

WABASH NATIONAL STUDY OF  
**Liberal Arts Education**

**Table 1**  
**Student Survey--Fall 2006**  
**Section I**  
**Gustavus Adolphus College**

How important to you personally is each of the following?	Averages and Frequencies			Comparisons for Gustavus Adolphus College			
	Gustavus Adolphus College	Other 10 Small Institutions	All Other Institutions	Institution Avg. Minus Other Small Institutions Avg.	Institution Avg. Minus All Other Institutions Avg.	School Avg. Rank Among Small Institutions	Institution Avg. Rank Among All Institutions
	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>				
A. Becoming accomplished in one of the performing arts (acting, dancing, singing, etc.)	1.87 / 1.02 246	1.91 / 1.02 2,138	1.83 / 0.99 4,250	-0.04	0.04	5 of 11	6 of 19
B. Obtaining recognition from my colleagues for contributions to my field of expertise	2.76 / 0.81 246	2.73 / 0.82 2,138	2.76 / 0.81 4,249	0.02	-0.01	4 of 11	10 of 19
C. Influencing the political structure	1.94 / 0.89 246	2.09 / 0.90 2,137	2.02 / 0.88 4,247	-0.15 *	-0.08	8 of 11	11 of 19
D. Influencing social values	2.56 / 0.80 246	2.72 / 0.85 2,135	2.70 / 0.84 4,244	-0.17 *	-0.14 *	10 of 11	18 of 19
E. Raising a family	3.35 / 0.86 246	3.20 / 0.97 2,134	3.32 / 0.91 4,247	0.14 *	0.02	5 of 11	12 of 19
F. Having administrative responsibility for the work of others	2.28 / 0.86 246	2.16 / 0.91 2,130	2.27 / 0.90 4,235	0.11	0.01	5 of 11	13 of 19
G. Helping others who are in difficulty	3.12 / 0.73 246	3.20 / 0.77 2,137	3.21 / 0.76 4,250	-0.08	-0.09	10 of 11	18 of 19
H. Making a theoretical contribution to science	1.80 / 0.97 246	1.70 / 0.90 2,135	1.73 / 0.90 4,246	0.10	0.07	4 of 11	6 of 19
I. Writing original works (poems, novels, short stories, etc.)	1.67 / 0.89 245	2.05 / 1.09 2,136	1.91 / 1.03 4,249	-0.38 ***	-0.23 **	11 of 11	16 of 19

Averages are based on the following response codings: Essential = 4, Very Important = 3, Somewhat important = 2, Not important = 1.

Differences computed directly from this table may vary from listing due to rounding.

\* Difference statistically significant at the .05 level.

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	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>				
J. Creating artistic work (painting, sculpture, film, etc.)	1.77 / 0.96 246	2.02 / 1.07 2,137	1.92 / 1.03 4,249	-0.25 **	-0.15 *	8 of 11	13 of 19
K. Becoming successful in a business of my own	2.22 / 1.05 246	2.32 / 1.05 2,136	2.40 / 1.06 4,247	-0.10	-0.18 *	8 of 11	15 of 19
L. Becoming involved in activities that preserve and enrich the environment	2.55 / 0.94 245	2.63 / 0.92 2,139	2.55 / 0.91 4,252	-0.09	0.00	7 of 11	9 of 19
M. Developing a meaningful philosophy of life	2.97 / 0.92 246	3.07 / 0.93 2,136	3.05 / 0.94 4,246	-0.10	-0.08	9 of 11	12 of 19
N. Volunteering in my community	2.93 / 0.81 246	2.85 / 0.85 2,137	2.85 / 0.85 4,249	0.08	0.08	3 of 11	6 of 19
O. Helping to promote racial understanding	2.50 / 0.89 246	2.63 / 0.90 2,134	2.60 / 0.90 4,245	-0.13 *	-0.10	9 of 11	15 of 19
P. Keeping up to date with political affairs	2.44 / 0.92 246	2.60 / 0.94 2,137	2.52 / 0.92 4,249	-0.15 *	-0.08	8 of 11	11 of 19
Q. Becoming a community leader	2.33 / 0.90 246	2.37 / 0.92 2,135	2.34 / 0.92 4,247	-0.04	-0.01	6 of 11	9 of 19
R. Integrating spirituality into my life	2.87 / 1.00 246	2.62 / 1.13 2,134	2.73 / 1.12 4,243	0.26 **	0.15 *	3 of 11	7 of 19

Averages are based on the following response codings: Essential = 4, Very Important = 3, Somewhat important = 2, Not important = 1.

