

Itasca Community College General Education Student Survey Results 2005-06

All students who graduated from Itasca Community College (ICC) during the 2005-06 academic year were asked to complete the General Education Student Survey. The majority of graduates complied with this request. The purpose of this survey was to obtain students' perceptions of the degree to which classes and related experiences at ICC improved their performance on ICC's Foundational Goals and Outcomes listed on the survey.

One hundred and ninety-eight students completed the survey. Forty-five percent plan to continue their education, 41% plan to continue their education and work, and 11% intend to work (Table 1). This reflects an increase in students' intent to continue their education. Forty-eight percent of the respondents were 20 years old or younger, 38% were between 21 and 35 years old, and the remaining 11% were 36 years and older (Table 2). Table 2 shows that graduates tend to be slightly younger than the prior three years.

Graduates were asked to rate their level of agreement in regards to their classes and experiences at ICC using a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Neutral, and 5 = Strongly Agree. These results are shown in Table 3, Chart 1, and on the General Education Student Survey (Page 5).

SUMMARY

These results indicate that, on average, recent Itasca Community College graduates believe that:

- Classes and related experiences at ICC improved their knowledge or abilities in most General Educational Foundational Goal areas, with the exception of "Understanding of political processes and how to participate in them" (Table 3). This area has continued to have a decrease in levels of agreement over the last four years (Chart 1). "Improved my grammar and punctuation skills" and "Increased my understanding of the issues and concerns facing my community, country and world" have also had decreasing levels of agreement over the past four years.
- Chart 1 shows that the level of agreement for most questions remained similar between goal areas except "political processes and how I can participate in them".
- All areas, except understanding political processes and how to participate in them, received a mean rating above 3.50 (on a scale from 1-5). Between 63.1% and 88.4% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with items asking about improved performance on all but the political processes general education goal.
- Students were especially positive (average rating over 4 or at least 79% agreement) about the college's impact on the areas of improved ability to collect, analyze, and apply information; desire to continue to learn throughout life; to communicate in writing; ability to listen and understand; to communicate orally; and to do research.
- Last year, only two areas met the criteria of being "especially positive" - ability to collect, analyze, and apply information and lifelong learning. This year there were six areas that met the criteria.
- Students were more neutral (average rating less than 3.7 or less than 70% agreement) about the college's impact on the following areas:
 1. Increased my ability to examine, explain and apply my own ethical views;
 2. Ability to solve math problems;
 3. Grammar and punctuation skills;
 4. Understanding of the issues and concerns facing my community, country, and world;
 5. Understanding of political processes and how to participate in them (average rating 3.27 and only 37.2% agreement).
- The level of agreement at which students feel that their experiences and classes at ICC have improved their general education is very similar to or slightly higher than the prior year. The only notable fluctuations are that both ability to collect, analyze and apply information (+.13) and ability to use computers and other technology (+.11) had very positive levels of increases. The area of understanding political process (-.15) had a strong decrease in its agreement level.

**Itasca Community College
General Education Student Survey - Spring 2006**

Table 1

In the year or two following my graduation from ICC, I plan to:

	2006		2005		2004		2003		2002	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Continue my education	89	45%	94	36%	109	33%	114	44%	76	34%
Work	22	11%	25	9%	66	20%	40	15%	45	20%
Both of the above	81	41%	130	49%	149	45%	105	40%	102	46%
Missing	6	3%	15	6%	7	2%	3	1%		
Total	198		264		331		262		223	

