

Appendix: Classification System for the Good Practice Scale Scores

To develop the *Strong*, *Moderate*, and *Weak* categories for scores on the good practice scales and subscales, we looked at each survey item within the scales to determine which answers indicated adequate and inadequate levels of experience with the teaching practice or condition. We specified the weak and strong levels first; anything in between these two categories was classified as moderate. In general, responses such as "never," "rarely," or "neutral" to questions about students' experiences with good teaching practices and supportive institutional conditions were classified as weak, while responses such as "often" or "very often" were classified as strong. A group of liberal arts faculty and staff members with experience in a range of disciplines reviewed and validated the classification levels below. Regression analysis also indicates that students in the three categories experience different levels of growth on the outcomes, with students in the *Weak* group growing least and students in the *Strong* group growing most.

Scale 1: Good Teaching and High Quality Interactions with Faculty

Scale 1:	Weak Criterion	Strong Criterion	Max
	51	91	114

Faculty interest in teaching and student development

Subscale 1:	Weak Criterion	Strong Criterion
	15	20

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level		
Most faculty with whom I have had contact are genuinely interested in students.	1 = Strongly Disagree	3	4	Mean	4.22
	2 = Disagree			Stdev	0.71
	3 = Neutral			N ¹	3028
	4 = Agree				
	5 = Strongly Agree				
Most faculty with whom I have had contact are interested in helping students grow in more than just academic areas.	1 = Strongly Disagree	3	4	Mean	3.88
	2 = Disagree			Stdev	0.84
	3 = Neutral			N	3025
	4 = Agree				
	5 = Strongly Agree				
Most faculty with whom I have had contact are outstanding teachers.	1 = Strongly Disagree	3	4	Mean	3.81
	2 = Disagree			Stdev	0.86
	3 = Neutral			N	3025
	4 = Agree				
	5 = Strongly Agree				
Most faculty with whom I have had contact are genuinely interested in teaching.	1 = Strongly Disagree	3	4	Mean	4.12
	2 = Disagree			Stdev	0.73
	3 = Neutral			N	3024
	4 = Agree				
	5 = Strongly Agree				
Most faculty with whom I have had contact are willing to spend time outside of class to discuss issues of interest and importance to students.	1 = Strongly Disagree	3	4	Mean	4.21
	2 = Disagree			Stdev	0.76
	3 = Neutral			N	3025
	4 = Agree				
	5 = Strongly Agree				

¹ N = the total number of students in the Wabash National Study who answered each item in both the fall 2006 and spring 2007 assessments

Prompt feedback

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level
How often have faculty informed you of your level of performance in a timely manner?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you received prompt written or oral feedback from faculty on your academic performance?	1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often	2	3
How often have faculty checked to see if you learned the material well before going on to new material?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4

Subscale 2: Weak Criterion 6 Strong Criterion 11

Mean 3.58
Stdev 0.93
N 3025

Mean 2.70
Stdev 0.80
N 3030

Mean 2.89
Stdev 1.02
N 3022

Quality of nonclassroom interactions with faculty

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level
The extent to which you agree that your non-classroom interactions with faculty have had a positive influence on your personal growth, values, and attitudes.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree	2	4
The extent to which you agree that your non-classroom interactions with faculty have had a positive influence on your intellectual growth and interest in ideas.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree	2	4
The extent to which you agree that your non-classroom interactions with faculty have had a positive influence on your career goals and aspirations.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree	2	4
The extent to which you agree that since coming to this institution, you have developed a close, personal relationship with at least one faculty member.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree	2	4
The extent to which you agree that you are satisfied with the opportunities to meet and interact informally with faculty members.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree	2	4

