



**Results from the 2009
Survey of
Delta College Graduates
(Summer 2009)**

Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness

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Acknowledgements

Special thanks to David Bayne, Jennifer Ohta, Chris Leach, and Catherine Mooney in Admissions and Records, and to Trudy Walton in Student Services for their assistance and support in completing this project.

Executive Summary

Background and Methodology

In order to assess campus-wide student learning experiences at Delta College, a survey was conducted with Delta College students eligible for graduation in the spring 2009 term. Items on the survey were derived from the College's mission statement and were intended to serve as preliminary indicators of institutional student learning outcomes. Specific items on the survey pertained to students' skills and abilities gained while at Delta College, personal development, preparation for future course work or employment, and appreciation for art, history and culture. Instructions on the survey asked students to rate each item as it related to their experiences with general education courses, courses in their programs or majors, and the student services they received. The survey consisted of 10 five-point Likert scale items, with a response of 1 indicating 'not at all' and a response of 5 indicating 'to a great degree.' A final item asked students if a particular instructor, counselor, librarian or staff member helped to inspire or encourage them during their experiences at Delta College. It should be noted that no demographic or personally identifying items were included on the survey; therefore, it cannot be determined whether the students who completed and returned the survey are representative of the larger graduating student population. A copy of the survey instrument is provided in Appendix A.

Between January and April 2009 all students eligible to graduate in spring 2009 (N=1441) were sent graduation application packets containing information about and forms required for graduation in two formats: electronically via email and hardcopy via U.S. Mail. Both forms of the packet included a brief survey about students' experiences at Delta College. Completed surveys were returned with graduation application packets to the Delta College Admissions and Records Office. Surveys were separated from students' application packets and provided to the Office of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness for data entry, data processing and analysis. A total of 439 surveys were completed and returned for a response rate of 30%.

Results

Overall, results from the 2009 survey were very positive, and graduating students who completed the survey rated their learning experiences at Delta College highly.

Students indicated their experiences at the College had enhanced their own personal development. The overwhelming majority (88%) of graduates believed that their experiences at Delta College gave them an appreciation for lifelong learning, and 84% believed their experiences at the College developed their capacity for self-understanding. There was considerable consensus among students regarding the different skills and abilities they gained during their time at Delta College. Eighty-six percent of students believed their experiences at the College developed their abilities to think and communicate effectively using oral, written and mathematical skills.

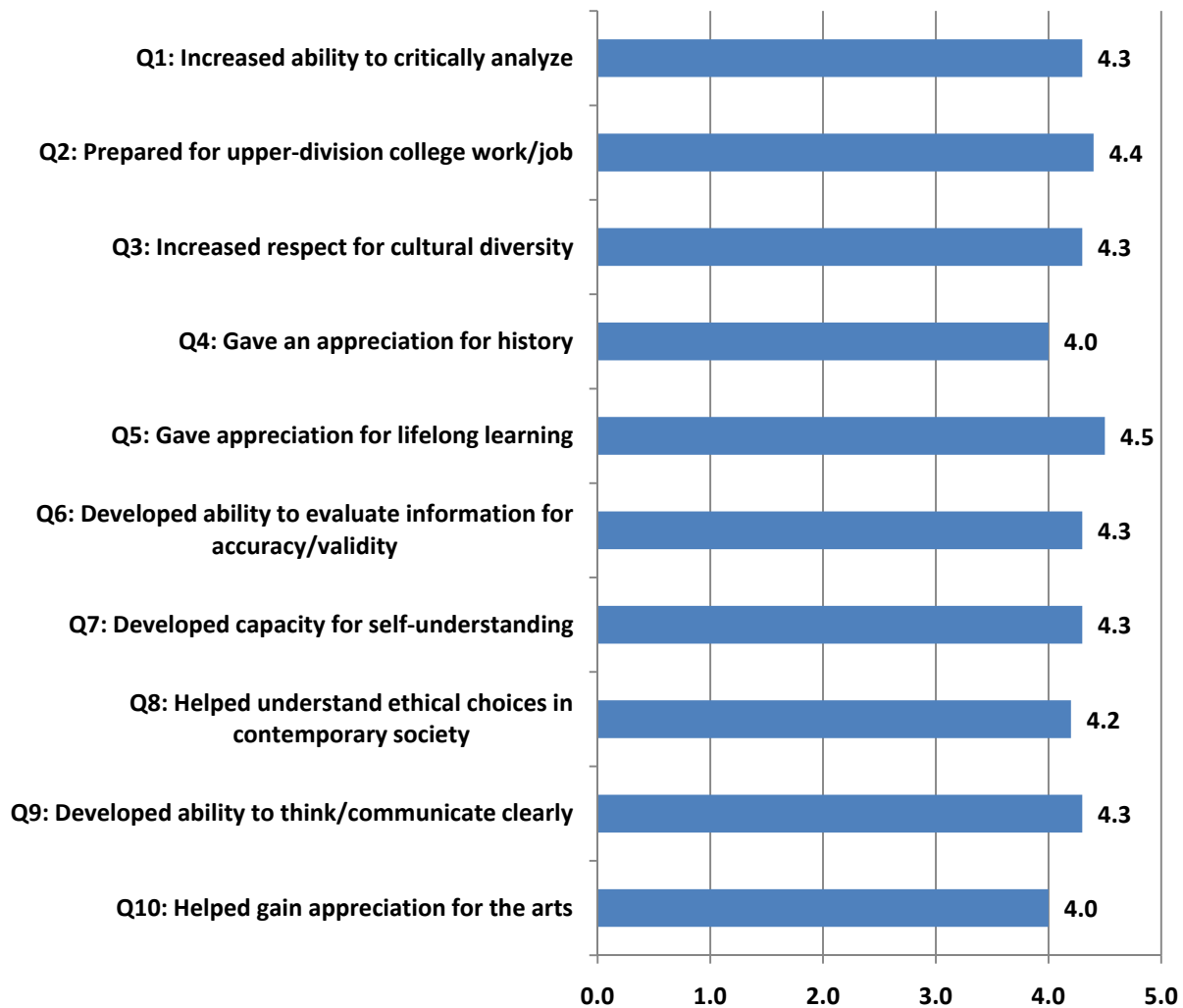
The majority of graduates indicated their experiences at the College enhanced their critical thinking and analytical skills. Eighty-four percent of students believed their experiences at the College developed their ability to critically analyze principles, theories, beliefs and knowledge. An identical number said their experiences at the College developed their ability to evaluate information for accuracy and validity, and 86% of graduating students said their experiences gave them a deeper understanding of ethical choices and issues.

