Core Curriculum Survey Results

Assessment Day 2017

The Core Curriculum Survey included twelve items, eleven of which aligned with one or more of Marshall's Baccalaureate Degree Profile (BDP) outcomes. Eight items aligned to one BDP outcome, two items mapped to two BDP outcomes, and one item mapped to three BDP outcomes. Of Marshall's nine BDP outcomes, five (*Integrative Thinking, Metacognitive Thinking, Information Literacy, Intercultural Thinking, and Quantitative* Thinking) mapped to one item each. Two BDP outcomes (*Ethical and Civic Thinking and Creative* Thinking) mapped to three items each, and two outcomes (*Inquiry-Based Thinking and Communication Fluency*) mapped to two items each.

Students were asked to indicate their agreement on a five-point scale (strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree), with strongly agree = 5 and strongly disagree = 1 to the following statement, "Marshall's core curriculum courses have helped me to...". Item means over a three year period (2014, 2016, and 2017) ranged from a high of 4.11 (n = 2,731) for "Use knowledge from more than one area of study to explore issues or to solve problems," (*Integrative Thinking*) to a low of 3.59 (n = 2,675) for "Develop my ability to use mathematics in everyday life" (2014) modified to "Use numerical information to explore real world problems" (2016 and 2017) (*Quantitative Thinking*).

Items with three-year means of 4.0 or higher aligned to Marshall's BDP outcomes of *Integrative Thinking, Ethical/Civic Thinking* (2 items), *Inquiry-Based Thinking, Metacognitive Thinking, Creative Thinking,* and *Information Literacy.*

Items with three-year means below 4.0 aligned to *Communication Fluency* (2 items), *Creative Thinking* (2 items), *Ethical and Civic Thinking* (1 item), *Inquiry-Based Thinking* (1 item), *Intercultural Thinking* (1 item), and *Quantitative Thinking* (1 item).

