Attitudinal Change

Each of the Family Studies Program outcomes were measured using a senior exit survey, which measured attitudes of change. For each outcome, graduating seniors were asked to report (on a scale of 0-10, with 0 being the lowest competency, and 10 being the highest) the extent to which they were capable with the skill before entering the program, and the extent to which they were capable at the time of exiting the program. Of fifteen graduating seniors who anonymously completed the surveys, the results are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Pre</th>
<th>Post</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) To what extent do you believe that you are able to understand relationships and family life from a Family Systems Perspective?</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>+ 354%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) How good do you believe your relationship and interpersonal skills are?</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>+ 198%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) How good do you believe your leadership skills and ability to work in groups are?</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>+ 150%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) How good do you believe your oral communication and presentation skills are?</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>+ 167%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) How good do you believe your critical thinking and problem solving skills are?</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>+ 147%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) To what extent do you believe that you are able to apply the scientific process and conduct research projects?</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>+165%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These results suggest that student perception is that significant advancement takes place on all of the Family Studies outcomes, and that student attitudes are favorable towards the family studies program.
Knowledge Goal

Goal #1 -
Family Studies majors will develop strong critical thinking skills.

Associated Outcome
Family Studies majors will demonstrate abstract and critical thinking skills in applying Family Systems concepts to family problems and interventions.

Measurement Strategy
Family Studies students will be required to submit a research paper in FCSF 334 demonstrating critical integration of theory, research and practice. Rubric for assessment indicates that a level of “proficient” for this assignment requires that “all theoretical principles are explained accurately”, “each of the theoretical principles are used to explain the thesis of the paper” and that “the application of the principles to the thesis is accurate and clearly explained”.

Performance Objective
It is expected the 80% of students will score at the level of “proficient”

Performance Outcome
Of the sixteen Family Studies majors who were assessed, fifteen (94%) scored “proficient” on “all theoretical principles are explained accurately”, fourteen (88%) scored “proficient” on “each of the theoretical principles are used to explain the thesis of the paper”, and seven (44%) scored “proficient” on “the application of the principles to the thesis is accurate and clearly explained”.

These results suggest that while an overall proficiency level is being achieved in developing critical thinking skills and theoretical knowledge, the third level of proficiency is more difficult to attain, and may require further attention.
Goal #4 -
Family Studies majors will be skilled at oral communication.

Associated Outcome
Family Studies majors will demonstrate excellent ability to make oral presentations.

Measurement Strategy
Student presentations will be required in FCSF 433. Rubric for assessment indicates that a level of “proficient” requires the demonstration of all of the following during the presentation:
- Full understanding of the topic, and confidence in the information provided
- Student is completely prepared and has obviously rehearsed
- Student speaks clearly and distinctly throughout
- Student stands up straight and appears relaxed, establishes eye contact during the presentation
- Facial expressions and body language generate a strong interest and enthusiasm about the topic in others
- Student is able to accurately answer almost all questions posed by classmates about the topic
- Effectively uses technology in three areas of the presentation
- Presentation fits within the specified time constraints

Performance Objective
It is expected the 80% of students will score at the level of “proficient”

Performance Outcome
Of the 12 Family Studies majors assessed during the 2009-2010 academic year, all 12 (100%) scored at the level of proficient or above. These results suggest that Family Studies majors are being well prepared with the skill of oral communication and are adept at making oral presentations.