Subscale 3: Weak Criterion 10 Strong Criterion 20

Mean 3.55
Stdev 0.95
N 3028

Mean 3.68
Stdev 0.91
N 3027

Mean 3.55
Stdev 0.95
N 3025

Mean 3.08
Stdev 1.23
N 3028

Mean 3.70
Stdev 1.02
N 3025

Teaching clarity and organization

Subscale 4: **Weak** **Strong**
 Criterion **Criterion**
 20 40

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level		
Frequency that faculty gave clear explanations.	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4	Mean	3.91
				Stdev	0.66
				N	3028
Frequency that faculty made good use of examples and illustrations to explain difficult points.	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4	Mean	3.90
				Stdev	0.74
				N	3022
Frequency that faculty effectively reviewed and summarized the material.	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4	Mean	3.74
				Stdev	0.79
				N	3025
Frequency that faculty interpreted abstract ideas and theories clearly.	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4	Mean	3.64
				Stdev	0.80
				N	3024
Frequency that faculty gave assignments that helped in learning the course material.	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4	Mean	3.85
				Stdev	0.81
				N	3022
Frequency that the presentation of material was well organized.	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4	Mean	3.91
				Stdev	0.73
				N	3026
Frequency that faculty were well prepared for class.	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4	Mean	4.24
				Stdev	0.69
				N	3027
Frequency that class time was used effectively.	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4	Mean	4.07
				Stdev	0.76
				N	3016
Frequency that course goals and requirements were clearly explained.	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4	Mean	4.16
				Stdev	0.75
				N	3013

Teaching clarity and organization (cont'd)

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level
Frequency that faculty had a good command of what they were teaching.	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4

Mean 4.35
Stdev 0.68
N 3023

Scale 2: Academic Challenge and High Expectations

Scale 2: Weak Criterion 51 Strong Criterion 113 Max 149

Academic challenge and effort

Subscale 1: Weak Criterion 16 Strong Criterion 38

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations?	1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often	1	3
During the current school year, how many assigned textbooks, books, or book-length packs of course readings have you done?	1 = None 2 = Between 1 and 4 3 = Between 5 and 10 4 = Between 11 and 20 5 = More than 20	2	4
During the current school year, how many written papers or reports between 5 and 19 pages have you done?	1 = None 2 = Between 1 and 4 3 = Between 5 and 10 4 = Between 11 and 20 5 = More than 20	2	4
In a typical week, how many problem sets take you more than an hour to complete?	1 = None 2 = 1-2 3 = 3-4 4 = 5-6 5 = More than 6	1	3
What is the extent to which your examinations during the current school year challenged you to do your best work?	1 = Very little 7 = Very much	3	5
About how many hours in a typical week do you spend preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)?	1 = 0 hours 2 = 1-5 hours 3 = 6-10 hours 4 = 11-15 hours 5 = 16-20 hours 6 = 21-25 hours 7 = 26-30 hours 8 = More than 30 hours	2	5

Mean 2.54
Stdev 0.83
N 3029

Mean 3.80
Stdev 0.91
N 3030

Mean 2.75
Stdev 0.88
N 3030

Mean 2.41
Stdev 1.04
N 3002

Mean 5.59
Stdev 1.10
N 3014

Mean 4.63
Stdev 1.66
N 3026

Academic challenge and effort (cont'd)

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level
To what extent does your institution emphasize spending significant amounts of time studying and on academic work?	1 = Very little 2 = Some 3 = Quite a bit 4 = Very much	1	3
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions?	1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often	1	3
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you made a class presentation?	1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often	1	2
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in?	1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often	1	3
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you come to class without completing readings or assignments? (reverse-coded)	1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often	1	3

Mean	3.28
Stdev	0.72
N	3020
Mean	2.97
Stdev	0.83
N	3032
Mean	2.26
Stdev	0.66
N	3029
Mean	2.51
Stdev	0.95
N	3026
Mean	2.02
Stdev	0.72
N	3029

Frequency of higher-order exams and assignments

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level
How often have exams or assignments required you to write essays?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
How often have exams or assignments required you to use course content to address a problem not presented in the course?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
How often have exams or assignments required you to compare or contrast topics or ideas from a course?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
How often have exams or assignments required you to point out the strengths and weaknesses of a particular argument or point of view?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4

Subscale 2:	Weak Criterion	Strong Criterion
	10	20
Mean	4.21	
Stdev	0.89	
N	3026	
Mean	3.13	
Stdev	1.07	
N	3012	
Mean	3.61	
Stdev	0.97	
N	3023	
Mean	3.40	
Stdev	1.09	
N	3014	

Frequency of higher-order exams and assignments (cont'd)

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level
How often have exams or assignments required you to argue for or against a particular point of view and defend your argument?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4