In addition, graduates indicated that their experiences at Delta College helped them prepare for future endeavors. Eighty-six percent of students believed their experiences at Delta College prepared them for upper division college work or for a job in their chosen field.

Overwhelming numbers of students also appeared to gain appreciation for context, art and culture during their time at Delta College. Eighty percent said their experiences at the College increased their respect for cultural diversity, and 71% said their experiences gave them an appreciation for the arts. Seventy-one percent of students said their experiences at Delta College had increased their appreciation for the value and importance of history. On all areas measured, Delta College graduating students rated their experiences at the College favorably. Charts illustrating the distribution of responses to all survey items are provided in Appendix B.

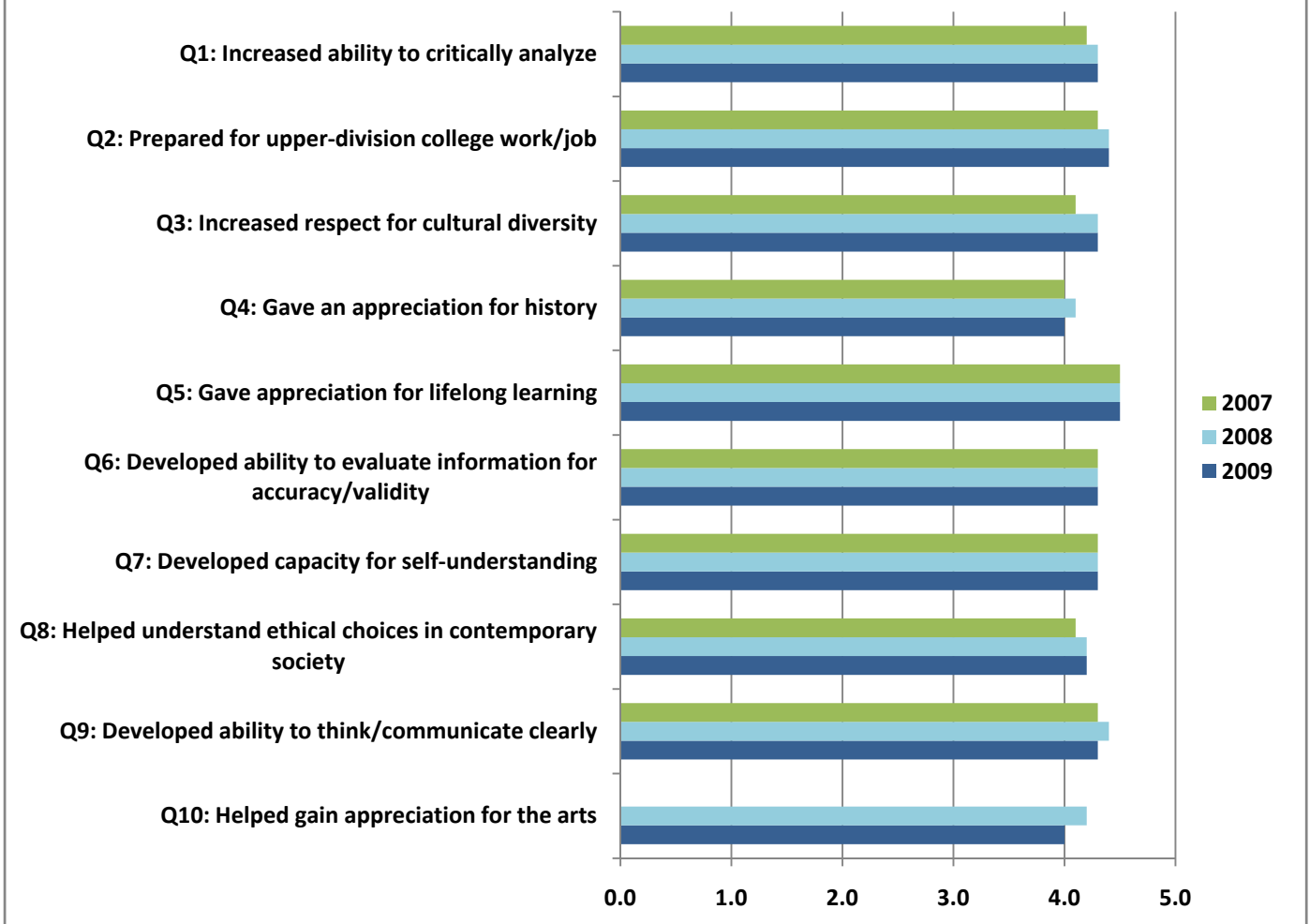
Mean ratings for each of the key items were also extremely positive. The figure on the following page displays the mean responses to each survey item on the 2009 survey. On average, students rated appreciation for lifelong learning most highly ($M=4.5$). Students also gave strong marks to the College on their ability to think and communicate through the use of oral, written and mathematical skills ($M=4.3$) and felt prepared for upper-division college work or for a job in their chosen field ($M=4.4$). It should be noted that mean responses for all survey items were at 4.0 and above. Means and standard deviations are provided for each of the 10 Likert-scale items on the survey in Appendix C.

