

The Summer Undergraduate Research Experience Survey

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The SURE survey

- Begun in 2003 with the guidance of Prof. Sarah Elgin and funding from Howard Hughes Medical Institute.
- Has collected over 10,000 cases from summer programs.
- Has “spun off” a research experience follow-up survey, a survey (CURE) for course-embedded research experiences, and a survey for interdisciplinary science courses (RISC).

The SURE survey in 2009

2672 cases

- 53 % from biological sciences
- 17.9 % from NSF funding sources
- 6.6 % from REU programs

- 36 % from doctoral/research universities
- 51 % from colleges
- 10% from masters institutions
- 3% from other

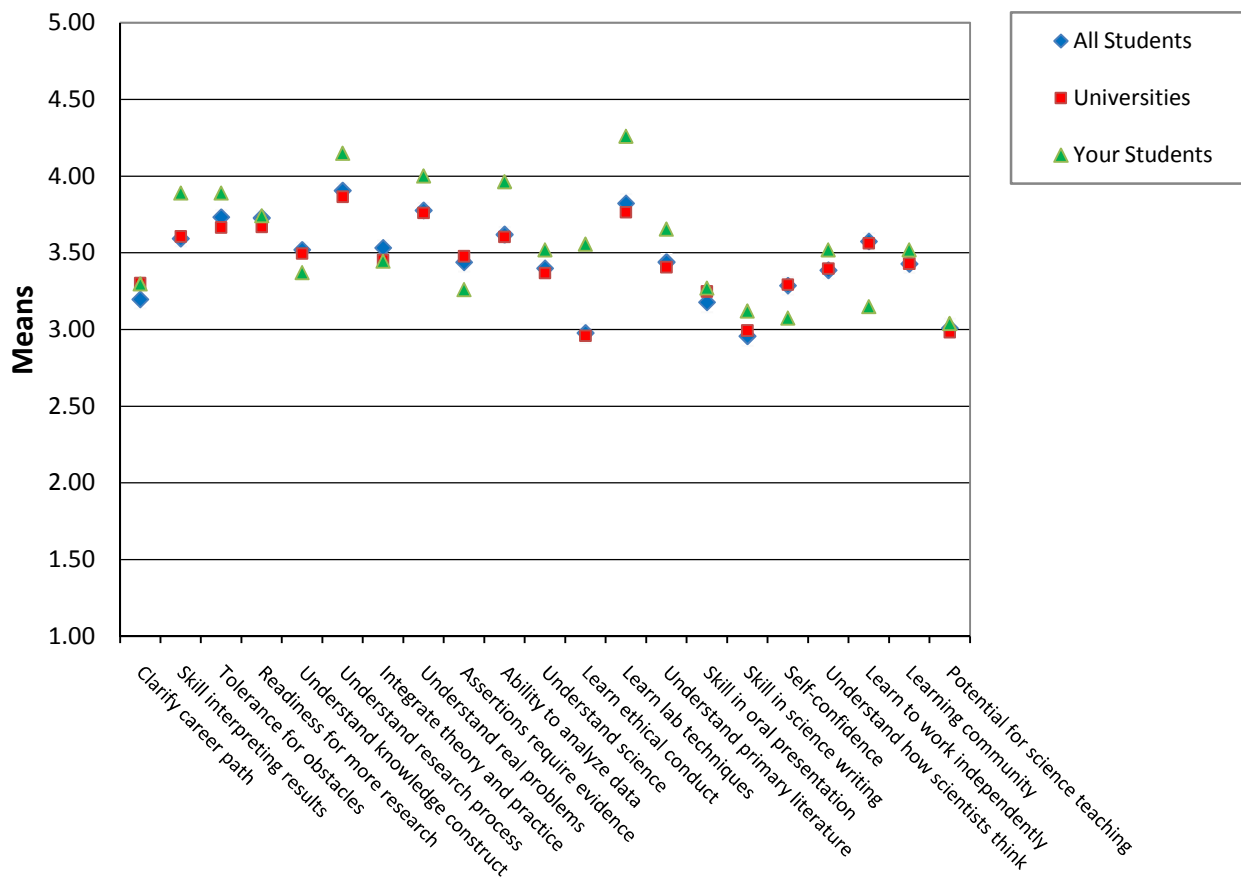
<https://survey.grinnell.edu/se.ashx?s=25113745694EECEC>