In 2016 and 2017, students also were asked to provide examples of practices in the Core Curriculum courses that have resulted in deep learning. Many responses mentioned specific courses or course types and others mentioned more general types of learning experiences. Across the two years the most frequently mentioned course types were English (*n* = 147), Social Science (*n* = 89), FYS (*n* = 83), and Humanities (*n*= 78). The most often mentioned types of learning experiences were those that involved active learning, defined as discussion, research, and writing (*n* = 230) and those that involved critical thinking (*n* = 164).
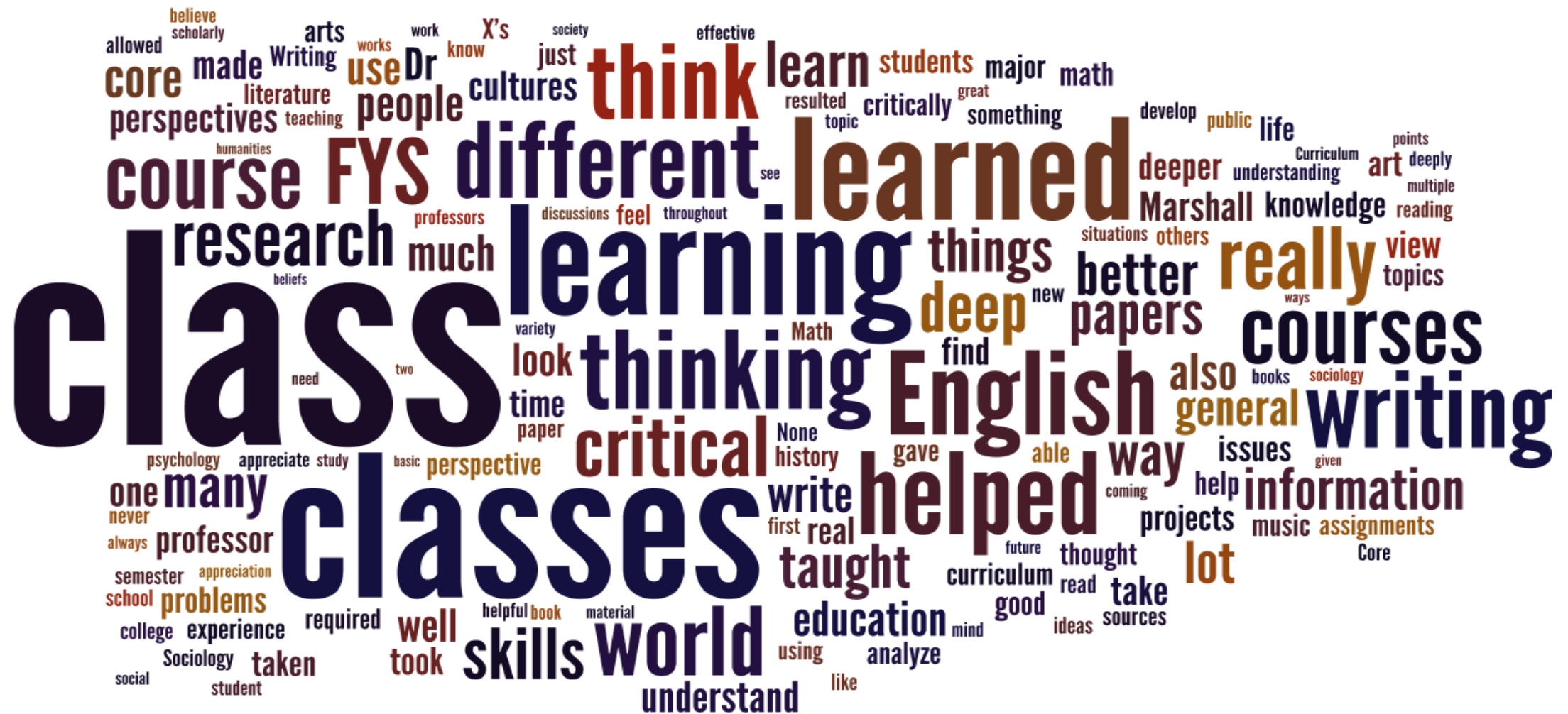
Survey Items for Core Curriculum with mean ratings of 4.0 or higher (on a five-point scale, with "5" being the most positive rating) and Alignment with Marshall Degree Profile in either 2014, 2016, 2017 (or all)

Survey Item	Marshall Domain	Mean Response 2014	Mean Response 2016	Mean Response 2017	Three Year Average
Use knowledge from more than one area of study to explore issues or to solve problems	Integrative Thinking	4.15 (n = 906)	4.11 (n = 794)	4.08 (n = 1,031)	4.11 (n = 2,731)
Assess my own values and examine other viewpoints and credible evidence	Ethical/Civic Thinking Inquiry-Based Thinking	4.12 (n = 911)	4.09 (n = 798)	4.05 (n = 1,031)	4.08 (n = 2,740)
Determine how to improve my own learning	Metacognitive Thinking	4.07 (n = 910)	3.99 (n = 798)	3.97 (n = 1,033)	4.01 (n = 2,741)
Examine issues from multiple perspectives	Creative Thinking Ethical/Civic Thinking	4.05 (n = 907)	4.05 (n = 797)	3.98 (n = 1,030)	4.02 (n = 2,734)
Find scholarly information, evaluate it critically and use it effectively	Information Literacy	4.03 (n = 912)	4.08 (n = 793)	4.02 (n = 1,028)	4.04 (n = 2,733)

Survey Items for Core Curriculum with mean ratings below 4.0 (on a five-point scale, with "5" being the most positive rating) and Alignment with Marshall Degree Profile in either 2014, 2016, 2017 (or all)

