

Analysis of Senior Survey 2005-2007

METHODOLOGY

All Construction Management students were required to take TMGT 430, Senior Seminar, in their senior year. At the end of the course, all construction students were required to complete a CM Senior Survey, which consisted of two parts. The first part asked the students how well the Construction Management Program prepared them to achieve the CM Program objectives. Students circled a response on a four-point, Likert scale for each objective. The responses were: STRONGLY AGREE, AGREE, DISAGREE, and STRONGLY DISAGREE. The Program objectives were listed as follows:

The Construction Management Program prepared you to:

1. Communicate effectively.
2. Be aware of important ethical considerations in the construction industry.
3. Have adequate computer skills.
4. Know the basic principles of business and management.
5. Understand the theoretical principles involved in structural forces, electricity, soil mechanics, and environmental control.
6. Understand how building systems affect building design.
7. Be able to read and interpret working drawings.
8. Be familiar with basic plane surveying concepts and techniques.
9. Be familiar with construction methods and materials.
10. Have skills in estimating and preparing bids.
11. Have planning and scheduling skills.
12. Be familiar with construction accounting and financial practices.
13. Be familiar with the most important issues and instruments of construction law.
14. Be able to establish a safety program.
15. Be familiar with administrative systems and procedures.
16. Be able to develop a quality control plan.

Average scores were calculated by assigning a score of 4 for STRONGLY AGREE, 3 for AGREE, 2 for DISAGREE, and 1 for STRONGLY DISAGREE for each objective and for each year. A grand average was calculated for each objective. Objectives with an average score of less than 3.0 were identified as possibly needing some improvement.

The second part of the survey consists of two open-ended questions and a space for comments. The questions are as follows:

1. What are one or two specific things in the Construction Management Program that significantly increased your learning?
2. What are one or two specific things in the Construction Management Program that inhibited your learning?
3. Comments?

Data for the Likert scale were arranged in table formats for faculty review. Qualitative comments were aggregated anonymously. All data were reviewed and discussed by the construction faculty who agreed to the findings listed below.

LIMITATIONS

The CM Program objectives listed in the survey were approved in 2001. Surveys after 2007 will list the revised Program objectives.

The survey was not administered in every semester because the course was sometimes taught by non-construction faculty. This weakness will be addressed in future.

FINDINGS

Rated Objectives

Objectives with an average score of 3.0 or lower are listed below:

- ...be able to read and interpret working drawings. (2.99)
- ...be able to develop a quality control plan. (2.91)
- ...have skills in estimating and preparing bids. (2.86)
- ...be familiar with construction accounting and financial practices. (2.73)

The highest rated objective was “...understand the theoretical principles involved in structural forces, electricity, soil mechanics, and environmental control.” (3.41)

The lowest rated objective was “...be familiar with construction accounting and financial practices.” (2.73)

What are one or two specific things in the Construction Management Program that significantly increased your learning?

- The largest number of responses identified the quality of the faculty. Other items that were mentioned more than once were a wide range of courses, guest speakers, and the internship.

What are one or two things in the Construction Management Program that inhibited your learning?

- Students wanted more hands-on instruction and fewer hours in the Program.

Comments

Items mentioned more than once are:

- Some courses are unnecessary like physics.
- More instruction in reading plans and blueprints.
- More estimating classes.
- More hands-on experience.