<http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/psychology/faculty/dl/surecure>

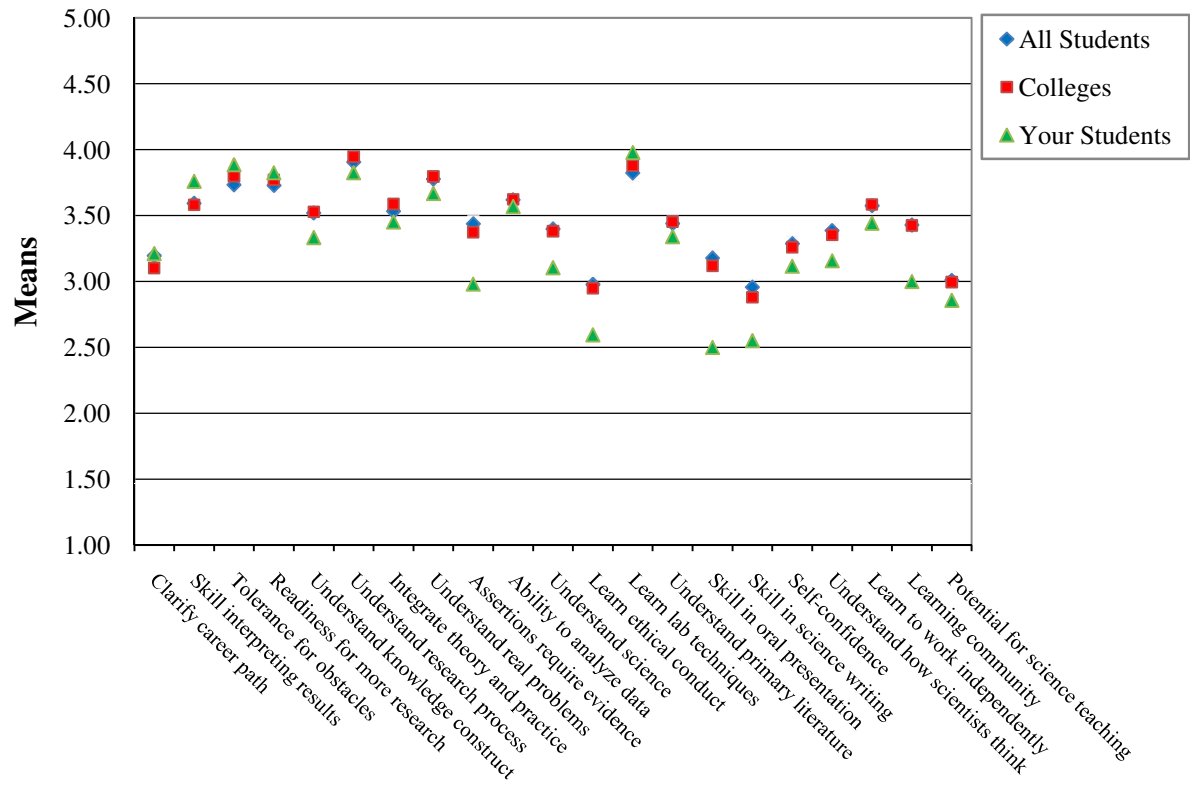
Results include

- Student characteristics (gender, race, year in school, etc)
- Prior experience
- Post-graduation plans, before and after the experience
- Branching questions evaluating peer mentoring
- Comments on summer research versus academic year research
- 21 learning gains items
- Evaluations of supervisor and peers
- Evaluation of summer program components