Mean Survey Item Response: 2009



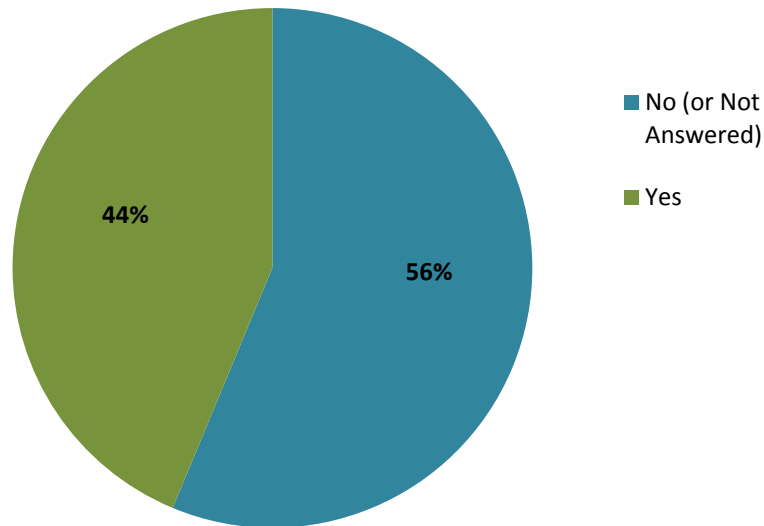
To place these findings in a context, a similar survey was distributed to students applying for graduation in the spring 2008 term. All items from the 2008 survey were included in the 2009 survey. One additional Likert-scale item (“Helped me gain an appreciation for the arts”) was added to the 2008 survey. Although responses on the 2008 survey were already very positive, responses on the majority matched Likert-scale items were higher on the 2009 survey. The greatest improvement in average rating was for increased respect for cultural diversity (4.3 in 2007 to 4.3 in 2009). Response patterns for other items remained similar from 2008 to 2009, with highest ratings in both years for appreciation for lifelong learning. Mean item responses for both years are illustrated in the figure on the following page.

Mean Survey Item Response: 2007 - 2009



In the 2009 survey, students were asked if a particular Delta College faculty or staff member had enhanced their experience at the College. The results from the survey show that a number of Delta College faculty and staff members left positive impressions with the 2009 graduating students. Nearly half (50%) of the students who completed the survey named one or more specific Delta College faculty or staff members who inspired or encouraged them. A complete listing of Delta College faculty and staff members who were mentioned by graduating students is provided in Appendix D.

Q11: Did a particular instructor, counselor, librarian, or staff member help to inspire or encourage you during your experience at Delta College?



In sum, graduating students appear to gain many positive experiences during their time at Delta College. The majority of the students surveyed indicated that the College is living up to its mission of providing quality post-secondary education. Students' responses show that their experiences at Delta College enhanced their skills and abilities in a variety of areas, increased their respect for diversity, prepared them for future educational or career endeavors, and gave them an appreciation for lifelong learning. Many students also mentioned specific faculty or staff members who had inspired or encouraged them during their time at the College. The results from the 2009 student survey build upon those of the previous year's survey and reflect even more positively on Delta College students' experiences.

Appendix A: Survey Instrument

Dear Graduating Student:

San Joaquin Delta College is committed to the continuous improvement of instructional programs and student services. We believe that our students, *particularly the most successful ones like you*, can tell us what we have done well and what we need to improve. In that spirit, we ask you to consider your entire experience at Delta College, complete the survey below, and return it to us as soon as possible.

