

Alumni Perceptions of Oakton's Mission

Each summer, Oakton surveys alumni from baccalaureate-transfer programs who earned at least 30 credits or an associate degree at the College and who have been away for one year or three years. We asked alumni whether they were familiar with statements in Oakton's mission statement, and whether they thought the statements accurately reflected the College. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association places high importance on an institution's mission statement and the extent to which its programs, services and culture are aligned with the mission. It is also important for Oakton to know whether, in our alumni's view, we are living up to our goals.

In 2005, more than 450 alumni responded to the telephone survey. In order to make the survey a reasonable length, we divided the mission statements into two groups and randomly selected half the alumni to think about one group of statements and the other half to think about the second group of statements. Therefore, we have approximately 230 responses for each statement.

Here is what our alumni told us.

Mission Statement	Number of Respondents	Mean Scores (5 = Highest level of familiarity/accuracy)	
		Familiarity	Accuracy
Oakton is dedicated to excellence in teaching and learning.	238	3.93	4.47
Oakton demands tolerance, fairness, responsibility, compassion, and integrity.	233	3.70	4.47
Oakton provides education and training for and throughout a lifetime.	232	3.48	4.41
Oakton expects students to assume responsibility for their own learning, to exercise leadership, and to apply ethical principles.	236	3.65	4.41
Oakton recognizes that education must be for the future.	231	3.53	4.33
Oakton encourages students to entertain and question ideas, think critically, solve problems, and engage with other cultures.	234	3.48	4.27
Oakton challenges our students to experience the hard work and satisfaction of learning that leads to intellectual growth.	235	3.32	4.24
Oakton promotes a caring community of staff and faculty, students, administrators, and trustees who work together to fulfill our mission.	231	3.41	4.24
Oakton challenges our students to be capable global citizens.	230	3.17	4.08
Oakton seeks to improve and expand the services in the communities we serve.	230	3.13	4.07

These data indicate that alumni of baccalaureate transfer programs report they are generally familiar with Oakton's mission statements. More important, they view these statements as accurate reflections of the College.

Other results of the 2005 Baccalaureate Alumni Survey will be available soon from the Office of Research.