Comparative Learning Gains



Comparative Learning Gains



1 = very negative, 5 = very positive

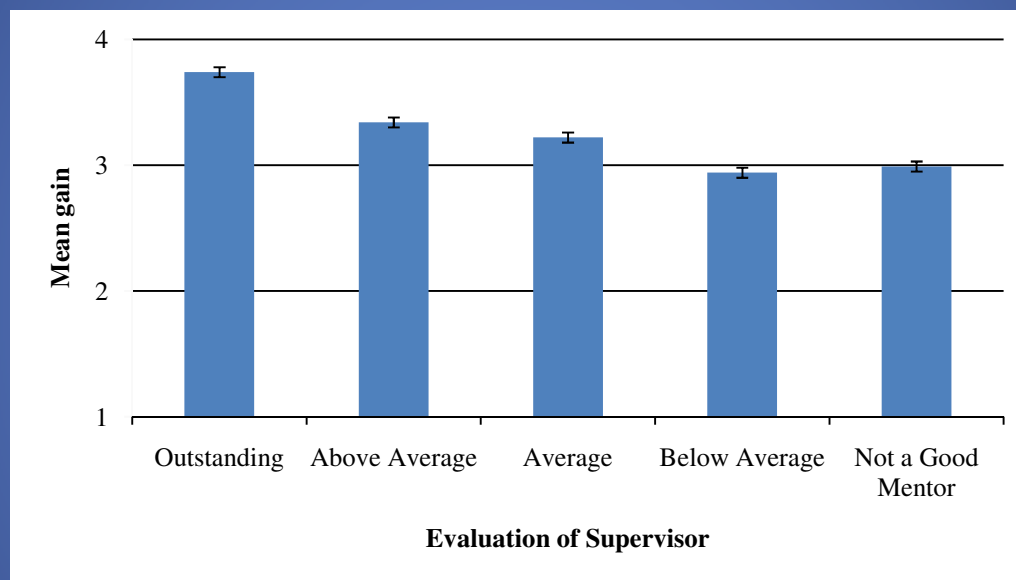
	1	2	3	4	5	
	Preparing an application or proposal					
	0.8%	3.9%	30.2%	39.6%	25.4%	All Students
N=18*	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	27.8%	50.0%	
	Seminars at which scientists discuss research					
	0.3%	3.4%	16.1%	40.1%	40.0%	All Students
N=17*	0.0%	0.0%	11.8%	52.9%	35.3%	
	Seminars on safety					
	3.9%	9.1%	41.2%	29.3%	16.5%	All Students
N=18*	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	38.9%	27.8%	
	Instruction/discussion of ethics					
	1.9%	6.1%	36.5%	33.4%	22.1%	All Students
N=22*	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	27.3%	63.6%	
	A program of social activities					
	1.8%	5.1%	25.4%	36.0%	31.7%	All Students
N=25*	0.0%	4.0%	4.0%	56.0%	36.0%	

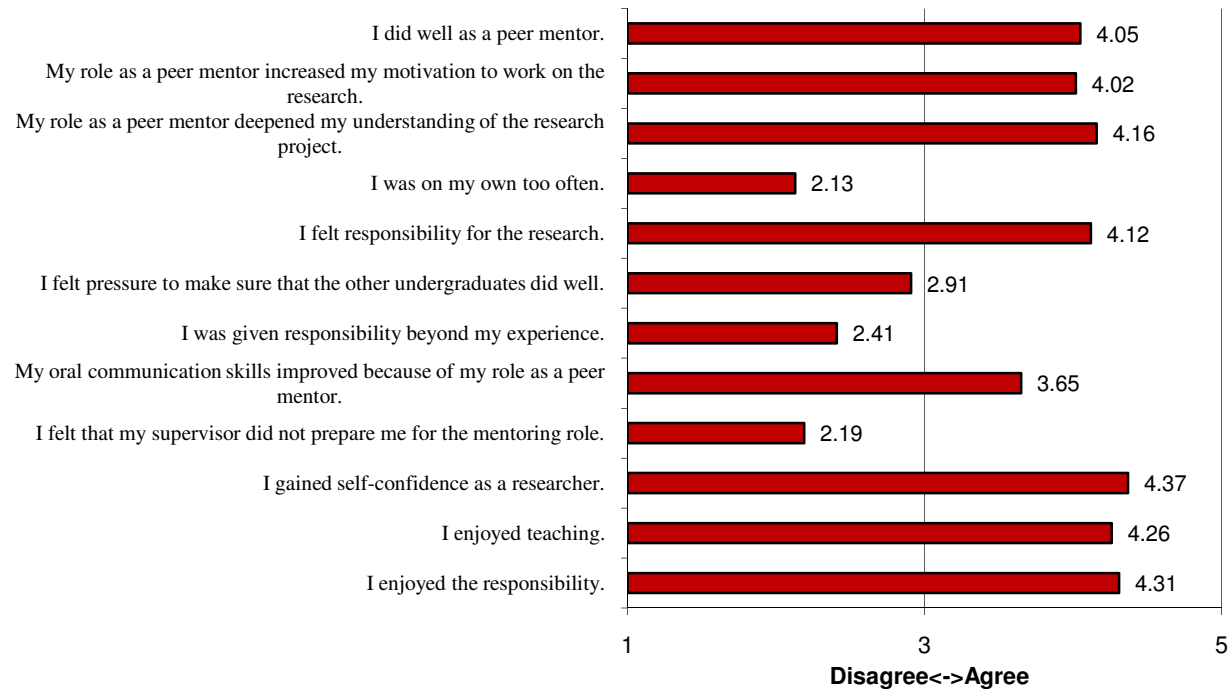
The SURE survey is a research instrument for assessing the impact of undergraduate research on student learning.

