

Mesa could have Encouraged or provided more/different extra cariculer activitys

Mesa could have had these newly improved resources available to me when I was a beginning student. Mesa could have made certain resources more available. They could also have shown myself and other students that there are alternatives to certain required classes

Mesa did a good job. Course are well taught to student and I am confident enough to say that students will be succesful one day because of what the professors taught us. Not just about the subject but about life too.

Mesa did and has done a wonderful job.

Mesa has been upgrading the campus to create a better academic environment for our students. The situation will be better and our students will feel more comfortable when going to Mesa College if the school board could solve the parking problems. We need more spaces for parking.

More classes, more teachers!

More counselors

More counselors

more feedback from online teachers

More group projects in classes. Everything else is great, keep up the good work!

More group projects so students can socialize outside the classroom

More helpful and personable with students in trying to figure out what they are best at and what they should do when transferring or choosing majors/classes that are right for them

More parking options

MORE PARKING! Weekend hours for the library, adding winter session. A centralized mail room where you can drop off paperwork to an instructor's box (like City College), more access to technology, and a student life center to better facilitate studying, activism, and activities for student organizations and campus clubs.

More social activities

More ways for social interactions between fellow students.

More wifi throughout the campus

My technological competence hasn't improved much.

N/a

not many but some professors need to be let go.

not sure

Not sure.

Nothing at all. I very much enjoyed attending classes at Mesa.

Nothing Mesa College allow me to grow up and achieve my full potential in understanding that I can do what ever I want to do in my life, no matter what other people think of me and try to say about me, thank you Mesa College you are the best!

Nothing that I can think of at the moment.

Nothina!

Nothing, I had an amazing three years at Mesa!

Nothing, this is the utmost awesome college experience I've had. Thank you for developing me to into a strong minded individual.

Nothing.

Nothing. Mesa has all of the resources people just have to go out and find them.

Offer advanced public speaking (104) in the evening. I had to take leave from work to complere this class Offer healthier foods

offer more classes online. Also, I would like to see a legitamate PHP course added to the web design program. One that would teach moe than just the basics of syntax. I'd like to use it to solve problems and really learn to use PHP to program for the web

Offer more major prep courses

offer more phys therapist assisstant online classes

offer more summer classes

Offer more variety of classes

Offer SAT prep courses.

Offer some more times for courses.

Offer summer classes

offered more classes online and on campus and broader time frames

Over the 2 years that I have been at Mesa, I've found that in general, Professors could be stricter with students who are not willing to work with others to get projects done when group projects are assigned.

Parking was always a challenge.

Provided us in animal health w internet services and more teachers, especially more with good teaching skills

Show more compassion for students instead of burden us with administrative nonsense

Smaller class size

Some of the classes are not very challenging. I think professors shouldn't focus on catering to the stupid students as much as they do.

Some professors were better than others

Studied harder and got better grades.

Summer school would have helped me transfer sooner. Adding computer classes such as Marketing Integrated Communications (PPC, Google Adword, SEO). Incorporate more writing.

Take advantage of the resources at Mesa

Teach the departments (i.e. Admissions, Transfer, Counseling) to communicate with one another. Give students as much information as possible. Students have to search out programs that should be advertised by the staff.

Teachers at Mesa (and the other colleges from sdccd) have been wonderf. The small classroom environments are also motivating and great to participate in. You feel like you actually hold a part in the class.

The counseling center sucks. Making an appointment a week ahead is not feasable for many students. Also, having DCP while school is in session is next to impossible. There should be a certain semester for completing DCP.

The interior design program is great, but really need to upgrade their students skills in technology. There isn't a teacher that knows, Revit or AutoCAD and hand drafting is an antiquated skill

The only to improve on is having summer classes.

The price of attendance and all the supplies is very overwhelming to a single income family. I did not even qualify for scholarships because I am not transferring.

The process of starting college (placement tests, picking classes, etc.) was vague and confusing. I would have appreciated a little help or advise when I was going through that process.

There should be a bachelors opportunity

there were a few add professors that should not have been allowed to teach...ever

They did great, nothing.

To achieve a common goal

To have better communication with students and help student with their work especially those student with disability.

Unite and include community of students and professors

Well, I'm sure this is a dead horse, but the parking situation could certainly be improved - it drives me nuts that I have to wake up three hours before my morning class just to get a spot.

When I was trying to enter a calculus class, the professor took a long time to decide whether he would take me (I was next on the waitlist and he had plenty of seats in his class). When he declined, it was too late to find another class. It would be helpful with everyone's learning experience if we had a little more time to find back up classes.

Wonderful professor

Worked harder in some of my classes.

No response (57)