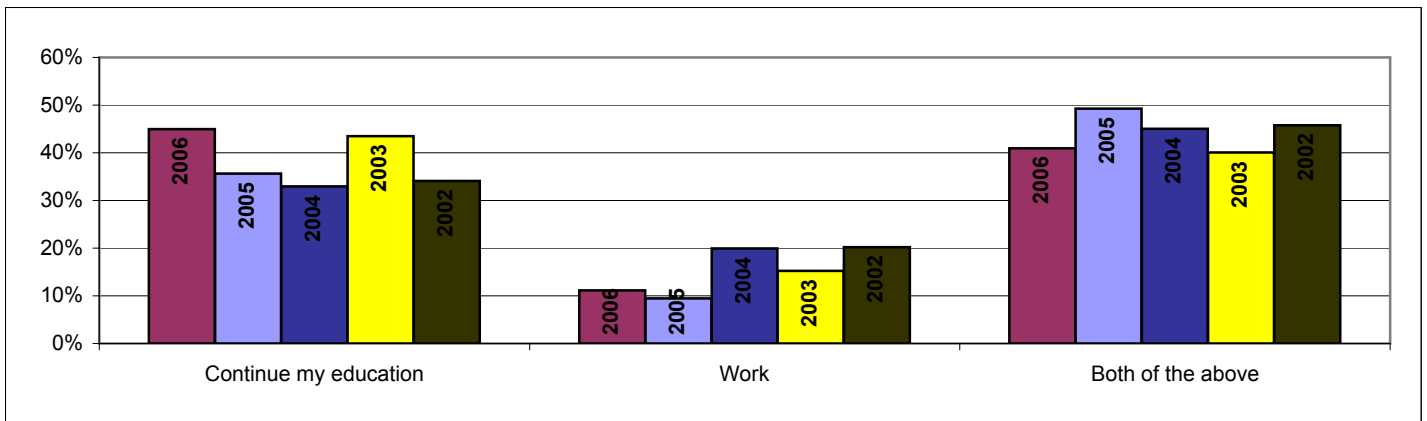


Table 2
My age group is:

	2006		2005		2004		2003		2002	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
20 yrs or younger	95	48%	121	46%	106	32%	122	47%	111	50%
21-35	76	38%	96	36%	146	44%	117	45%	87	39%
36-45	12	6%	20	8%	47	14%	13	5%	15	7%
46-60	9	5%	14	5%	30	9%	6	2%	10	4%
61 yrs or older							1	0%		
Missing	6	3%	13	5%	2	1%	3	1%		
Total	198		264		331		262		223	

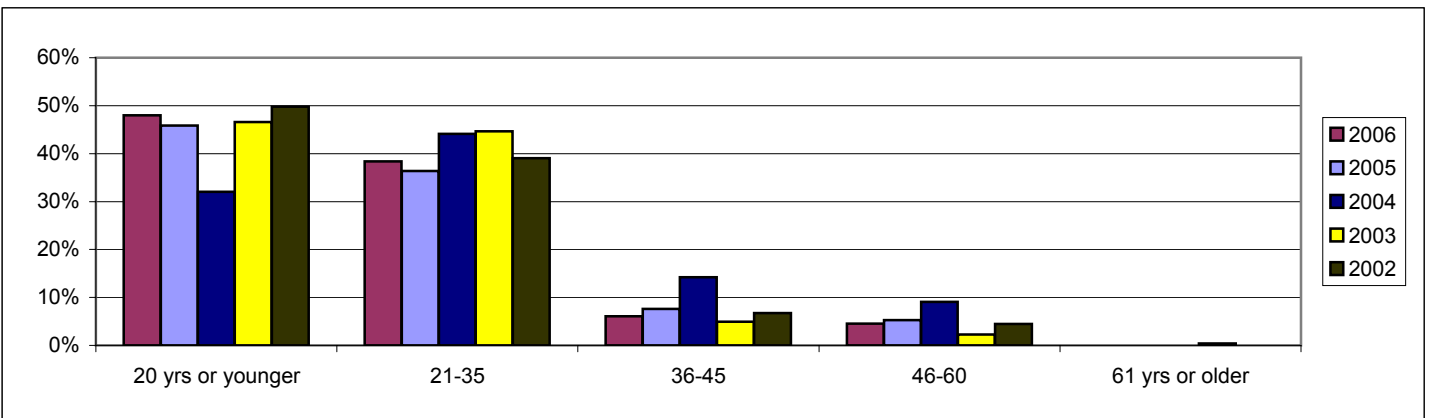
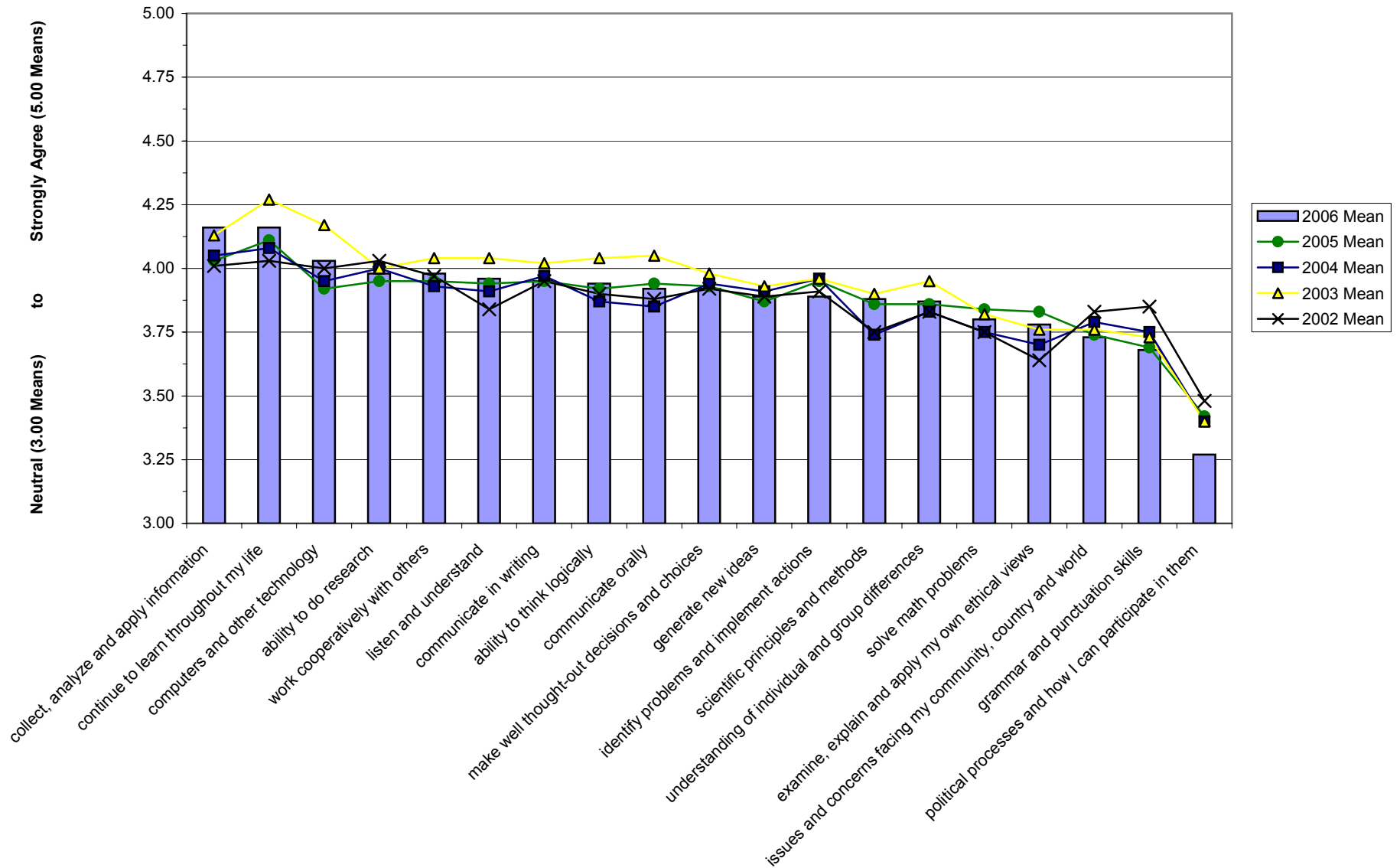