We thank you in advance for your time and your thoughtful input. Congratulations on your accomplishments, and we wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raúl Rodríguez
Superintendent/President

Dr. Kathy Hart
Assistant Superintendent/
Vice President of Instruction

Trudy Walton
Vice President
of Student Services

Directions – Using a scale of 1 to 5, with **5 indicating “to a great degree”** and **1 indicating “not at all”** please rate each of the statements below as they relate to your experience with general education courses, courses in your major or program, and to the student services you received, such as counseling, financial aid, tutoring, and student activities.

My experiences at Delta College...

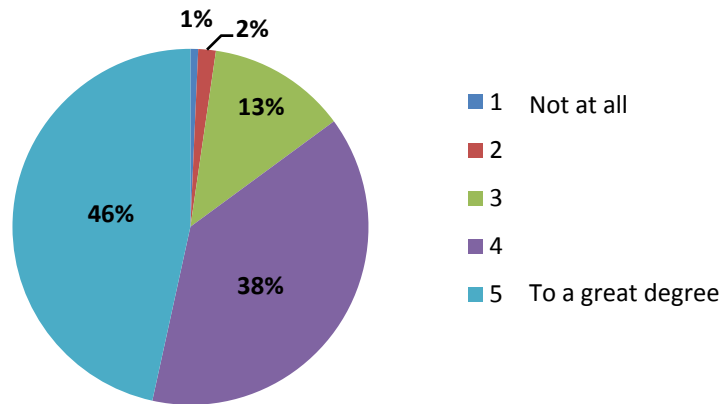
1 = Not at all, 5 = To a Great Degree

1.	Increased my ability to critically analyze principles, theories, beliefs & knowledge	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Prepared me for upper division college work or to get a job in my chosen field	1	2	3	4	5
3.	Increased my respect for cultural diversity	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Gave me an appreciation for the value and importance of history	1	2	3	4	5
5.	Gave me an appreciation for lifelong learning	1	2	3	4	5
6.	Developed my ability to evaluate information for accuracy and validity	1	2	3	4	5
7.	Developed my capacity for self-understanding	1	2	3	4	5
8.	Helped me to achieve a deeper understanding about ethical choices that individuals face in contemporary society	1	2	3	4	5
9.	Developed my ability to think and communicate clearly and effectively through the use of oral, written, and mathematical skills	1	2	3	4	5
10.	Helped me gain an appreciation for the arts	1	2	3	4	5
11.	Finally, did a particular instructor, counselor, librarian, or staff member help to inspire or encourage you during your college experience at Delta College? If so, please name him or her and feel free to describe why they stand out in your mind.					

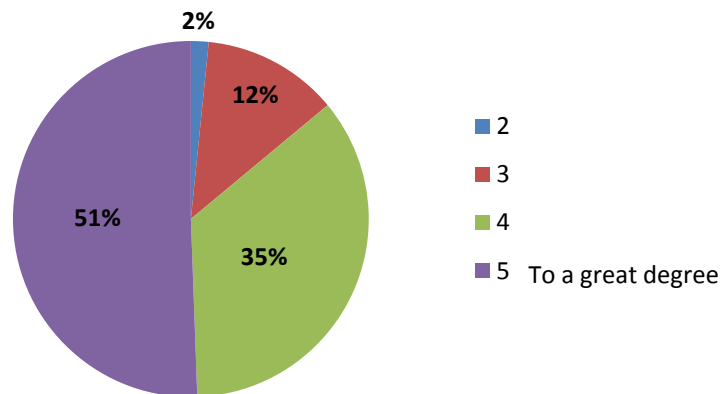
Thank you for completing the survey and congratulations on your achievement!

Appendix B: Charts Illustrating Responses to Key Survey Items

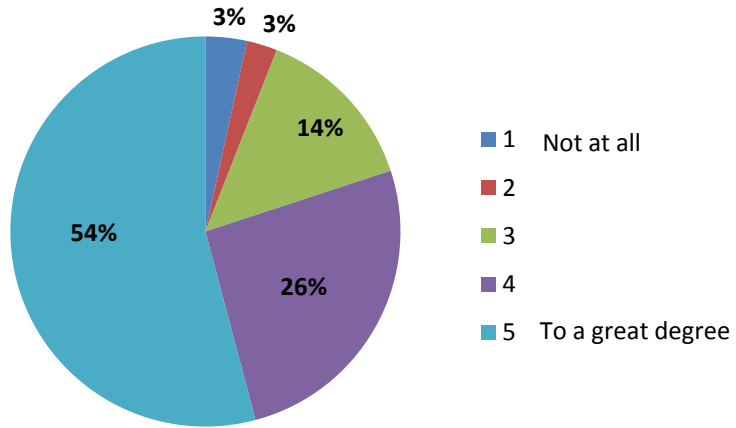
Q1: Increased my ability to critically analyze principles, theories, beliefs, and knowledge



