



What Contributes to Overall Learning in Teacher Education Programs?

Skyfactor Research Note

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Owing to the immense responsibilities entrusted to teachers, teacher education programs are tasked with setting a curriculum that prepares students for the challenges and rigors of professional teaching. Administrators must identify which components of the program are most effective, which are not as effective, and refocus their efforts accordingly. Data from the 2017-2018 Benchworks Teacher Education Exit survey provides program administrators with valuable insight into students' overall learning and the aspects of the program that contribute to it.

This research note details findings from the Benchworks Teacher Education Exit Assessment of over 2,500 graduating teacher education students from 21 colleges and universities in the United States. In particular, this research notes explores concepts—both learning and satisfaction—that relate to overall learning as a result of the teacher education program experience.

Key Points:

- The majority of teacher education graduates rated their overall experience positively.
- Satisfaction with instruction, faculty, and student teaching are closely related to high overall learning
- Core curriculum components related to classroom instruction, lesson planning, and professional development are closely related to overall learning in teacher education program.

Key Questions:

1. Who are our teacher education program graduates?
2. How do graduating teacher education students rate their overall experience?
3. Which learning factors relate to overall learning in teacher education programs?
4. Which satisfaction factors relate to overall learning in teacher education programs?

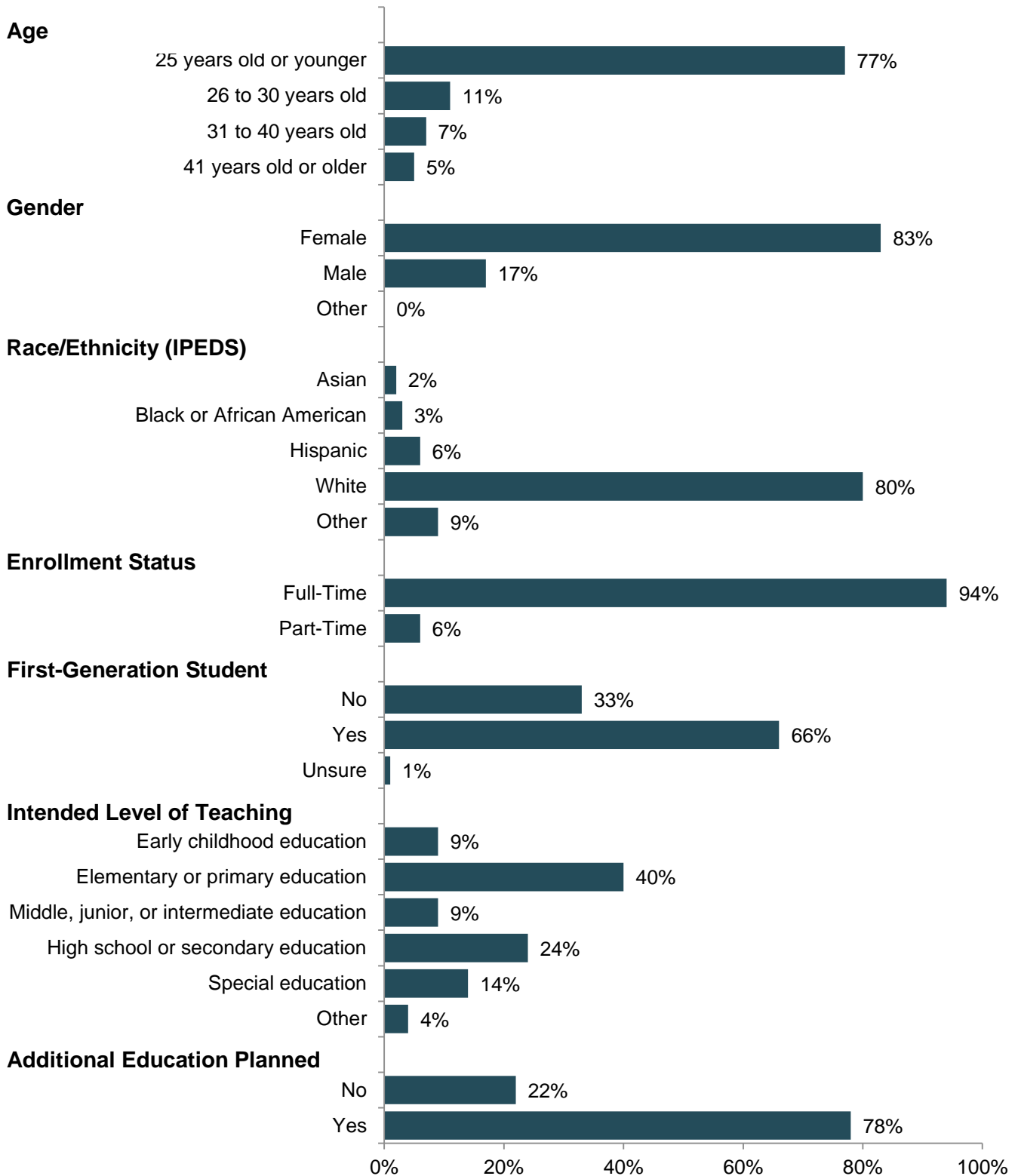
Who Are Our Teacher Education Program Graduates?

