ACT Faces of the Future: Spring 2003

Summary of Results

In the fall of 2002, Los Medanos College participated in the ACT Faces of the Future national study, sponsored by the CCCCD Chancellor’s Office. The study consisted of asking students about their:

1. Personal Background
2. Employment Background
3. Education Background
4. Current College Experience

A sample of 20 courses drawn from the college, yield a sample of 147 students. Some of the findings include:

- 41.5% have experienced change or loss of job.
- 40.8% use the World Wide Web daily.
- Two reasons with the highest ratings students gave on how they pay the classes they take at LMC are: “Own income/savings“ (2.98 out of 4 points) and “Parents income/savings (2.41 out of 4 points)”.
- “Cost/Availability of books” (2.41 out of 4 points) and “Personal financial problems” (2.29 out of 4 points) are the two problems students encounter at LMC.
- The highest level of education of the MOTHER is high school or less for 36.7% of the students attending LMC; the highest level of education for the FATHER is high school or less for 38.1% of the students.
- 26.5% of the students work full time and 44.2% work part time.
- 77% indicated that the reason to take courses at LMC is to transfer to a 4-year university.
- The three most popular areas of growth that students expressed from their experiences at LMC are: “Increasing my academic competence” (3.97 out of 5 points), “Learning skills needed specifically for my current or future job” (3.86 out of 5 points), and “Enriching my intellectual life” (3.67 out of 5 points).
- 69.4 % of the students would recommend LMC to relatives and friends.
- 69.4% feel that faculty and administrators treat students of the same gender with respect.
- In terms of college satisfaction, 28.6% of the students are VERY satisfied with LMC and 42.2% are SATISFIED.
I. General Background

Currently Enrolled at This College in: (N=147)

- 1 or more noncredit course(s): 2.0%
- 1 course taken for credit: 15.0%
- 2-3 courses taken for credit: 38.1%
- 4-5 courses taken for credit: 38.8%
- 6 or more courses taken for credit: 8.2%
- Blank: 0.0%

Age (N=147)

- 20 or under: 41.5%
- 21-22: 16.3%
- 23-24: 6.1%
- 25-26: 6.1%
- 27-29: 4.1%
- 30-34: 4.1%
- 35-39: 10.2%
- 40-45: 1.4%
- 46-49: 3.4%
- 50-59: 4.1%
- 60 or over: 0.7%
- Blank: 3.4%

Sex (N=147)

- Female: 59%
- Male: 41%
- Blank: 0%
Annual Income from All Sources for Most Recent Year
(N=147)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$9,999 or less</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000-$14,999</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000-$19,999</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000-$29,999</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30,000-$39,999</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000-$49,999</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000-$59,999</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60,000-$74,999</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000-$99,999</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 or more</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't know</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to respond</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blank</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During past two years, have you experienced:
(N=147)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change or Loss of Job</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth/Adoption of Child(ren)</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death of Immediate Family Member</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce/ Separation</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assumed Primary Responsibility for Person with Illness or other Disabling Condition</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How Often do you use the Internet or WWW:
(N=147)

- Never: 0.7%
- Several times per year: 4.1%
- Once a month: 6.8%
- Once a week: 13.6%
- Several times per week: 34.0%
- Daily: 40.8%
- Blank: 0.0%

Highest Level of Education attained by your Mother:
(N=147)

- Less than high school diploma: 9.5%
- High school diploma or GED: 27.2%
- Some college, no certificate or degree: 28.6%
- Vocational/technical certificate: 8.2%
- Associate or other 2-year degree: 10.2%
- Bachelor's degree: 11.6%
- Master's/doctoral/professional degree: 2.0%
- Blank: 2.7%

Indicate if you do or do not have each of the following: YES
(N=147)

- An email address: through the college: 10.2%
- An email address: at home: 87.8%
- An email address: at work: 17.0%
- Web access: through the college: 72.1%
- Web access: at home: 89.9%
- Web access: at work: 25.9%
Importance of accomplishing activities/goals:
(N=147)