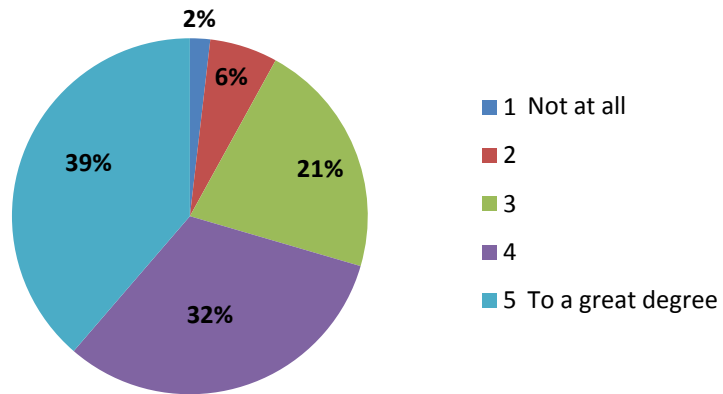
Q2: Prepared me for upper division college work or to get a job in my chosen field



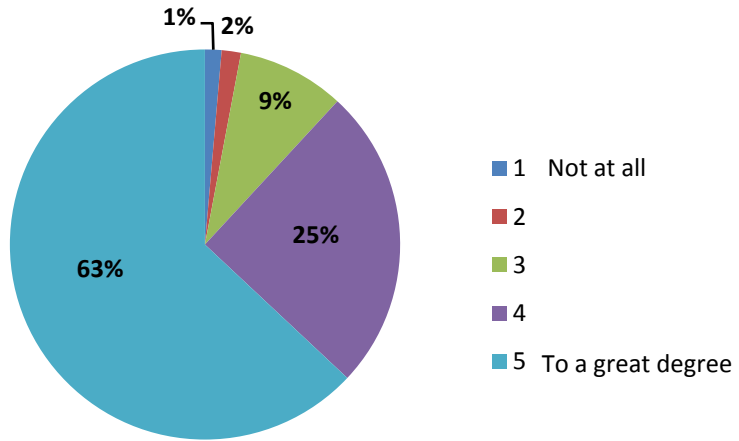
Q3: Increased my respect for cultural diversity



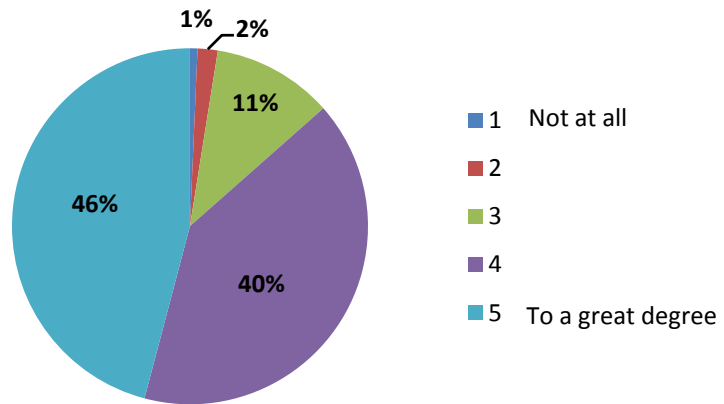
Q4: Gave me an appreciation for the value and importance of history



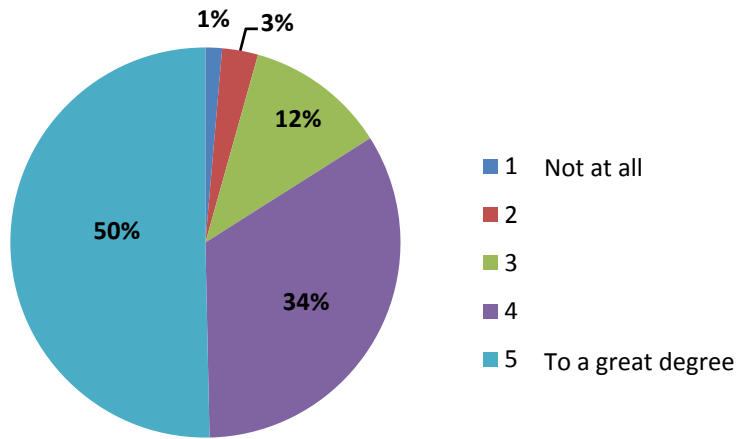
Q5: Gave me an appreciation for lifelong learning



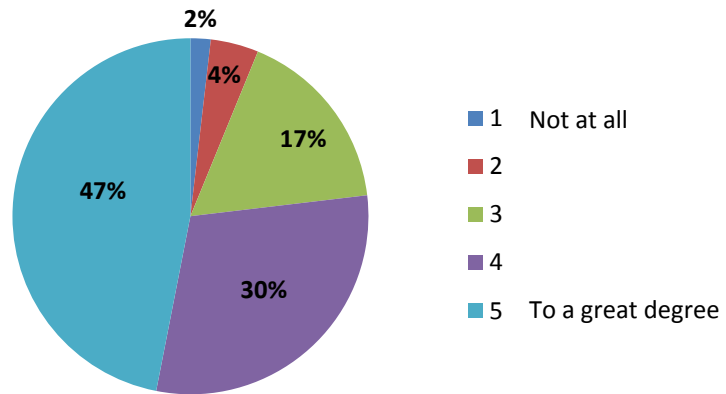
Q6: Developed my ability to evaluate information for accuracy and validity