Figure 1 displays the breakdown of the teacher education graduate population by a variety of demographics, including age, gender, intended level of teaching, and enrollment status. On a high-level, there were several statistics which stood out:

- Age – The teacher education graduate population skewed young, as nearly three out of four graduates were 25 or younger and another 11% were between 26 and 30 years old.
- Gender – The majority of teacher education graduates—83%—were female.
- First-Generation – Two out of three teacher education graduates indicated that neither of their parents had graduated from college.
- Enrollment Status – 94% of college union visitors were full-time students.
- Future Education Plans – The majority of teacher education program graduates—78%—plan to seek additional education in the future. Nearly 95% of those students plan to seek education in a field related to teacher education.

Figure 1: Teacher Education Graduate Demographics

Distribution of teacher education program graduates across key demographic questions in the Benchworks Teacher Education Exit Assessment



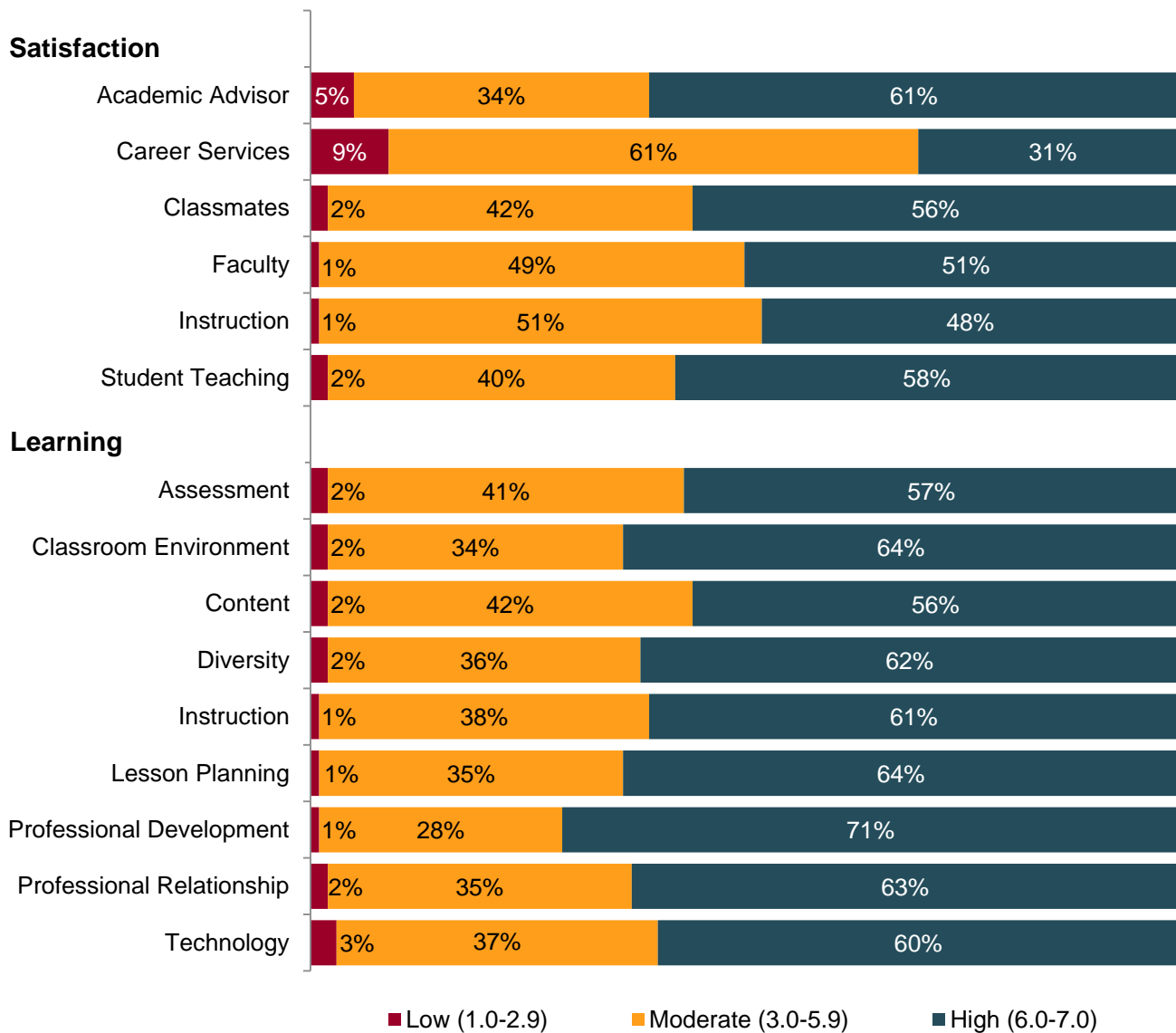
How Do Graduating Teacher Education Students Rate their Overall Experience?

