

How to Interpret the 2010 College Senior Survey Results

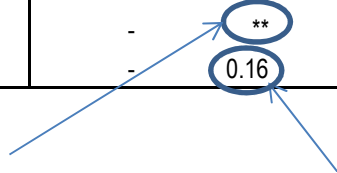
Comparison Group 1: Other Religious 4yr Colleges

Comparison Group 2: Nonsectarian, Catholic, Other Religious 4yr Colleges



2009-2010 College Senior Survey Institutional Profile Report All Respondents

	Total			Men			Women		
Messiah College	Your Inst	Comp 1	Comp 2	Your Inst	Comp 1	Comp 2	Your Inst	Comp 1	Comp 2
All Respondents	310	7,622	19,187	90	2,820	7,004	220	4,802	12,183
Compared with when you first entered this college, how would you now describe your:									
General knowledge	55.2%	48.9%	50.4%	52.2%	46.1%	49.4%	56.4%	50.5%	51.0%
Stronger	43.9%	48.3%	46.9%	46.7%	50.7%	47.4%	42.7%	46.9%	46.6%
No change	1.0%	2.1%	2.0%	1.1%	2.3%	2.4%	0.9%	2.0%	1.8%
Weaker	0.0%	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%	0.5%	0.6%
Much weaker	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Total (n)	310	7,615	19,168	90	2,818	7,000	220	4,797	12,168
Mean	4.54	4.45	4.47	4.51	4.42	4.45	4.55	4.47	4.48
Standard deviation	0.52	0.58	0.58	0.52	0.59	0.60	0.52	0.57	0.57
Significance	-	**	*	-			-	*	
Effect size	-	0.16	0.12	-	0.15	0.10	-	0.14	0.12



Effect Size - the practical significance of the mean difference between Messiah and the comparison group. Generally, an effect size of .2 is considered small, .5 medium, and .8 large. A positive sign indicates Messiah's mean is greater than the mean of the comparison group. A negative sign indicates Messiah's mean is smaller than the mean of the comparison group.

Statistical Significance - based on a t-test to examine the difference between the mean score for Messiah and the comparison group. Mean differences larger than expected by chance are noted with one, two, or three stars, corresponding to significance level (* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$).

Interpretation in this case: Messiah is significantly different from comparison group 1. The effect size is positive and small meaning that Messiah College students rated their general knowledge as stronger than other religious 4-year colleges.