

## Explorations Assessment Annual Report, 2019 – 2020

In the Fall of 2019, Explorations offered 26 total sections, averaging 11 students per section. Of these 26, 23 were taught by those students' CNSA advisor, two by faculty members not on CNSA, and one by a member of the Athletic Department.

There were no major curricular or other changes to Explorations for the Fall of 2019. As detailed below, we have rephrased the learning goals, which will take effect starting with the next academic year.

### Student Assessment Plan:

For the Fall 2019 semester, the learning goals were:

Program Learning Goal 1: To assist first year students in making a successful transition to academic and student life at Hendrix.

Program Learning Goal 2: To assist first year students in developing their capacity to reflect critically on their values, interests, and abilities as related to academic and student life at Hendrix.

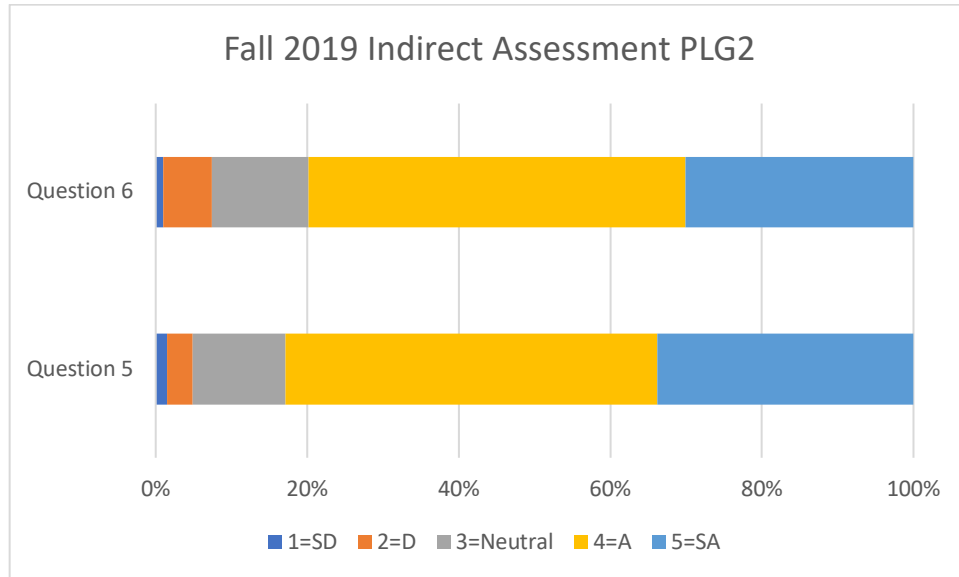
Indirect assessment information was collected for both goals, but direct assessment information was collected only for the second learning goal. For this assessment year, we are only assessing the second goal, but will use the other information gathered to inform our assessment of the first goal next year.

#### *Indirect Assessment Information*

Two questions related to PLG2 were asked on the end-of-semester student feedback forms. For each question, students were asked to use a Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree) to rate each statement. For comparison purposes, we also show the results of the same questions from the 2017 & 2018 Fall offerings.

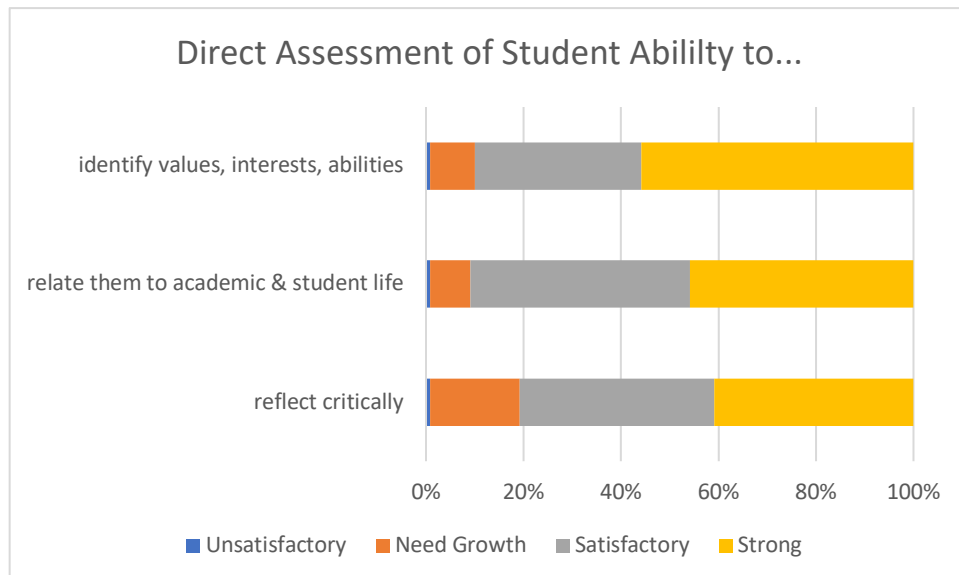
Question	Fall 2019	Fall 2018	Fall 2017
5. Explorations has provided me with tool and resources that I can use to consider my talents and interests and then relate to future career and vocational exploration	4.10	4.07	3.91
6. Explorations has helped me reflect on what is involved in selecting a major *	4.01	4.13	3.85

For each question, we also show the Fall 2019 distribution of responses:



### *Direct Assessment*

At the end of the semester, instructors were asked to assess their students' achievement of Program Learning Goal 2, using the completed reflection journal written by each student throughout the semester as the evidence to support their assessment. Each student was rated on a scale of achievement of "Strong," "Satisfactory," "Need Growth," and "Unsatisfactory."



### *Analysis*

The data supports a conclusion that students are achieving the intended goal. Approximately 80% of students rate themselves as being able to reflect on their experiences in a way that we intend, and likewise, our instructors also concur in rating more than 80% of students as either “Satisfactory” or “Strong” in their achievement of PLG2. Explorations is giving them an opportunity to develop their abilities to reflect on their experiences as first year students and to assist in making decisions about their academic and vocational future. According to the indirect assessment, a strong majority of students themselves believe that they are accomplishing this goal in the class, and the instructor produced direct assessment backs this up. Explorations is accomplishing this goal.

## **Changes and Updates:**

After review, the Explorations Working Group has rewritten the learning goals for the course. The previous goals (those at the top of this document), while expressing our desired outcomes in the course, were written in a course-centric rather than student-centric matter. After a discussion, the Working Group approved a change in learning goals to:

**Program Learning Goal 1:** Upon completion of the course, students will be able to articulate the skills and resources necessary to make a successful transition to academic and student life at Hendrix.

**Program Learning Goal 2:** Upon completion of the course, students will be able to reflect critically on their values, interests, and abilities as they relate to academic and student life at Hendrix.

We believe that these adequately reflect what we wish to accomplish through the course. As noted in our Student Assessment Plan, we will collect information each year related to each goal but will alternate our official assessment between the two goals.

## **Plan for Next Year:**

The Working Group will develop a direct assessment tool designed to allow us to collect information for Learning Goal 1. We will produce a list of skills and resources that we believe are necessary to a successful transition to Hendrix and ask our students questions designed to determine if they are aware of these and how to use them. We will use this direct assessment tool in conjunction with the appropriate questions that currently exist on our Student Feedback Forms to perform our assessment of PLG 1.