Teacher education program graduates generally reported moderate to high scores across nearly every survey factor. Survey factors are a group of scaled survey questions that are related to each other both statistically and in their concepts. Each student who responded to the survey has a score for each factor, which is the mean value of all responses for that student in the particular factor.

Figures 2 the distribution of scores for both satisfaction learning factors on the exit assessment. The factor scores are grouped into three buckets: low (mean score 1.0-2.9), moderate (mean score 3.0-5.9), and high (mean score 6.0-7.0).

Figure 2: Factor Score Distributions

Percentage of teacher education program graduates averaging low (1.0-2.9), moderate (3.0-5.9), or high (6.0-7.0) scores on satisfaction factors in the assessment



Overall Learning

The Overall Learning factor measures overall student perceptions of the quality of their learning experience in the teacher education program. Figure 3 displays the distribution of responses to the three scaled survey questions in the Overall Learning factor. Figure 4 displays the bucketed average scores of teacher education graduates across all questions from the Overall Learning factor.

Responses were grouped into low (average score of less than 3), moderate (average score between 3 and 5.9), and high (average score 6 or higher). Generally, most teacher education program graduates answered on the high end of the seven-point scale for all three questions in the factor, indicating a positive evaluation of their learning experience.

Figure 3: Overall Learning

Percentage of students responding “Not at all” (1 or 2), “Moderately” (3, 4, or 5), or “Extremely” (6 or 7) to questions comprising the Overall Learning factor

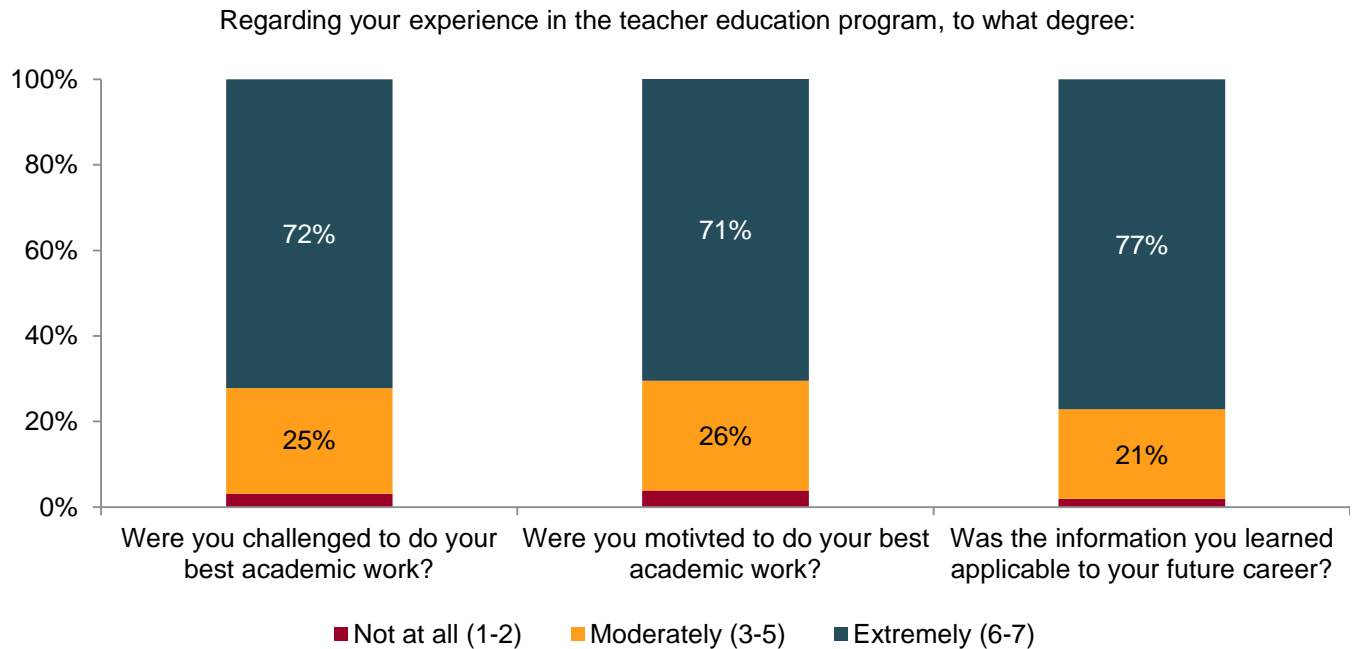
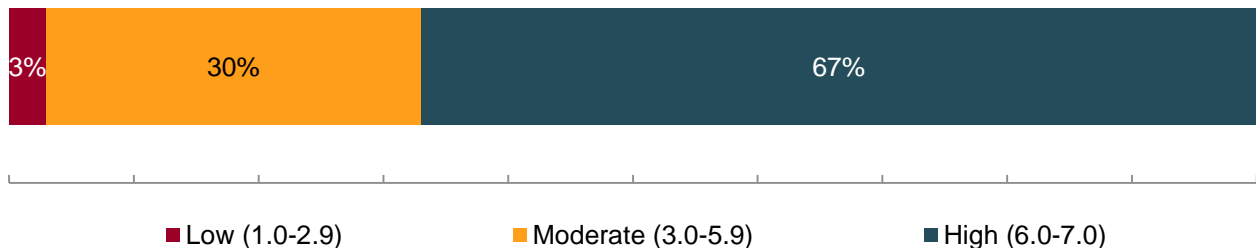