Mean 3.51
Stdev 1.13
N 3023

Challenging classes and high faculty expectations

Subscale 3: Weak Criterion 12 Strong Criterion 24

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level
How often have faculty asked challenging questions in class?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
How often have faculty asked you to show how a particular course concept could be applied to an actual problem or situation?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
How often have faculty asked you to point out any fallacies in basic ideas, principles, or points of view presented in the course?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
How often have faculty asked you to argue for or against a particular point of view?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
How often have faculty challenged your ideas in class?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
How often have students challenged each other's ideas in class?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4

Mean 4.09
Stdev 0.79
N 3029

Mean 3.39
Stdev 1.01
N 3023

Mean 3.11
Stdev 1.08
N 3024

Mean 3.32
Stdev 1.10
N 3028

Mean 3.31
Stdev 1.07
N 3024

Mean 3.67
Stdev 0.99
N 3026

Integrating ideas, information, and experiences

Subscale 4: **Weak** **Strong**
 Criterion **Criterion**
 13 31

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level		
The extent to which you agree that courses have helped you understand the historical, political, and social connections of past events.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree	2	4	Mean	3.71
				Stdev	0.91
				N	3029
The extent to which you agree that courses have helped you see the connections between your intended career and how it affects society.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree	2	4	Mean	3.52
				Stdev	0.98
				N	3027
The extent to which you agree that your out-of-class experiences have helped you connect what you have learned in the classroom with life events.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree	2	4	Mean	3.63
				Stdev	0.91
				N	3025
The extent to which you agree that your out-of-class experiences have helped you translate knowledge and understanding from the classroom into action.	1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree	2	4	Mean	3.59
				Stdev	0.88
				N	3025
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources?	1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often	1	3	Mean	3.11
				Stdev	0.75
				N	3030
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class	1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often	1	3	Mean	2.59
				Stdev	0.78
				N	3029
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)?	1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often	1	3	Mean	2.83
				Stdev	0.82
				N	3029
During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships?	1 = Very little 2 = Some 3 = Quite a bit 4 = Very much	1	3	Mean	3.04
				Stdev	0.79
				N	3029
During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized 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?	1 = Very little 2 = Some 3 = Quite a bit 4 = Very much	1	3	Mean	2.86
				Stdev	0.85
				N	3028

Scale 3: Diversity Experiences

Scale 3: Weak Criterion 15 Strong Criterion 33 Max 42

Diversity experiences

Subscale 1: Weak Criterion 9 Strong Criterion 21

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level
How often have you attended a debate or lecture on a current political/social issue during this academic year?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
How frequently have you had serious discussions with student affairs staff (e.g., residence hall staff, career counselor, student union or campus activities staff) whose political, social, or religious opinions were different from your own?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
To what extent does your institution emphasize encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds?	1 = Very little 2 = Some 3 = Quite a bit 4 = Very much	1	3
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own?	1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often	1	3
In your experience at your institution during the current school year, about how often have you had serious conversations with students who are very different from you in terms of their religious beliefs, political opinions, or personal values?	1 = Never 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very often	1	3
How often have you participated in a racial or cultural awareness workshop during this academic year?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4

Mean 2.22
Stdev 1.13
N 3030

Mean 1.69
Stdev 1.00
N 3016

Mean 2.71
Stdev 0.97
N 3022

Mean 2.70
Stdev 0.99
N 3031

Mean 2.87
Stdev 0.91
N 3028

Mean 1.67
Stdev 0.95
N 3024

Meaningful discussion with diverse peers

Subscale 2: **Weak** **Strong**
 Criterion **Criterion**
 6 12

Survey Question	Answer Choices	Weak Level	Strong Level
How often have you had discussions regarding inter-group relations with diverse students (e.g., students differing from you in race, national origin, values, religion, political views) while attending this college?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
How often have you had meaningful and honest discussions about issues related to social justice with diverse students (e.g., students differing from you in race, national origin, values, religion, political views) while attending this college?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4
How often have you shared personal feelings and problems with diverse students (e.g., students differing from you in race, national origin, values, religion, political views) while attending this college?	1 = Never 2 = Rarely 3 = Sometimes 4 = Often 5 = Very often	2	4

Mean 2.63
 Stdev 1.16
 N 3018

Mean 2.65
 Stdev 1.21
 N 3014

Mean 3.14
 Stdev 1.25
 N 3021