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	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>				
S. Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures	2.78 / 0.87 246	2.97 / 0.86 2,135	2.89 / 0.87 4,247	-0.19 *	-0.11	8 of 11	12 of 19
T. Working to find a cure for a disease or illness	2.03 / 0.97 245	1.99 / 0.98 2,134	2.07 / 1.00 4,243	0.04	-0.04	6 of 11	13 of 19
U. Making a lot of money	2.57 / 0.95 246	2.42 / 1.01 2,137	2.53 / 0.99 4,250	0.14 *	0.03	6 of 11	11 of 19
V. Working in a prestigious occupation	2.45 / 0.95 246	2.34 / 1.04 2,133	2.47 / 1.02 4,242	0.11	-0.02	6 of 11	13 of 19
W. Becoming passionate about or committed to my occupation	3.56 / 0.62 246	3.71 / 0.54 2,136	3.69 / 0.56 4,249	-0.15 **	-0.13 **	11 of 11	17 of 19

Averages are based on the following response codings: Essential = 4, Very Important = 3, Somewhat important = 2, Not important = 1.

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**Table 2**  
**Student Survey--Fall 2006**  
**Section II**  
**Gustavus Adolphus College**

Level of Agreement With Each of the Following Statements	Averages and Frequencies			Comparisons for Gustavus Adolphus College			
	Gustavus Adolphus College	Other 10 Small Institutions	All Other Institutions	Institution Avg. Minus Other Small Institutions Avg.	Institution Avg. Minus All Other Institutions Avg.	School Avg. Rank Among Small Institutions	Institution Avg. Rank Among All Institutions
	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>				
A. I enjoy having discussions with people whose ideas and values are different from my own.	3.90 / 0.85 245	4.12 / 0.79 2,133	4.08 / 0.78 4,242	-0.22 **	-0.17 **	10 of 11	16 of 19
B. The real value of a college education lies in being introduced to different values.	3.79 / 0.91 245	3.83 / 0.87 2,130	3.77 / 0.87 4,238	-0.04	0.03	7 of 11	9 of 19
C. I enjoy talking with people who have values different from mine because it helps me better understand myself and my values.	4.02 / 0.87 245	4.20 / 0.75 2,133	4.17 / 0.75 4,242	-0.18 **	-0.15 *	10 of 11	17 of 19
D. Learning about people from different cultures is a very important part of my college education.	3.92 / 1.01 245	4.06 / 0.91 2,133	3.96 / 0.94 4,241	-0.14 *	-0.03	7 of 11	10 of 19
E. I enjoy taking courses that challenge my beliefs and values.	3.75 / 0.95 244	3.81 / 0.95 2,134	3.70 / 0.97 4,241	-0.06	0.05	6 of 11	7 of 19
F. The courses I enjoy most are those that make me think about things from a different perspective.	3.87 / 0.87 245	4.07 / 0.89 2,132	4.00 / 0.90 4,240	-0.21 **	-0.14 *	9 of 11	14 of 19
G. Contact with individuals whose backgrounds (e.g., race, national origin, sexual orientation) are different from my own is an essential part of my college education.	3.67 / 1.04 245	3.96 / 0.94 2,132	3.86 / 0.97 4,241	-0.29 ***	-0.20 *	9 of 11	15 of 19
H. I am willing to work hard in a course to learn the material even if it won't lead to a higher grade.	3.83 / 0.90 245	3.98 / 0.89 2,133	3.87 / 0.94 4,242	-0.15 *	-0.04	9 of 11	11 of 19

Averages are based on the following response codings: Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Neutral = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1.

