2018 Implicit Curriculum Survey Summary

Nazareth College

BSW Program

Spring 2018

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&

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This questionnaire was administered in two sections of Senior Seminar in April 2018 to the cohort of **24** graduating seniors majoring in Social Work.

**Part 1: Questions focusing on five important aspects of the BSW Program’s implicit curriculum.**

Students were asked to indicate the extent to which the BSW program adequately developed their knowledge, values, and skills in five important implicit curriculum areas. Examination of student responses focuses upon comparison of graduating seniors’ mean ratings to the program’s 4.0 mean rating benchmark. Students were asked to each questionnaire items using the following scale:

1. Strongly Disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neutral
4. Agree
5. Strongly Agree

**Implicit Curriculum Area: Diversity**

In the “diversity” aspect of the BSW Program’s implicit curriculum, the average rating is a 4.5. The vast majority of students agreed or strongly agreed with each item examining the Program’s attention to diversity.

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| --- |
|  Responses |
|  |  1 |  2 |  3 |  4 |  5 | Mean |
| 1. The undergraduate Social Work Program at Nazareth College provided me with tools needed to work competently with people from diverse backgrounds. | 1 |  |  | 9 | 14 | 4.46 |
| 2. I have expanded my awareness of different belief systems, cultures, and way of life through completion of the Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work Program. |  | 1 |  | 7 | 16 | 4.58 |
| 3. I have increased my ability to work competently with different types of people because of the Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work program. | 1 |  |  | 7 | 16 | 4.54 |
| 4. I have improved my ability to work as a team member with professionals from different backgrounds because of the Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work program. | 1 |  |  | 9 | 14 | 4.46 |
| 5. The undergraduate program at Nazareth College increased my ability to recognize social injustice. | 1 |  | 1 | 6 | 16 | 4.50 |

**Implicit Curriculum Area: Teaching Environment/ Faculty**

In the “teaching environment/faculty” area of the BSW Program’s implicit curriculum, the average item rating is a 4.37. Again, the vast majority of students either agreed or strongly agreed with each item.

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|  Responses |
|  |  1 |  2 |  3 |  4 |  5 | Mean |
| 6. Faculty members in the Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work program fostered a learning environment that was supportive of my success. | 1 |  | 2 | 5 | 16 | 4.46 |
| 7. Information about the qualifications of faculty members in the Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work program is available. |  |  | 1 | 14 | 9 | 4.33 |
| 8. The Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work program’s structure (for example, the timing and sequence of courses) was conductive to my success. | 1 |  | 2 | 12 | 9 | 4.17 |
| 9. The Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work program’s policies are easy to access. | 1 |  | 2 | 8 | 13 | 4.33 |
| 10. Overall, the atmosphere of the Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work program was positive. | 1 |  | 1 | 5 | 17 | 4.54 |

**Implicit Curriculum Area: General Administrative Environment**

In the “general administrative environment” area of the BSW Program’s implicit curriculum the average item rating is a 4.06. Students were more evenly spread across the neutral, agree, and strongly agree response options in this particular area.

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|  Responses |
|  |  1 |  2 |  3 |  4 |  5 | Mean |
| 11. Nazareth College’s administration fosters an environment conductive to student success. | 1 |  | 3 | 13 | 7 | 4.04 |
| 12. Nazareth College’s administration addresses the needs of people from diverse backgrounds. |  |  | 5 | 11 | 8 | 4.13 |
| 13. When students have concerns, Nazareth College administrators and other staff members are responsive. | 1 |  | 6 | 8 | 9 | 4.00 |
| 14. Nazareth College policies (for example, related to admission or dismissal) are clear. | 1 |  | 5 | 10 | 8 | 4.00 |
| 15. Nazareth College’s academic supports and resources were adequate to address my academic needs. | 1 |  | 3 | 11 | 9 | 4.13 |

**Implicit Curriculum Area: Physical and Technological Environment**

In the “physical and technological environment” area of the BSW Program’s implicit curriculum the average item rating is a 3.89. This is the one area of the implicit curriculum in which the 4.0 Program benchmark was not achieved. The item “The Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work program’s physical environment is comfortable for students” received the lowest mean rating (3.50).

