
WABASH NATIONAL STUDY OF **Liberal Arts** Education

Overview

The University of Rhode Island is in its second year of participation in the *Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education*, a large-scale, longitudinal study which investigates critical factors that affect the outcomes of a liberal arts education. The study, which began in the fall of 2006, includes 49 colleges and universities to date.

The purpose of the study is to provide both the evidence *and* support necessary to help liberal arts institutions systematically improve student learning and enhance the impact of their programs by assessing, for example, the impact of teaching practices and institutional conditions on learning outcomes. Students are assessed at three points during their college experience: fall and spring of their freshman year; spring of their senior year. The study focuses on the following seven outcomes associated with a liberal arts education:

1. the inclination for life-long inquiry and learning;
2. leadership;
3. well-being;
4. moral reasoning;
5. the integration of learning;
6. effective reasoning and problem solving;
7. intercultural effectiveness.

For more information about the study, visit the Center of Inquiry at Wabash College at:
<http://www.wabashnationalstudy.org/wns/overview.html>

For information about the fall and spring survey instruments, and to examine a sample of survey questionnaires, visit:

<http://www.wabashnationalstudy.org/files/student-surveys-and-outcome-measures-02.09.pdf>

(Note: 1/3 of the URI students also participated in the CAAP Essay Test, fall 2008, spring 2009.)

Student Participation at the University of Rhode Island

- 1st Cohort:** Fall 2007 – Part I, Freshmen Survey, completed (~600 students)
Spring 2008 – Part II, Freshmen Survey, completed (~300 student subset)
Spring 2011 – Part III, Senior Survey, TBA
- 2nd Cohort:** Fall 2008 – Part I, Freshmen survey, completed (~1150 students)
Spring 2009 – Part II, Freshmen survey, **begins March 23!**
Spring 2012 – Part III, Senior Survey, TBA