

# 2013 ILO Survey Assessment

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# 2013 ILO Assessment by survey of graduates

## Executive Summary

In April 2013, the College conducted a survey of its graduating students (associate degree and certificates) asking them to assess the degree to which they had achieved the College's four institutional learning outcomes. In essence, the survey serves a self-assessment of student learning and an indicator of institutional effectiveness. The survey garnered a response rate of approximately 50% (nearly 200 students). An analysis of their responses is shown below followed by a reflection on the qualitative comments written by students. The survey's key findings are:

- On average, students ranked their level of achievement of the ILOs as 4.25 on a 5-point scale (range 4.11-4.45). This indicates that overall students are confident about their successful attainment of the desired institutional learning outcomes.
- Across all ILOs, only about 2.5% of respondents on average (range 1.0-4.8%) selected the lowest two scoring options of "a little bit" or "not at all". If these are considered to be "failures to achieve", then "incomplete achievement" occurred in 12% of respondents and "substantial achievement" occurred in 85.5% of respondents.
- Students felt most strongly that they had achieved ILO 1 - Society & Culture. More respondents selected the highest ranking option of "a tremendous amount" for this ILO than for any of the others.
- Although none of the scores would properly be considered to be "weak", the score of ILO 2 - Scientific & Quantitative Reasoning was the lowest in the survey (4.11 out of 5). While this result does not signify true weakness or failure, it does indicate there is opportunity for improvement. Of particular note, the weakest response (3.97 out of 5) was obtained by the statement, "I can use equations to analyze and solve problems." Since students were more confident in their ability to interpret data in the form of tables, graphs and diagrams, it is likely that any weakness uncovered here relates more to performing mathematical calculations than to the less technical skill of data interpretation.

**ILO 1: Select, evaluate, and use information to engage in creative problem solving, investigate a point of view, support a conclusion, or engage in creative expression.**

Mean Score	Score %	% Agree
4.25 ± 0.10	85	85

*a tremendous amount (5), quite a bit (4), somewhat (3), a little bit (2), not at all (1)*

*Score % = mean score displayed as a percent (5 = 100%)*

*% Agree = a tremendous amount + quite a bit*

Critical & Creative Thinking-related questions	Mean score	%Agree
I can synthesize and organize ideas, information, or experiences in new and original ways.	<b>4.18</b>	82
I can apply theories or concepts to solving practical problems.	<b>4.15</b>	83
I can analyze the basic elements of an argument, idea or theory.	<b>4.27</b>	86
I can select, evaluate and use information to support a conclusion.	<b>4.38</b>	89

**ILO 2: Use language to effectively convey an idea or set of facts, including the ability to use source material and evidence according to institutional and discipline standards.**

Mean Score	Score %	% Agree
4.31 ± 0.06	86	88

*a tremendous amount (5), quite a bit (4), somewhat (3), a little bit (2), not at all (1)*

*Score % = mean score displayed as a percent (5 = 100%)*

*% Agree = a tremendous amount + quite a bit*

Communication Skills-related questions	Mean score	%Agree
I can speak clearly and effectively to convey an idea or set of facts.	<b>4.30</b>	88
I can write clearly and effectively to convey an idea or set of facts.	<b>4.33</b>	87
I can find and evaluate sources of information and cite it appropriately according to the institutional and discipline standards.	<b>4.24</b>	85
I can integrate ideas or information from a variety of sources into my documents.	<b>4.38</b>	91

**ILO 3: Understand and interpret various points of view that emerge from a diverse world of peoples and cultures.**

Mean Score	Score %	% Agree
4.45 ± 0.01	89	91

*a tremendous amount (5), quite a bit (4), somewhat (3), a little bit (2), not at all (1)*

*Score % = mean score displayed as a percent of 5 (5 = 100%)*

*% Agree = a tremendous amount + quite a bit*

Understanding Society & Culture-related questions	Mean score	%Agree
I can work effectively with diverse groups of people to accomplish a task or solve a problem.	<b>4.44</b>	92
I can understand the perspective of people who hold religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values that substantially differ from my own.	<b>4.46</b>	90
I can identify the contributions of people from a different economic, social, racial, or ethnic background than my own.	<b>4.44</b>	91