Table 3
Itasca Community College - General Education Student Survey - Spring 2006
Sorted by Agree/Strongly Agree Percent

	Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Total Count	2006 Mean	2005 Mean	2004 Mean	2003 Mean	2002 Mean
	Strongly Disagree	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count						
Improved my ability to collect, analyze and apply information	5	2.5%	18	9.1%	175	88.4%	198	4.16	4.03	4.05	4.13	4.01
Increased my desire to continue to learn throughout my life	9	4.6%	23	11.7%	165	83.8%	197	4.16	4.11	4.08	4.27	4.03
Improved my ability to communicate in writing	7	3.5%	28	14.1%	163	82.3%	198	3.95	3.95	3.97	4.02	3.95
Improved my ability to listen and understand	9	4.6%	26	13.2%	162	82.2%	197	3.96	3.94	3.91	4.04	3.84
Improved my ability to communicate orally	8	4.1%	30	15.2%	159	80.7%	197	3.92	3.94	3.85	4.05	3.88
Improved my ability to do research	8	4.1%	33	16.8%	156	79.2%	197	3.98	3.95	4.00	4.00	4.03
Improved my ability to use computers and other technology	5	2.5%	38	19.3%	154	78.2%	197	4.03	3.92	3.95	4.17	4.00
Improved my ability to generate new ideas	8	4.0%	36	18.2%	154	77.8%	198	3.89	3.87	3.91	3.93	3.89
Improved my ability to identify problems and implement actions	11	5.6%	35	17.9%	150	76.5%	196	3.89	3.95	3.96	3.96	3.91
Increased my ability to work cooperatively with others	6	3.0%	41	20.7%	151	76.3%	198	3.98	3.95	3.93	4.04	3.97
Improved my ability to make well thought-out decisions and choices	7	3.5%	40	20.2%	151	76.3%	198	3.92	3.93	3.94	3.98	3.92
Improved my ability to think logically	8	4.1%	39	19.9%	149	76.0%	196	3.94	3.92	3.87	4.04	3.90
Increased my understanding of individual and group differences	8	4.0%	41	20.7%	149	75.3%	198	3.87	3.86	3.83	3.95	3.83
Increased my understanding of scientific principles and methods	12	6.1%	44	22.3%	141	71.6%	197	3.88	3.86	3.74	3.90	3.75
Increased my ability to examine, explain and apply my own ethical views	7	3.6%	54	27.4%	136	69.0%	197	3.78	3.83	3.70	3.76	3.64
Improved my ability to solve math problems	16	8.1%	48	24.2%	134	67.7%	198	3.80	3.84	3.75	3.82	3.75
Improved my grammar and punctuation skills	13	6.6%	53	26.8%	132	66.7%	198	3.68	3.69	3.75	3.73	3.85
Increased my understanding of the issues and concerns facing my community, country and world	13	6.6%	60	30.3%	125	63.1%	198	3.73	3.74	3.79	3.76	3.83
Increased my understanding of political processes and how I can participate in them	30	15.3%	93	47.4%	73	37.2%	196	3.27	3.42	3.40	3.40	3.48

Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree; 3-Neutral; 5-Strongly Agree
 Prepared by: Office of Institutional Research, 8/16/2006
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Chart 1
General Education Survey - Ranked by 2006 Mean
Neutral (3.00) to Strongly Agree (5.00)



Scale: 1-Strongly Disagree; 3-Neutral; 5-Strongly Agree

Itasca Community College General Education Student Survey

We are interested in how you feel the General Education components of your experiences at ICC prepared you for life after ICC, including transfer to a baccalaureate granting institution or the world of work. Please fill in the appropriate circle to rate each of the following areas as to how well your educational experiences at ICC affected them:

Please fill in circles like this: . Do NOT use X's, /'s, etc.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. In the year or two following my graduation from ICC, I plan to: (Choose one response only.)</p> <p>Continue my education 45%</p> <p>Work 11%</p> <p>Both of the above 41%</p> | <p>2. What is your age: 48% 20 years or younger</p> <p> 38% 21-35 years</p> <p> 6% 36-45 years</p> <p> 5% 46-60 years</p> <p> 0% 61 years or older</p> |
|---|--|

My classes and related experience at ICC:

	% Strongly Disagree	% Disagree	% Neutral	% Agree	% Strongly Agree
1. Improved my ability to communicate in writing	2.0	1.5	14.1	63.6	18.7
2. Improved my grammar and punctuation skills	2.5	4.0	26.8	56.1	10.6
3. Improved my ability to communicate orally	1.5	2.5	15.2	64.0	16.8
4. Improved my ability to listen and understand	1.0	3.6	13.2	62.4	19.8
5. Increased my ability to work cooperatively with others	2.5	.5	20.7	49.0	27.3
6. Improved my ability to collect, analyze and apply information	1.5	1.0	9.1	56.6	31.8
7. Improved my ability to do research	1.5	2.5	16.8	54.3	24.9
8. Improved my ability to identify problems and implement actions	1.5	4.1	17.9	56.6	19.9
9. Improved my ability to make well thought-out decisions and choices	1.5	2.0	20.2	55.6	20.7
10. Improved my ability to generate new ideas	2.0	2.0	18.2	60.6	17.2
11. Improved my ability to think logically	2.6	1.5	19.9	51.5	24.5
12. Improved my ability to solve math problems	2.0	6.1	24.2	44.9	22.7
13. Increased my understanding of scientific principles and methods	2.0	4.1	22.3	46.7	24.9
14. Improved my ability to use computers and other technology	2.0	.5	19.3	48.7	29.4
15. Increased my understanding of the issues and concerns facing my community, country and world	3.0	3.5	30.3	43.9	19.2
16. Increased my understanding of political processes and how I can participate in them	4.1	11.2	47.4	28.1	9.2
17. Increased my ability to examine, explain and apply my own ethical views	2.0	1.5	27.4	54.3	14.7
18. Increased my understanding of individual and group differences	2.0	2.0	20.7	57.6	17.7
19. Increased my desire to continue to learn throughout my life	3.0	1.5	11.7	44.2	39.6