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	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>				
I. When I do well on a test, it is usually because I am well-prepared; not because the test is easy.	4.12 / 0.84 245	4.01 / 0.89 2,132	4.04 / 0.87 4,239	0.11	0.08	4 of 11	5 of 19
J. In high school, I frequently did more reading in a class than was required simply because it interested me.	2.84 / 1.10 245	3.00 / 1.20 2,133	2.87 / 1.20 4,241	-0.16 *	-0.03	7 of 11	8 of 19
K. In high school, I frequently talked to my teachers outside of class about ideas presented during class.	3.50 / 1.09 244	3.53 / 1.14 2,133	3.43 / 1.17 4,240	-0.03	0.06	6 of 11	7 of 19
L. Getting the best grades I can is very important to me.	4.40 / 0.79 243	4.17 / 0.99 2,131	4.31 / 0.90 4,239	0.22 **	0.09	3 of 11	7 of 19
M. I enjoy the challenge of learning complicated new material.	3.79 / 0.85 242	3.88 / 0.89 2,129	3.83 / 0.90 4,235	-0.09	-0.04	8 of 11	12 of 19
N. My academic experiences (i.e., courses, labs, studying, discussions with faculty) will be the most important part of college.	3.62 / 0.98 244	3.55 / 1.01 2,126	3.56 / 1.03 4,233	0.07	0.06	4 of 11	8 of 19
O. My academic experiences (i.e., courses, labs, studying, discussions with faculty) will be the most enjoyable part of college.	2.91 / 0.91 244	2.92 / 0.94 2,128	2.84 / 0.97 4,236	-0.01	0.07	6 of 11	9 of 19
P. I enjoy reading poetry and literature.	3.26 / 1.26 244	3.60 / 1.26 2,131	3.44 / 1.29 4,240	-0.34 **	-0.18 *	8 of 11	10 of 19

Averages are based on the following response codings: Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Neutral = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1.

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	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>				
Q. I enjoy reading about science.	2.83 / 1.21 244	2.96 / 1.22 2,131	2.93 / 1.22 4,235	-0.13	-0.10	8 of 11	14 of 19
R. I enjoy reading about history.	3.35 / 1.22 244	3.48 / 1.19 2,130	3.38 / 1.22 4,238	-0.13	-0.03	6 of 11	9 of 19
S. I enjoy expressing my ideas in writing.	3.30 / 1.14 244	3.58 / 1.22 2,131	3.43 / 1.25 4,239	-0.29 **	-0.13	9 of 11	13 of 19
T. After I write about something, I see that subject differently.	3.18 / 0.96 244	3.36 / 1.01 2,131	3.25 / 1.02 4,237	-0.17 *	-0.07	9 of 11	11 of 19
U. If I have something good to read, I'm never bored.	3.63 / 1.16 244	3.84 / 1.13 2,129	3.78 / 1.14 4,237	-0.21 *	-0.15 *	8 of 11	11 of 19

Averages are based on the following response codings: Strongly Agree = 5, Agree = 4, Neutral = 3, Disagree = 2, Strongly Disagree = 1.

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**Table 3**  
**Student Survey--Fall 2006**  
**Section III**  
**Gustavus Adolphus College**

Item	Averages and Frequencies			Comparisons for Gustavus Adolphus College			
	Gustavus Adolphus College	Other 10 Small Institutions	All Other Institutions	Institution Avg. Minus Other Small Institutions Avg.	Institution Avg. Minus All Other Institutions Avg.	School Avg. Rank Among Small Institutions	Institution Avg. Rank Among All Institutions
	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>				
A. How would you characterize your political views?	3.10 / 0.88 246	3.33 / 0.93 2,116	3.20 / 0.91 4,209	-0.23 **	-0.10	7 of 11	10 of 19
B. Overall, how would you rate your health?	4.33 / 0.61 246	4.27 / 0.64 2,133	4.25 / 0.64 4,244	0.06	0.08	4 of 11	5 of 19
D. Think back to a typical week in your last year of high school. How often did you consume alcoholic beverages?	0.31 / 0.68 246	0.56 / 1.05 2,133	0.51 / 0.98 4,242	-0.26 **	-0.20 *	9 of 11	17 of 19
G. How often do you feel that you are “sleep deprived” (i.e., don’t get enough sleep to function effectively)?	3.21 / 0.84 246	3.23 / 0.92 2,132	3.26 / 0.93 4,243	-0.02	-0.05	6 of 11	13 of 19

Averages are based on the following response codings: Item A—Far left = 5, Liberal = 4, Middle-of-the-road = 3, Conservative = 2, Far right = 1.