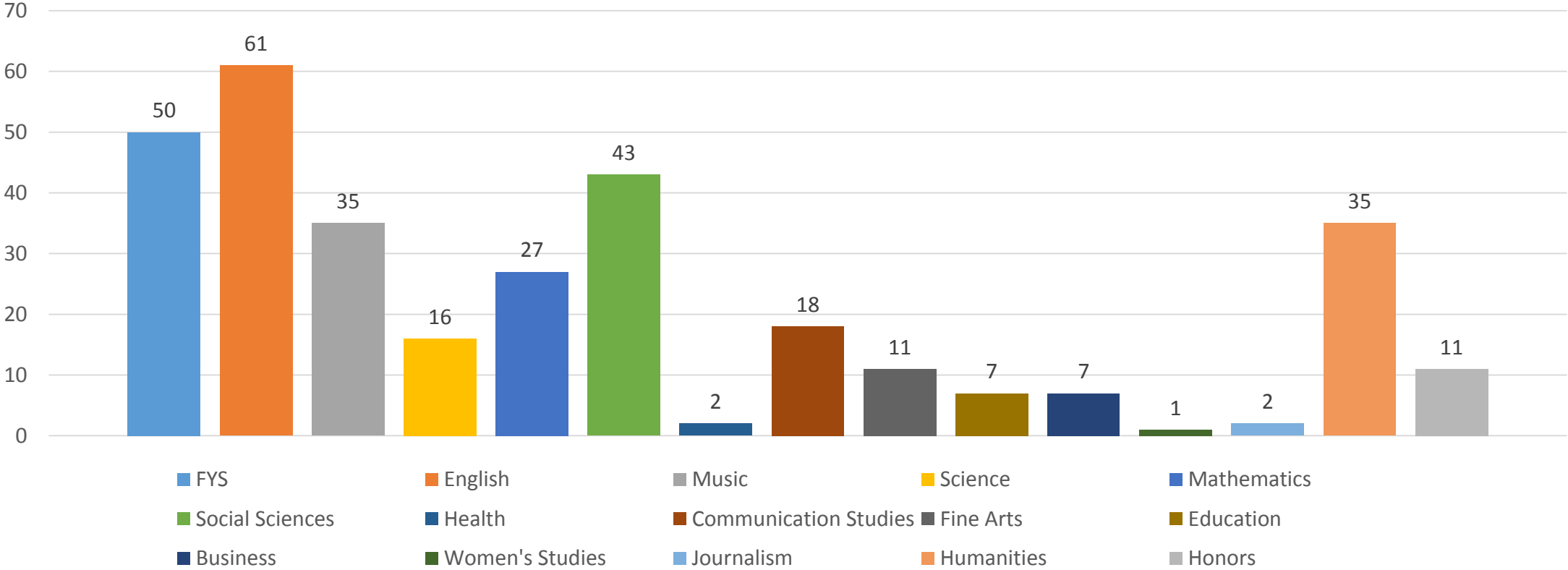| Survey Item	Marshall Domain	Mean Response 2014	Mean Response 2016	Mean Response 2017	Three Year Average
Develop the ability to write effectively	**Communication Fluency**	3.96 (n = 914)	3.96 (n = 794)	3.91 (n = 1,027)	3.94 (n = 2,735)
Use what I know to solve novel problems	**Creative Thinking**	3.93 (n = 897)	3.84 (n = 789)	3.78 (n = 1,025)	3.85 (n = 2,711)
Develop the ability to express myself effectively through speaking	**Communication Fluency**	3.92 (n = 900)	3.83 (n = 784)	3.84 (n = 1,023)	3.86 (n = 2,707)
Analyze and evaluate issues and solve real-world problems in a manner that is ethical and supportive of our civic well-being	**Creative Thinking** **Ethical and Civic Thinking** **Inquiry-Based Thinking**	3.90 (n = 902)	3.85 (n = 790)	3.80 (n = 1,025)	3.85 (n = 2,717)
Develop multicultural and global perspectives	**Intercultural Thinking**	3.81 (n = 891)	3.76 (n = 787)	3.74 (n = 1,017)	3.77 (n = 2,695)
Broaden my appreciation of the arts	**None**	3.63 (n = 884)	3.68 (n = 783)	3.57 (n = 1,008)	3.62 (n = 2,675)
Develop my ability to use mathematics in everyday life (2014); Use numerical information to explore real world problems	**Quantitative Thinking**	3.53 (n = 873)	3.62 (n = 785)	3.61 (n = 1,017)	3.59 (n = 2,675)

Wordle Showing Most Frequently Used Words in Response to the Survey Item, "Please provide examples of practices in your Core Curriculum (general education) courses that have resulted in deep learning." (2016)

Course Type Analysis for the Survey Item, "Please provide examples of practices in your Core Curriculum (general education) courses that have resulted in deep learning." (2016)
There were 342 responses-some mentioned several course types; some did not mention any.

