



## SUPPORTING DEEP APPROACHES TO LEARNING IN STUDENT AFFAIRS

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## Introductions & Overview

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- Presenter Introductions
- Deep Approaches to Learning (DAL)
- Some DAL Findings
- Defining Exercise
- Planning Exercise
- Discussion
- Comments/Questions



## What is Deep Learning?

“Deep learning is learning that takes root in our apparatus of understanding, in the embedded meanings that define us and that we use to define the world”

Tagg, 2003, p. 70



## “Surface-Level Processing”

- Focus on substance
- Emphasize memorization and rote learning
- Goal is simply to avoid failure

## “Deep-Level Processing”

- Focus on substance *and* the underlying meaning
- Personal commitment to understanding
- Reflection on relationships between pieces of information
- Applying knowledge to “real life”
- Integration & synthesis of information with prior learning

## Process and Outcome

### □ Deep approaches to learning (process)

- ▣ Learning activities characterized by deep connections to the material

### □ Deep learning (outcome)

- ▣ Learning of substance and underlying meaning

## Setting the Context

- The approaches to learning students use depend on context

- The key to setting the context to foster the use of deep approaches to learning...

**Educators!**

## Measuring Deep Approaches to Learning



## NSSE Measures

### Deep Approaches to Learning Scale

#### Sub-Scales

- ▣ Reflective learning
- ▣ Integrative learning
- ▣ Higher-order learning

## Reflective Learning

- Students were asked how often they did the following during the current school year:
  - ▣ Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue
  - ▣ Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective
  - ▣ Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept

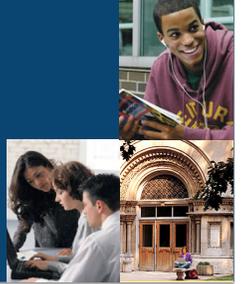
## Integrative Learning

- Students were asked how often they did the following during the current school year:
  - ▣ Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources
  - ▣ Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, genders, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussions or writing assignments
  - ▣ Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions
  - ▣ Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class
  - ▣ Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)

## Higher-Order Learning

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- Students were asked how much their coursework emphasized the following:
    - **Analyzing** the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components
    - **Synthesizing** and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships
    - **Making judgments** about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions
    - **Applying** theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations

## Some findings of note...



## Students likely to use DAL...

- 15
- Women (+)
  - Asian-Americans (-)
  - Other SOC (+)
  - First-generation (-)
  - Traditional age (-)
  - Full-time (++)
  - Greek affiliation (+)
  - Major (++++)
  - Students at Liberal Arts Colleges (+)
  - Students at private institutions (+)
  - Results based on seniors

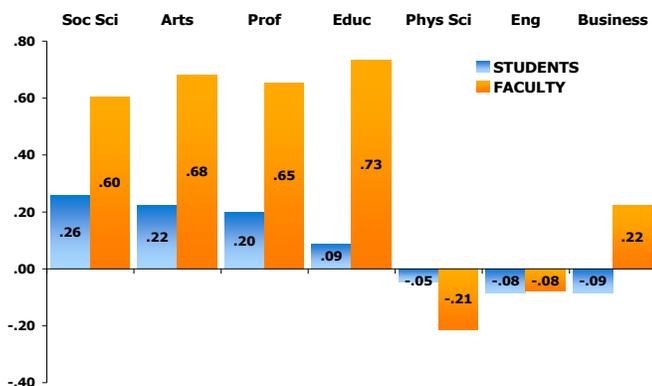


## Faculty likely to emphasize DAL...

- 16
- Women (++)
  - Faculty of color (++)
  - Upper division (++)
  - Years teaching (-)
  - Discipline (++++)
  - Faculty at private institutions (+)



## Disciplinary Comparisons: DAL



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## DEFINING EXERCISE

1. Think of a group of students
2. Define what \_\_\_ learning is for that group of students
3. Share your definitions with your team
4. Pick a student group and create a collective definition



## **PLANNING EXERCISE**

**For the group of students you picked and relying on your definition of \_\_\_\_ learning, plan a project/activity/program that will promote the adoption of that approach to learning**

