

The Community College Student Engagement Survey (CCSSE) provides student engagement information regarding TCCD students.

This Critical Thinking Comparison report looks at student responses on CCSSE questions that deal with **critical thinking**, comparing the 2010 and 2013 administrations for TCCD students and the 2013 administration for TCCD students and their peers at extra-large community colleges.

## SUMMARY

N = 1,425

### TCCD Student Increases:

Between 2010 and 2013, TCCD student responses increased in 10 out of the 15 (67%) critical thinking survey items.

\* Large increases included: (a) working with other students on projects during class (+10%), (b) working with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments (+6%) and (c) applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations (+5%).

### TCCD Student Decreases:

Between 2010 and 2013, TCCD student responses decreased in 4 out of the 15 (27%) critical thinking survey items.

\* Percentage decreases were minimal with the largest decreases capped at -3% for: (a) making judgements about the value or soundness of information, arguments or methods and (b) discussing ideas from readings or classes with others outside of class.

### Peer Comparisons:

When compared to the District's Extra-Large College Peers in the 2013 CCSSE Administration, TCCD students responses were lower than peer responses on 9 out of the 15 (60%) critical thinking survey items.

\* TCCD students responded higher than peer institution students in two areas: (a) working with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments (+5%) and (b) making a class presentation (+1%).

\* Percentage decreases were minimal with the largest decreases capped at -4% for: (a) asking questions in class or contributing to class discussions and (b) analyzing basic elements of an idea, experience or theory.

\* There were five survey items where while TCCD students improved, they still lagged behind their peers. Those areas include: (a) asking questions in class or contributing to class discussions, (b) synthesizing and organizing ideas, information or experiences in new ways, (c) applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations, (d) participating in an internship, field experience, co-op or clinical assignment and (e) participating in an organized learning community.

**CCSSE Critical Thinking Question Comparison\***  
**2010 and 2013**

	TCCD 2010	TCCD 2013	TCCD 2010 to 2013 Difference	Extra Large Colleges 2013	TCCD/ Extra Large Colleges 2013 Difference
In your experiences at this college during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following?					
<b>4. Academic and Intellectual Experiences</b>	<i>% Often or Very Often</i>				
a. Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions**	56%	59%	3%	63%	-4%
b. Made a class presentation**	35%	34%	-1%	33%	1%
d. Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources	64%	65%	1%	65%	0%
f. Worked with other students on projects <b>during class**</b>	38%	48%	10%	48%	0%
g. Worked with classmates <b>outside of class</b> to prepare class assignments**	22%	28%	6%	23%	5%
h. Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary)**	7%	8%	1%	8%	0%
i. Participated in a community-based project as part of a regular course**	7%	5%	-2%	7%	-2%
r. Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class**	50%	47%	-3%	50%	-3%

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During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities?

**5. Mental Activities**

*% of Quite a Bit and Very Much*

b. <b>Analyzing</b> the basic elements of an idea, experience or theory	67%	67%	0%	71%	-4%
c. <b>Synthesizing</b> and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new ways	57%	61%	4%	63%	-2%
d. <b>Making judgments</b> about the value or soundness of information, arguments or methods	54%	51%	-3%	55%	-4%
e. <b>Applying</b> theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations	53%	58%	5%	59%	-1%

Which of the following have you done, are you doing or do you plan to do while attending this college?

**8. Enriching Educational Experiences**

*% of I have done*

a. Internship, field experience, co-op experience or clinical assignment	8%	10%	2%	13%	-3%
i. Organized learning community	7%	8%	1%	10%	-2%

How much has your experience at this college contributed to your knowledge, skills and personal development in the following areas?

**12. Educational and Personal Growth**

*% of Quite a Bit and Very Much*

e. Thinking critically and analytically	68%	71%	3%	71%	0%
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\* Weighted by enrollment status

\*\* Items included in the Active and Collaborative Learning Benchmark