Number of responses for each course type

Legend:
- FYS
- English
- Music
- Science
- Mathematics
- Social Sciences
- Health
- Communication Studies
- Fine Arts
- Education
- Business
- Women's Studies
- Journalism
- Humanities
- Honors

Values shown on bars: 50, 61, 35, 16, 27, 43, 2, 18, 11, 7, 7, 1, 2, 35, 11

Non-Course Type Categorical Analysis for the Survey Item, "Please provide examples of practices in your Core Curriculum (general education) courses that have resulted in deep learning." (2016)
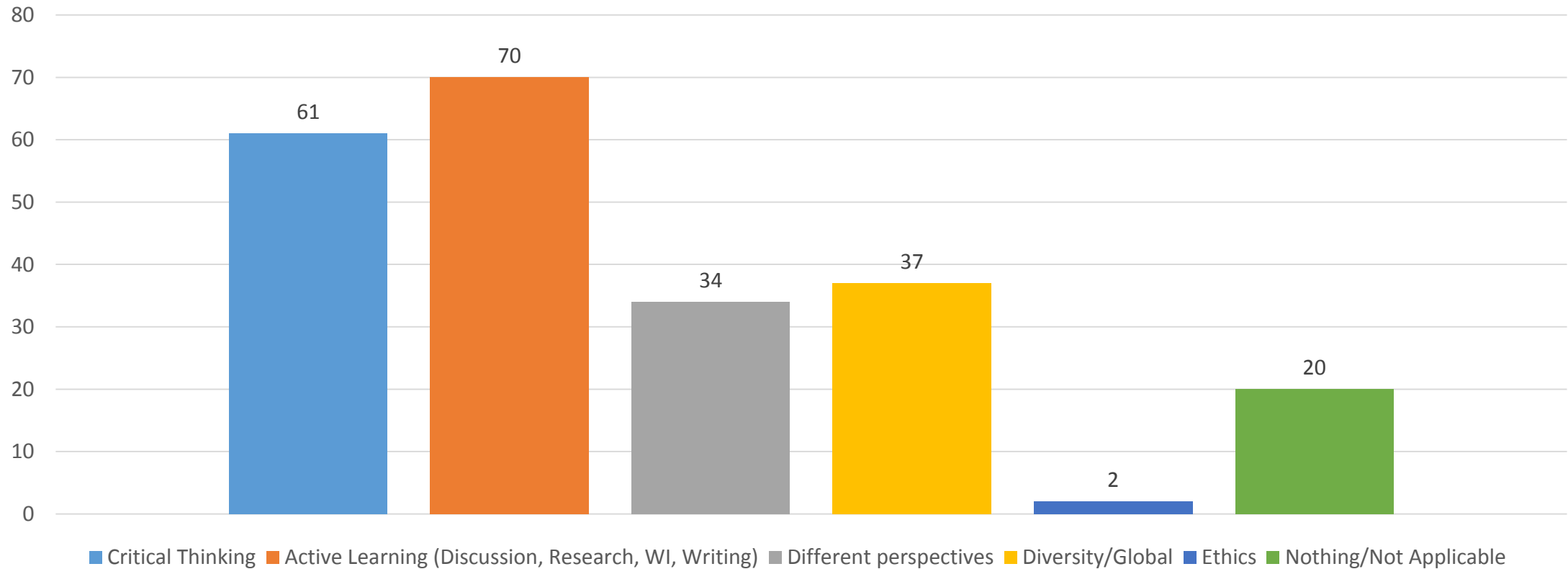There were 342 responses-some mentioned several course types; some did not mention any.