**ILO 4: Represent complex data in various mathematical forms (e.g., equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, and words) and analyze these data to make judgments and draw appropriate conclusions.**

Mean Score	Score %	% Agree
4.11 ± 0.12	82	78

*a tremendous amount (5), quite a bit (4), somewhat (3), a little bit (2), not at all (1)*

*Score % = mean score displayed as a percent (5 = 100%)*

*% Agree = a tremendous amount + quite a bit*

Scientific & Quantitative Reasoning-related questions	Mean score	%Agree
I can use equations to analyze and solve problems.	<b>3.97</b>	72
I can make judgments and draw conclusions from data presented in graphs, tables, or diagrams.	<b>4.17</b>	82
I can critically analyze whether data, presented in graphs, tables or diagrams, support appropriate conclusions	<b>4.18</b>	80

## Qualitative responses

In the survey students were given the opportunity to provide written comments regarding their educational experience at Cañada. Overall, approximately 89% of responses were positive. Of these, 34% offered general praise for the institution. Examples include:

- *“Cañada College has offered me great opportunities to grow as a student and as an individual. It has given me more confidence in my academics and more determination to go beyond my first degree.”*
- *“It has been a great experience attending Canada College, I have met many people that have contribute to my success so far. I'm proud to become an alumni.”*
- *“It's going to be really hard to leave, I feel like you can't get a better community college experience anywhere else.”*

28% of respondents specifically identified various students support services as reasons for enabling their academic success. Specifically services/programs mentioned were: Financial Aid, DRC, EOPS, STEM Center, Learning Center, TRIO, Work Study, Math Jam, Tutors, Beating the Odds. Examples include:

- *“The Canada College Administration and Disability Resource Center have been extremely supportive and helpful, with their assistance I have been able to achieve my goals. Even though I commute by public transportation two and a half hours each way, it is worth the time to experience the quality of education I have received at Canada. I am very thankful and now look forward to transferring to a four year university.”*
- *“It's an extremely friendly and helpful school. I've taken advantage of the learning center, tutoring appointments and Math Jam which made a major difference in my ability to comprehend the Math classes I've taken. I'd recommend this school over others in the district. I've taken all but one of my classes at Canada. I first came here the second semester it was open. I've never regretted my choice.”*
- *“I love attending Canada. EOPS made a huge difference in my life. I would've dropped out if it hadn't been for Jose Romero and Lorraine. My teachers were wonderful and very supportive as well.”*

42% of respondents identified instructional programs and/or faculty as contributing to their academic success or to the strength of the institution. Specific programs receiving praise included: ECE, Engineering, Interior Design, and Multimedia.

- *“I think Cañada College has given me the confidence, and education I need in order to become successful in the future. I have been able to make connections with great people, and have learned from great faculty. I am really glad I took the path to College at Cañada College.”*
- *“I have absolutely enjoyed my time at the College. The campus is a great place to be with teachers who care about how you are learning. It has been a pleasure!”*
- *“Canada College gave me a second opportunity. High School was a bust for me and coming to Canada enabled me to continue my education. It provided me with tools I'm going to use for the rest of my life. In addition, I enjoyed coming to Canada because there are teachers who really care about the students success. I couldn't done it without the help of great teachers I came across with.”*

A small minority (3%) of respondents offered specific positive comments regarding the college's student body. One particularly noteworthy comment follows:

- *“The most beneficial experience I have had at Canada College was joining student government. It connected me to other clubs, organizations, and an amazing network of goal-driven individuals. I have served on committees wear [sic] I share my opinion with college employees and then work with students in the government association. These opportunities have made me the well-rounded individual I am today. I encourage every new student to look into joining ASCC.”*

Finally, 11% offered constructive criticisms in which they raised concerns regarding the availability of counselors, difficulty transferring in credit, and disappointments with specific instructors or programs.