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|  Responses |
|  |  1 |  2 |  3 |  4 |  5 | Mean |
| 16. There is sufficient common space for socializing at Nazareth College. |  | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 3.83 |
| 17.The classrooms that students meet in are conductive to learning. | 1 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3.75 |
| 18. The Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work program’s physical environment is comfortable for students. | 1 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3.50 |
| 19. The Nazareth College campus has the technological and related resources I needed to complete assignments successfully. |  |  | 4 | 11 | 9 | 4.21 |
| 20. The Nazareth College campus is accessible for diverse students. |  | 1 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 4.17 |

**Implicit Curriculum Area: Advisement**

In the “advisement” aspect of the BSW Program’s implicit curriculum, the average rating is a 4.24. Although the majority of students agreed or strongly agreed with each item, the item “I received important information related to Academic Advisement on a regular basis” received the lowest mean rating (3.96), just under the Program’s 4.0 benchmark.

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| --- |
|  Responses |
|  |  1 |  2 |  3 |  4 |  5 | Mean |
| 21. The Registrar’s Office or Office of Academic Advisement provided adequate guidance to help me progress through my required coursework. |  |  | 3 | 15 | 6 | 4.13 |
| 22. I received important information related to Academic Advisement on a regular basis. |  | 1 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 3.96 |
| 23. My academic advisor in the undergraduate social work program was helpful in guiding me toward my educational goals. |  | 1 | 1 | 7 | 15 | 4.50 |
| 24. I could go to my academic advisor if I had an academic issue. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 14 | 4.25 |
| 25. Nazareth College provided adequate advisement guidance to facilitate achievement of my educational goals. |  |  | 2 | 11 | 11 | 4.38 |

**Implicit Curriculum Area: Participation**

In the “participation” aspect of the BSW Program’s implicit curriculum, the average rating is a 4.16. Although the majority of students agreed or strongly agreed with each item, the item “People like me could participate effectively in decision-making at Nazareth College” received the lowest mean rating (3.88), just under the Program’s 4.0 benchmark.

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|  Responses |
|  |  1 |  2 |  3 |  4 |  5 | Mean |
| 26. I understood how I could participate in available extracurricular activities at Nazareth College. |  |  | 6 | 8 | 10 | 4.17 |
| 27. I was made aware of how I could be involved with student organizations. |  |  | 6 | 9 | 9 | 4.13 |
| 28. People like me could participate effectively in decision-making at Nazareth college. |  | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3.88 |
| 29. There is a strong sense of community within Nazareth College. |  | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 4.21 |
| 30. There is a strong sense of community within the Nazareth College undergraduate social work program. |  | 1 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 4.42 |

**Implicit Curriculum Area: Field Instruction**

In the “field instruction” aspect of the BSW Program’s implicit curriculum, the average rating is a 4.54. The vast majority of students agreed or strongly agreed with each item examining field instruction within the Program.

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|  Responses |
|  |  1 |  2 |  3 |  4 |  5 | Mean |
| 31. My senior field placement provided a learning environment that supported my success. |  | 1 | 1 | 6 | 16 | 4.54 |
| 32. The quality of supervision I received in my senior field placement was high. |  |  | 2 | 7 | 15 | 4.54 |
| 33. The assignments I received at my senior field placement taught me important social work skills. |  | 1 | 1 | 8 | 14 | 4.46 |
| 34. My senior field placement provided me with the opportunity to apply the knowledge I learned in my course work. |  | 1 | 1 | 7 | 15 | 4.50 |
| 35. My senior field placement helped me increase my ability to work effectively with others from backgrounds different from my own. |  |  | 1 | 6 | 17 | 4.67 |

Comparing student responses across the five examined areas of the BSW Program’s implicit curriculum, we note that the highest valid means in the spring of 2018 are associated with the following items:

 -Field Instruction (item 35): “My senior field placement helped me increase my ability to work effectively with others from backgrounds different from my own.” (Mean 4.67)

 -Diversity (item 2): “I have expanded my awareness of different belief systems, cultures, and ways of life through completion of the Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work Program.” (Mean 4.58)

The lowest valid 2018 means are associated with the following items:

 -Physical and Technological Environment (item 18): “The Nazareth College undergraduate Social Work program’s physical environment is comfortable for students.” (Mean 3.5).