Number of responses for each non-course category

- ■ Critical Thinking
- ■ Active Learning (Discussion, Research, WI, Writing)
- ■ Different perspectives
- ■ Diversity/Global
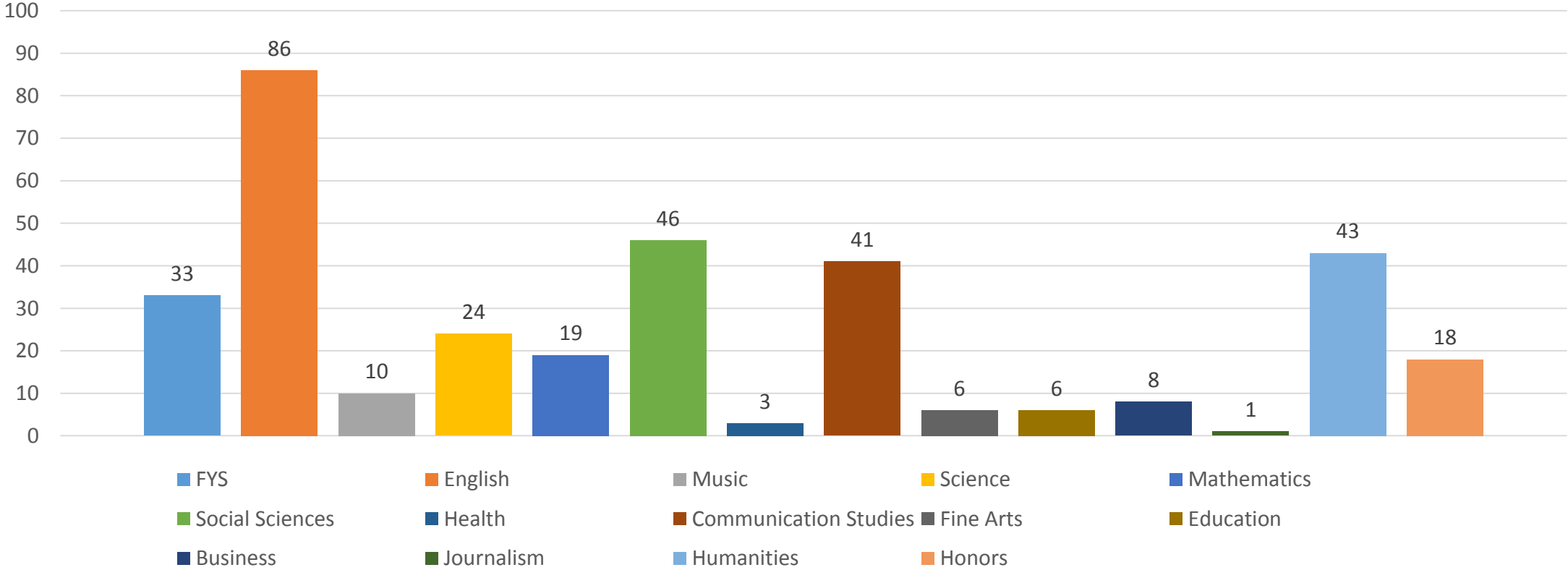- ■ Ethics
- ■ Nothing/Not Applicable

Wordle Showing Most Frequently Used Words in Response to the Survey Item, "Please provide examples of practices in your Core Curriculum (general education) courses that have resulted in deep learning." (2017)

Course Type Analysis for the Survey Item, "Please provide examples of practices in your Core Curriculum (general education) courses that have resulted in deep learning." (2017)
There were 482 responses-some mentioned several course types; some did not mention any.