Item B—Excellent = 5, Good = 4, Fair = 3, Poor = 2, Very poor = 1.

Item D—0 times = 0, 1 time per week = 1, 2 times per week = 2, 3 times per week = 3, 4 times per week = 4, 5 times per week = 5, 6 times per week = 6, 7 times per week = 7, More than 7 times per week = 8.

Item G—Almost always = 5, Frequently = 4, Occasionally = 3, Seldom = 2, Never = 1.

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**Table 4**  
**Registration Form**  
**Item 18**  
**Gustavus Adolphus College**

	Averages and Frequencies			Comparisons for Gustavus Adolphus College			
	Gustavus Adolphus College	Other 10 Small Institutions	All Other Institutions	Institution Avg. Minus Other Small Institutions Avg.	Institution Avg. Minus All Other Institutions Avg.	School Avg. Rank Among Small Institutions	Institution Avg. Rank Among All Institutions
During your last year in high school, how often did you engage in each of the following activities?	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>				
a. Studying/doing homework by yourself	4.11 / 0.86 246	4.13 / 0.96 2,126	4.14 / 0.97 4,224	-0.02	-0.03	6 of 11	10 of 19
b. Studying/doing homework with friends	2.83 / 0.91 246	2.73 / 1.01 2,120	2.76 / 0.98 4,214	0.10	0.07	3 of 11	5 of 19
c. Socializing with friends	4.31 / 0.77 246	4.37 / 0.77 2,124	4.39 / 0.76 4,222	-0.05	-0.07	9 of 11	16 of 19
d. Talking with teachers outside of class	3.49 / 0.89 246	3.46 / 0.98 2,120	3.39 / 0.99 4,212	0.03	0.10	6 of 11	7 of 19
e. Working for pay	3.26 / 1.29 245	2.99 / 1.39 2,122	3.09 / 1.40 4,216	0.27 *	0.17	4 of 11	8 of 19
f. Community service/volunteer work	3.31 / 1.02 246	3.12 / 1.10 2,120	3.13 / 1.10 4,215	0.19 *	0.18 *	3 of 11	5 of 19
g. Exercising/sports	3.83 / 1.17 246	3.74 / 1.21 2,121	3.80 / 1.18 4,215	0.09	0.03	7 of 11	12 of 19
h. Participating in extracurricular activities (student government, student clubs, etc.)	3.87 / 1.18 246	3.72 / 1.22 2,120	3.72 / 1.24 4,214	0.15	0.14	2 of 11	5 of 19

Averages are based on the following response codings: Very Often = 5, Often = 4, Occasionally = 3, Rarely = 2, Never = 1.

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**Table 4**  
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**Item 18**  
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During your last year in high school, how often did you engage in each of the following activities?	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>	<i>Avg/SD</i> <i>n</i>				
i. Using the Internet for research or homework	4.27 / 0.78 246	4.22 / 0.91 2,120	4.21 / 0.92 4,217	0.06	0.06	6 of 11	9 of 19
j. Reading for pleasure	3.22 / 1.13 245	3.33 / 1.21 2,122	3.23 / 1.19 4,218	-0.11	-0.01	6 of 11	8 of 19
k. Using a library for research or homework	2.84 / 0.98 243	2.94 / 1.07 2,114	2.91 / 1.06 4,203	-0.10	-0.07	8 of 11	13 of 19
l. Using a computer for recreational purposes (communicating with friends, games, surfing the Internet, etc.)	4.03 / 1.00 246	4.29 / 0.93 2,115	4.29 / 0.95 4,212	-0.26 **	-0.26 **	11 of 11	18 of 19

Averages are based on the following response codings: Very Often = 5, Often = 4, Occasionally = 3, Rarely = 2, Never = 1.

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