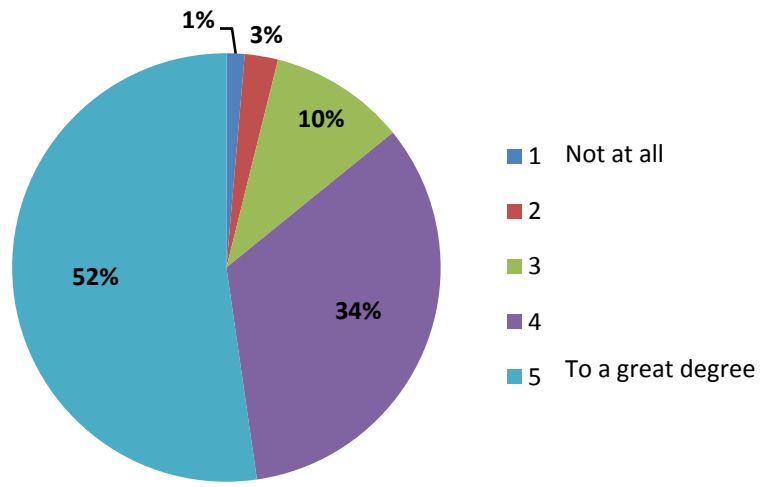
Q7: Developed my capacity for self-understanding



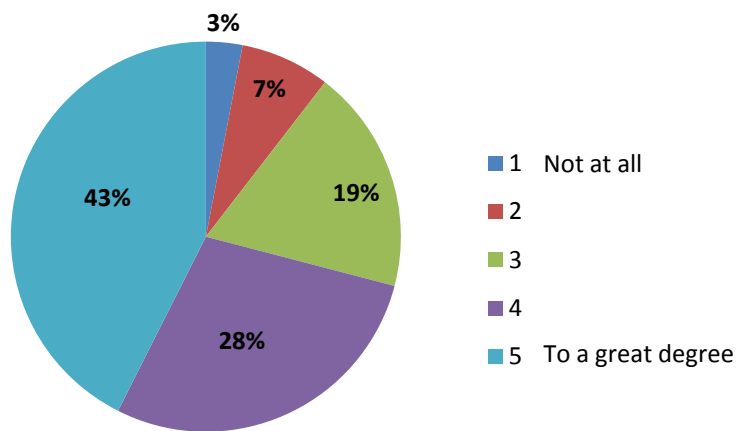
Q8: Helped me to achieve a deeper understanding about ethical choices that individuals face in contemporary society



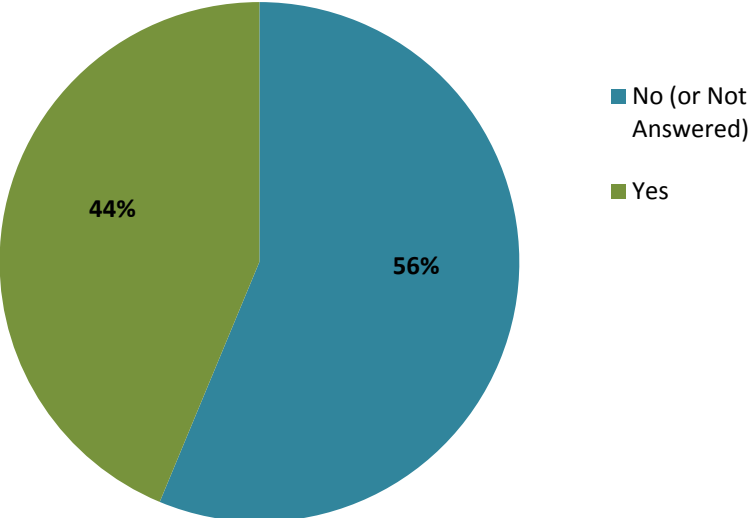
Q9: Developed my ability to think and communicate clearly and effectively through the use of oral, written, and mathematical skills



Q10: Helped me gain an appreciation for the arts



Q11: Did a particular instructor, counselor, librarian, or staff member help to inspire or encourage you during your experience at Delta College?