1. To make a theoretical or practical contribution to science
   Importance: 2.24

2. To own and operate my own business
   Importance: 3.00

3. To be active in my community
   Importance: 3.15

4. To meet new and interesting people
   Importance: 3.97

5. To make a lot of money
   Importance: 4.02

6. To be a parent
   Importance: 4.09

7. To help others who are in need
   Importance: 4.14

8. To be self-reliant
   Importance: 4.65

9. To have a steady, secure job
   Importance: 4.68

10. To have time for my personal/family interests
    Importance: 4.75

Source of Funds to Pay for Classes
(N=147)

1. My own income/savings
   Importance: 2.98

2. Student financial aid
   Importance: 2.41

3. Employer contributions
   Importance: 1.96

4. Other
   Importance: 1.39

Degree of Problems Encountered while Taking Classes
(N=147)

1. Cost and/or availability of books and related materials
   Importance: 2.41

2. Medical expenses
   Importance: 1.48

3. Cost of transportation
   Importance: 1.66

4. Transportation problems
   Importance: 1.71

5. Cost of computer
   Importance: 1.86

6. Other
   Importance: 1.93

7. Family responsibilities
   Importance: 1.93

8. Job-related responsibilities
   Importance: 2.13

9. Cost of child or other dependent care
   Importance: 2.23

10. Finding acceptable child or other dependent care
    Importance: 2.24

11. Personal financial problems
    Importance: 2.29

12. Cost and/or availability of books and related materials
    Importance: 2.41
II. Employment Background

Employment Status
(N=147)

- Caring for my family/home full-time: 4.1%
- Employed part-time (including self-employed): 44.2%
- Employed full-time (including self-employed): 26.5%
- Unemployed - seeking employment: 11.6%
- Unemployed - not seeking employment: 8.8%
- Blank: 4.8%

Number of Jobs Currently Held (for employed students)
(N=147)

- 1 Full-time: 24.5%
- 2 Full-time: 1.4%
- 1 Part-time: 36.7%
- 2 Part-time: 7.5%
- 3 or more part-time: 2.0%
- Occasional jobs: 4.8%
- Blank: 29.9%

Years Held Current Primary Job
(N=147)

- Less than 1 year: 29.9%
- 1-2 years: 25.9%
- 3-4 years: 10.2%
- 5-10 years: 4.1%
- More than 10 years: 4.1%
- Blank: 25.9%
Hours per Week Working while Taking this Course 
(N=147)

- Don't know: 5.4%
- 1-10 hours per week: 4.1%
- 11-20 hours per week: 13.6%
- 21-30 hours per week: 19.7%
- 31-34 hours per week: 4.8%
- 35-39 hours per week: 6.1%
- 40-50 hours per week: 15.6%
- Over 50 hours per week: 2.7%
- Blank: 27.9%

Times Typically Work at Primary Job 
(N=147)

- Weekdays: 42.2%
- Evenings: 17.7%
- Overnight: 0.0%
- Other: 8.2%
- Blank: 32.0%

Your Employer will Pay for: 
(N=147)

- Employer does not pay for any education/training expenses: 52.4%
- All of tuition: 5.4%
- Part of tuition: 6.8%
- Books and materials: 8.2%
- Transportation: 1.4%
- Dependent care: 0.7%
- Other: 2.7%
- Blank: 32.7%
III. Education Background

Other Type of Educational Institution(s) Currently Enrolled (N=147)

- None: 78.2%
- High school: 3.4%
- Another community college: 7.5%
- Vocational/technical school: 2.0%
- 4-year college/university: 2.7%
- Other: 2.0%
- Blank: 4.8%

Reason(s) for Taking Classes at This College (N=147)

