

Confidence in Attaining College Success

This Fall, the Office of Research conducted its annual survey of current Oakton students. In order to select a representative sample of the student population, course sections at the college were randomly selected, and surveys were administered by faculty during class time. Survey responses are weighted so that the results are representative of both full-time and part-time students. December's *In the Abstract* features responses to two areas of interest in the Current Student Survey. The complete report will be available in January.

This year's survey sought to determine how confident students were in several areas related to student success. As an approach to understanding what factors might impact student confidence, we compare how confident students are based on their level of educational attainment. Table 1 shows the percentage of students, by educational attainment, who express confidence in each area of success. The last column also shows the percentage of all respondents who reported that the area of success was not applicable to them. Table 2 shows results from this question: "How likely would you be to seek help at Oakton about any of the topics listed in the question above?"

Table 1 – Confidence in Areas of College Success by Education (weighted results)

Area of success...	Some College	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree or Higher	Area Not Applicable
Managing my study time	84%	84%	94%	97%	11%
Taking class notes	91%	91%	100%	97%	13%
Understanding the main ideas in my textbook	91%	92%	98%	97%	11%
Knowing how I learn best	93%	88%	99%	97%	13%
Working in groups with my classmates	85%	86%	90%	97%	27%
Studying for exams	85%	90%	98%	97%	13%
Writing papers	83%	87%	92%	92%	19%
Getting the grades I want in my classes	88%	89%	96%	95%	17%
Sharing my point of view	88%	88%	95%	96%	17%
Fulfilling my educational goals	94%	93%	98%	97%	13%
Asking for academic help	79%	89%	93%	91%	25%

Table 2 – Likelihood of Seeking Help for College Success by Education (weighted results)

Likelihood of seeking help by education	Some College	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree or Higher
Likely	72%	81%	74%	71%
Unlikely	28%	19%	26%	29%

What do the data tell us?

- Oakton students across all educational levels express confidence in areas related to college success.
- Recipients of Bachelor's Degrees or higher typically express more confidence than students with some college or an Associate Degree.
- At least one quarter of students reported that both working in groups with classmates and asking for academic help were not applicable to them, and one-fifth did not find that writing papers applied to their college success.
- Across educational levels, an average of one quarter of students reported that they were unlikely to seek help at Oakton about any of the areas of college success.