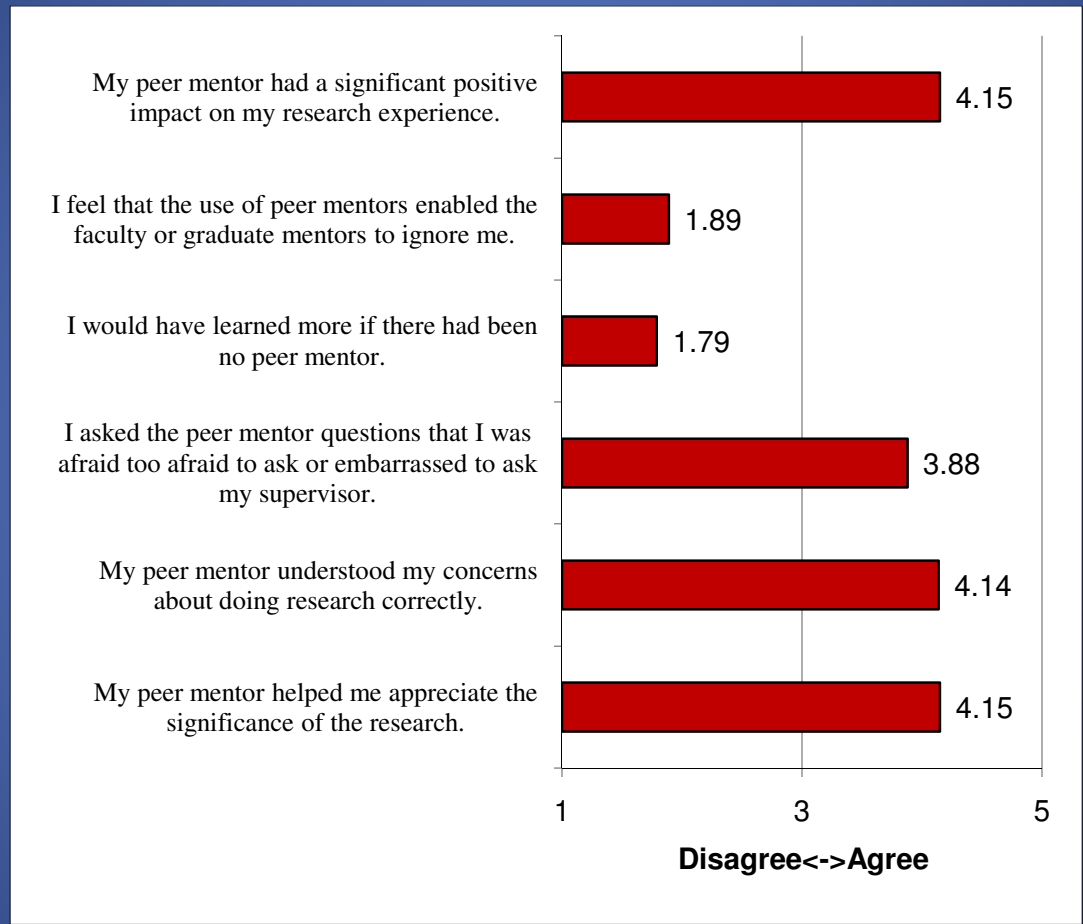
Lopatto, D. (2004). Survey of Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE): First Findings. Cell Biology Education, 3, 270-277.

Lopatto, D. (2007). Undergraduate research experiences support science career decisions and active learning. CBE – Life Sciences Education, 6, 297-306.

Lopatto, D. (2010). Science in solution: The impact of undergraduate research on student learning. Tucson, AZ: The Research Corporation.







For more information, contact David Lopatto

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