- To take courses related to current work/job: 13.6%
- To take courses related to future work/job: 43.5%
- To maintain a license or certification: 10.2%
- To transfer to a 4-year college: 70.7%
- To complete a vocational/technical program: 27.2%
- To obtain an associate degree: 31.3%
- To prepare for a GED or high school diploma: 0.0%
- No definite purpose in mind: 0.7%
- Other: 7.5%
- Blank: 2.7%
Reasons for Taking Current Course/Program
(N=147)

1 = not a reason  2 = minor reason  3 = moderate reason  4 = major reason

- To develop my mind & intellectual abilities: 3.19
- To meet requirements of my chosen occupation: 3.14
- To increase my earning power: 2.93
- To study new & different subjects: 2.44
- To make a career change: 2.01
- To meet new/interesting people: 1.99
- To advance in my current job: 1.6
- To develop my computer/ technology skills: 1.61
- High school teacher's and/or counselor's encouragement: 1.54
- Parents and/or relatives wanted me to continue my education: 1.87
- Needed to enter workforce after major life change: 1.39
- Other: 1.22
- To learn the English language and culture: 1.13
- Required by employer: 1.15
- Wanted to enter workforce after children grown: 1.21
- Other: 1.22
Importance of Factors in Decision to Attend This College
(N=147)

Distance of the college from my permanent residence 4.22
Cost of attending the college 3.87
Variety of courses offered 3.24
A particular program of study 3.19
Academic reputation of the college 2.63
Type of community in which the college is located 2.55
Availability of financial aid or scholarship 2.46
Distance of the college from my place of employment 2.38
Entrance requirements 2.31
Size of the college 2.17
Opportunity for part-time work 2.14
Other 1.19

Source From Which You Learned Most About This College Before Enrolling
(N=147)

Newspaper 1.4%
Television/ radio 0.0%
Current/ prospective employer 0.0%
Co-worker 0.7%
College catalogue/ brochure/ flier 19.7%
High school teacher/ counselor 21.1%
Family member/ friend 31.3%
Internet/ WWW 4.1%
Other 12.9%
Blank 8.8%
IV. Current College Experience

College Experiences Contribution to Growth
(N=147)

- Increasing my academic competence: 3.97
- Learning skills needed specifically for my current or future job: 3.86
- Enriching my intellectual life: 3.67
- Identifying the training and skills required for career opportunities that fit my interests and abilities: 3.56
- Developing self-confidence: 3.42
- Developing an openness to opinions other than my own: 2.89
- Learning effective leadership skills: 2.82
- Communicating with others in the work setting: 2.72
- Learning how to work effectively as a member of a team: 2.69
- Learning to use a computer for my personal tasks: 2.54
- Learning to use a computer for my work-related tasks: 2.4

1=no contribution  3=moderate contribution  5=major contribution

Satisfaction with This College
(N=147)

- Very satisfied: 28.6%
- Satisfied: 42.2%
- Neutral: 15.6%
- Dissatisfied: 0.7%
- Very Dissatisfied: 0.0%
- Blank: 12.9%
### Agreement with Statements about This College

**(N=147)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I would recommend this college to friends and relatives</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructors and administrators treat students of my gender with respect</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructors treat students in my racial/ethnic group with respect</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall, my program of study at this college has been sufficiently</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>challenging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My academic experiences have been positive</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrators and non-teaching staff treat students in my racial/ethnic</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>group with respect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concern is shown for students as individuals</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction is of high quality</td>
<td>58.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel that I fit in at this college</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most instructors are available outside of class time</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students in my racial/ethnic group are treated with respect by</td>
<td>55.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>students in other racial/ethnic groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing services and facilities are available at the times I need them</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This college has a good reputation in the community</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The registration process is student friendly</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses are available at the times I can take them</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic advising is of high quality</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I received all the help I needed from the financial aid office personnel</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to make my application(s) for financial aid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I could not have attended this college without the financial aid I</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>received</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>