Appendix C: Means and Standard Deviations for Key Survey Items

Item Number	Item Text	N	Mean	SD
	My experiences at Delta College...			
1.	Increased my ability to critically analyze principles, theories, beliefs and knowledge.	439	4.3	0.80
2.	Prepared me for upper division college work or to get a job in my chosen field.	439	4.4	0.76
3.	Increased my respect for cultural diversity.	436	4.3	1.02
4.	Gave me an appreciation for the value and importance of history.	437	4.0	1.01
5.	Gave me an appreciation for lifelong learning.	439	4.5	0.83
6.	Developed my ability to evaluate information for accuracy and validity.	439	4.3	0.79
7.	Developed my capacity for self-understanding.	437	4.3	0.88
8.	Helped me to achieve a deeper understanding about ethical choices that individuals face in contemporary society.	437	4.2	0.98
9.	Developed my ability to think and communicate clearly and effectively through the use of oral, written and mathematical skills.	439	4.3	0.86
10.	Helped me gain an appreciation for the arts.	430	4.0	1.09

Appendix D: Delta College Faculty and Staff Members Mentioned by Students (Listed by Division or Work Unit) (Number of Times Mentioned)

Applied Science & Technology

Jeff Hislop, Instructor, Administration of Justice/Corrections/Academy (5)
David Terry, Instructor, Administration of Justice/Corrections (4)
David Levesey, Instructor, Administration of Justice (2)
David Main, Instructor, Administration of Justice (3)
Todd Burnett, Instructor, Agriculture, (5)
Ben Beam, Instructor, Animal Science (1)
Michael O'Rourke, Instructor, Architectural Drafting (1)
Dan Carter, Instructor, Diesel Technology (8)
Richard Dettloff, Instructor, Fluid Power (4)
Scot Martin, Instructor, Heating/Air Conditioning (1)
Larry Paulsen, Instructor, Heavy Equipment/Catepillar (6)
David Dodson, Instructor, Plant Science (4)

Business Education

Jennie Noriega, Instructor, Business Administration (1)
Vickie Armstrong, Instructor, Business Administration (1)
Martha Villarreal, Instructor, Business Administration (3)
Roger Waller, Instructor, Business Administration (1)
Florence Quilantang, Instructor, Business Information Management (2)
Kenneth Couvillion, Instructor, Business Accounting (1)

English Language Arts

Dana Miller-Tart, Instructor, Basic Skills (1)
Steven McGill, Instructor, Education/ESL (1)
Candace Andrews, Instructor, English (2)
Mary Blackford, Instructor, English (1)
Michael Duffet, Instructor, English (1)
Rosaline Fung, Instructor, English (1)
June Gilliam, Instructor, English (1)
Sam Hatch, Instructor, English (1)
Judy Hemington, Instructor, English (6)
Jennifer Holden, Instructor, English (3)
Phil Hutcheon, Instructor, English (3)
Hubert Powell, Instructor, English (2)
Lorraine Ramsey, Instructor, English (1)
Bob Rennicks, Instructor, English (3)
Paula Sheil, Instructor, English (7)

English Language Arts (continued)

Sabiha Rizvi, Instructor, English/Basic Skills (2)
Jim McBride, Instructor, English/Film Appreciation (1)
Dianne Oren, Instructor, English/Reading (2)
Anna Villegas, Instructor, English/Speech (2)
Irene Somera, Instructor, ESL/Reading/Education/English (1)
Pedro Ramierz, Instructor, GED/English (4)
Helen Murray, Instructor, Reading (1)
Linda Nugent, Instructor, Reading/English (1)

Family Consumer Science

Christine Sullivan, Instructor, Child Development (1)
Carole Vance, Instructor, Child Development (1)
Robert Halabicky, Instructor, Culinary Arts (1)
James Odishoo, Instructor, Culinary Arts (1)
Andrea DeVincenzi, Instructor, Early Childhood Education (3)
Vivian Harper, Instructor, Early Childhood Education (3)
Pam Mekjavich, Instructor, Early Childhood Education (2)
Leslie Asfour, Instructor, Fashion (1)
Sheila Sanford, Instructor, Fashion (1)
Joan Walsh, Instructor, Nutrition (1)
Carol Thomas, Instructor, Nutrition & Life Management (5)

Fine Arts & Communication

Jennifer Barrows, Instructor, Art (2)
Patricia Nakamura, Instructor, Art (2)
Michael Leonard, Instructor, Art History (1)
Arthur Holton, Jr., Instructor, Band Director (1)
Valerie Gnassounou-Bynce, Instructor, Dance (1)
Barbara Crocker, Instructor, Drama (1)
Brian Kendrick, Instructor, Jazz (1)
James Anderson, Instructor, Music (2)
John Dunn, Instructor, Speech (1)
Marilyn Glaser, Instructor, Speech (2)
Jennifer Held, Instructor, Speech (1)
Vicki Marie, Instructor, Speech (5)
Melvin Nickerson, Instructor, Speech (1)
David Shrope-Austin, Instructor, Speech (3)
Sally Van Bebber, Instructor, Speech/SLPA

Health Science

Mary Neville, Instructor, Nursing (1)

Kim Thompson, Program Coordinator, Nursing Student Success (1)

Instruction

Dee Brown, Coordinator, Affirm (1)

Selina Mendoza, Senior Office Assistant, CalWORKs (1)

Janet Pedersen, Academic Advisor, CalWORKs (1)

Sokun Somsack, Student Programs Specialist, CalWORKs (1)