 -Physical and Technological Environment (item 17): “The classrooms that students meet in are conductive to learning.” (Mean 3.75)

Students are also offered the opportunity to respond narratively, or in other words to comment, on each area of the implicit curriculum examined in the survey. In 2018, the following comments were shared :

**Diversity:**

No comments.

**Teaching Environment/ Faculty:**

“The faculty is there to see each and every student succeed. The social work program treats students like family, we all work together to achieve the goal of graduation.”

“Love my faculty.”

“Senior field hours should be spread across two semesters.”

**General Administrative Environment:**

“There was a situation with a professor in the math department, the administration took action 3 weeks before graduation which now has the class panicking about grades but changes were made and much appreciated.”

**Physical and Technological Environment:**

“Third floor of Smyth needs to be updated/ needs major renovations.”

“Throughout my time at Nazareth I have observed many issues in the social work lounge and classrooms. Broken windows, bugs and other health hazards. The SW lounge does not have the same resources as other department lounges.”

“Our classrooms were either very cold or very hot.”

“Social work wing needs renovation which the department has been advocating for but has not been met with success. The campus also needs to improve handicap accessibility.

**Advisement:**

“I was one credit short from graduating in May, the advisement office and individuals in the registrar office worked very close with me to come up with an alternative solution to insure my anticipated graduation date remained the same.”

“My academic advisor was amazing. She was able to help me through all of my problems as well as cheer me on when things got tough for me.”

**Participation:**

“The strong sense of community within the Nazareth College undergraduate social work program is unlike any other. You would never have the same feeling at another college.”

“Too many emails about events that were all deleted. I suggest a different advertising route as I am more concerned with course content.”

**Field Instruction:**

“[Field instructor name] was an amazing field instructor.”

“I loved my placement.”

“I had two placements; one was less helpful than the other.”

**Part 2: Questions focusing on demographics.**

The implicit curriculum survey also gathers information on respondent demographics. All students in the spring 2018 senior cohort completing the survey were full-time students and the majority are female (n=22, 91%), Caucasian (n=17, 71%), with a mean age of 22.

**Age:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Total |
| 20 | 2 |
| 21 | 10 |
| 22 | 6 |
| 23 | 1 |
| 26 | 3 |
| 34 | 1 |
| Not Stated | 1 |

**Gender:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Total |
| Female | **22** |
| Male | **2** |
| Transgender | **0** |
| Other | **0** |

**Race/ Ethnicity:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Total |
| Caucasian | **17** |
| African American | **1** |
| Asian | **4** |
| Native American | **0** |
| Hispanic/ Latino | **0** |
| Multicultural/ Ethnic | **0** |
| Other | **1** |
| Not Stated | **1** |

**Part 3: Status while in the program**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Total |
| Full Time | **24** |
| Part Time | **0** |

**Part 4: Post-Graduation plans**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Total |
| Will attend MSW Program | **20** |
| Will attend other graduate program | **0** |
| Employment | **4** |
| Other | **1** |

**Those who specified stated:**

* Nazareth Brockport GRC MSW Program
* Planning to continue on to receive PhD
* Planning to continue on to an MSW program and looking for employment
* MSW Program at Roberts Wesleyan

**Part 5: Final Questions.**

Finally, survey respondents were also asked a series of open-ended questions. Responses are included below.

**As an undergraduate social work major at Nazareth College, what contributed most to your learning?**

“Field placements. You don’t know unless you experience first-hand.”

“Having two years of field experience I found to be so important.”

“Taking a variety of social work class to expand my knowledge of social work.”

“The amazing faculty and supervisors.”

“The professors being able to teach me from their experiences as social workers.”

**When you look back on your entire experience in the Nazareth College undergraduate social work program, was aspect of the program was most influential?**

“One-on-one with professors and advisement who supported me every step of the way.”

“My field placements.”

“Having a good supervisor that had gone through the Nazareth/ GRC experience.”

“Intro to Social Work gave me a basic overview of the social work field and what I was getting in to.”

“Taking different social work classes to enhance my knowledge.”

“The sense of community.”

**What has not been asked in this survey that would be valuable for us to know?**

“Portfolio grading.”