Number of responses for each course type

Legend:
- FYS
- English
- Music
- Science
- Mathematics
- Social Sciences
- Health
- Communication Studies
- Fine Arts
- Education
- Business
- Journalism
- Humanities
- Honors

Values shown: FYS 33, English 86, Music 10, Science 24, Mathematics 19, Social Sciences 46, Health 3, Communication Studies 41, Fine Arts 6, Education 6, Business 8, Journalism 1, Humanities 43, Honors 18

Non-Course Type Categorical Analysis for the Survey Item, "Please provide examples of practices in your Core Curriculum (general education) courses that have resulted in deep learning." (2016)
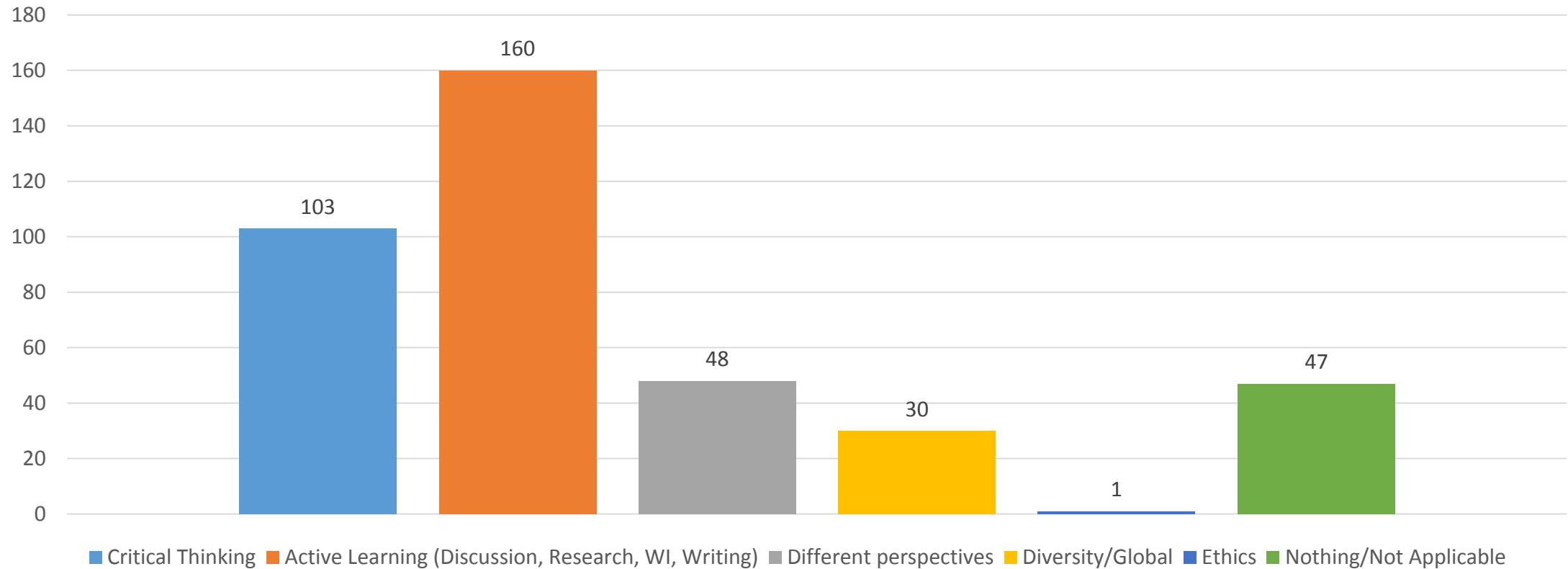There were 482 responses-some mentioned several course types; some did not mention any.

Number of responses for each non-course category

Legend: Critical Thinking · Active Learning (Discussion, Research, WI, Writing) · Different perspectives · Diversity/Global · Ethics · Nothing/Not Applicable

Values: Critical Thinking = 103; Active Learning = 160; Different perspectives = 48; Diversity/Global = 30; Ethics = 1; Nothing/Not Applicable = 47

Wordle Showing Most Frequently Used Words in Response to the Survey Item, "Please provide suggestions you think might improve learning in Marshall's Core Curriculum." (2016)

Wordle Showing Most Frequently Used Words in Response to the Survey Item, "Please provide suggestions you think might improve learning in Marshall's Core Curriculum." (2017)