Sandra Varela, Resource Specialist, CalWORKs (1)

Sharon Daegling, Project Coordinator, Teacher Preparation Pipeline (1)

Library

Jun Wang, Instructor, Librarian (1)

Physical Education, Recreation & Athletics

John Doyle, Instructor, Health/Physical Education (1)

Gina Johnson, Instructor, Speech (1)

Science & Mathematics

Lincoln Lee, Instructor, Astronomy (1)

Thomas Adamson, Instructor, Biology (1)

Amir Assadi-Rad, Instructor, Biology (4)

Nancy Goodyear, Instructor, Biology (1)

Robert Knudsen, Instructor, Biology (2)

Theresa McRae, Instructor, Biology (2)

Steven Telleen, Instructor, Biology (1)

Paul Ustach, Instructor, Biology (1)

Elizabeth Day, Instructor, Chemistry (1)

Barbara Demmons, Instructor, Chemistry (1)

Alla Gamarnik, Instructor, Chemistry (1)

Christopher Kim, Instructor, Chemistry (3)

Phil Reedy, Instructor, Chemistry (3)

Alicia Ricardez, Instructor, Chemistry (2)

Robin Lyons, Instructor, Geography (4)

Gina Frost, Instructor, Geology (2)

Greta Olsen, Math/Science Learning Center Coordinator, (1)

Christopher Barker, Instructor, Mathematics (2)

Jason Broyles, Instructor, Mathematics (1)

Gerald Grilliot, Instructor, Mathematics (1)

Patricia Hammer, Instructor, Mathematics (1)

Vince Jones, Instructor, Mathematics (2)

Science & Mathematics (continued)

Suzanne Lindborg, Instructor,, Mathematics (2)
John Nicholls, Instructor, Mathematics (1)
Nirmal Sohi, Instructor, Mathematics (1)
John Spear, Instructor, Mathematics (1)
Christopher Williams, Instructor, Mathematics (3)
Eloisa Millan, Director, MESA CCCP (2)
Nena Hewette, Instructor, Microbiology (1)

Social Science

Peggy Scully, Instructor, Anthropology (4)
Kitty Shek, Instructor, Chinese/Japanese/History (1)
Nelson Nagai, Instructor, Economics (1)
Anne Lopez-Gallego, Instructor, Foreign Language (1)
Leonard Dofflemeyer, Instructor, History (1)
Lynn Hawley, Instructor, History (4)
Ted Kallman, Instructor, History (1)
George Megenney, Instructor, History (1)
Rachel Standish, Instructor, History (1)
Albert Ortiz, Instructor, History/Political Science (9)
Martin Langan, Instructor, History/Religion (1)
Mark Stewart, Instructor, Humanities (2)
Jim Eikenberry, Instructor, Humanities/Religion (1)
Matt Wetstein, Former Instructor, Political Science (1)
George Feicht, Instructor, Psychology (2)
Elizabeth Maloney, Instructor, Psychology (2)
Ron Payne Instructor, Psychology (1)
Norman Solomowitz, Instructor, Psychology (1)
Don Stott, Instructor, Psychology (1)
Jeff Topping, Instructor, Psychology (3)
Carol McCandless, Instructor, Religion (1)
Rosalind Gottfried, Instructor, Sociology (1)
Harry Mersmann, Instructor, Sociology (2)
Manuel Camacho, Instructor, Spanish (1)
Lillian Rich, Instructor, Spanish (3)
Elizabeth Schwartz, Instructor, Spanish (2)

Student Services

Michelle Gill, Admission & Records Assistant, Admissions & Records (1)
Karen Marlin-Sea, Registrar, Admissions & Records (1)
Jazmin Amen, Supervisor, Career Transfer Center (3)
Jack Nguyen, Student Program Specialist, Career Transfer Center (2)
Melissa Turney, Office Assistant, Career Transfer Center (2)
Greg Benson, Instructor, American Sign Language, DSPS (3)
Charlene Nunes, Instructor, American Sign Language, DSPS (1)
Stella Alonzo, Counselor, EOPS (1)
Tony Fitch, Counselor, EOPS (2)
Clarence Louie, Counselor, EOPS (9)
Jose Michel, Director, EOPS (1)
Heather Robinson, Counselor, EOPS (1)
Stan Rapada, Financial Aid Specialist, Financial Aid (1)
Pearl Chu, Student Programs Specialist, Guidance & Counseling (2)
Dan Baker, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (1)
Yolanda Calderon, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (1)
Anthony Canela, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (1)
Evelyn Chapman, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (1)
Rodney Keeney, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (2)
Rocky LaJeunesse, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (2)
Solyn Laney, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (4)
Debra Louie, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (5)
Pamela Muckenfuss, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (2)
Grant Narita, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (1)
Pablo Ortega, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (1)
Diane Pond, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (3)
Stacey Robles-Bagnasco, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (6)
Sheila Whitt, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (1)
Cheuyonther Xiong, Counselor, Guidance & Counseling (3)
Melissa Black, International Student Program Specialist, Outreach & Community Relations (1)