Figure 4: Overall Learning Factor Distribution

Average score on the Overall Learning factor, grouped by low (mean score 1.0-2.9), moderate (3.0-5.9), and high (6.0-7.0) factor scores



Which Learning Factors Relate to Overall Learning in Teacher Education Programs?

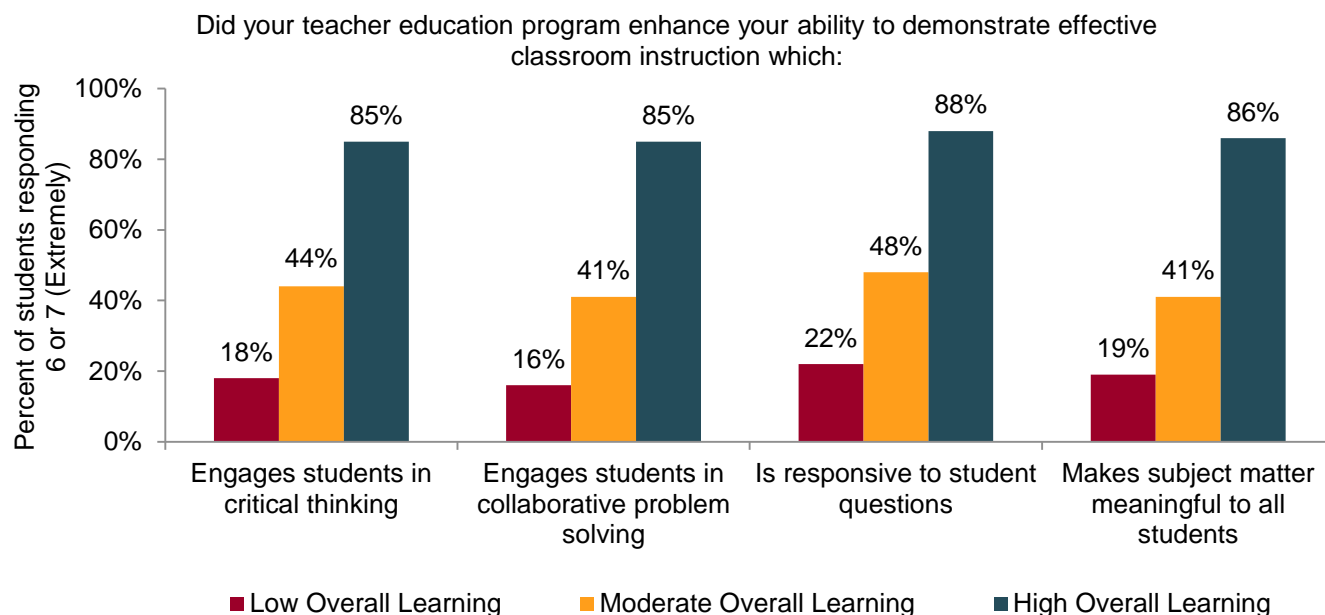
The analysis for this note identified factors related to learning outcomes that had strong relationships with overall learning as a result of the teacher education program experience. These factors were identified through both bivariate correlations and linear regression analysis.

Instruction

The Instruction factor measured the degree to which the teacher education program experience enhanced students' ability to enhance ability to demonstrate effective classroom instruction through outcomes like fostering student development, making subject matter meaningful, and engaging students in critical thinking. Figure 5 displays the relationship between some questions in this factor and the Overall Learning factor. Overall, students who scored high on the Overall Learning factor were far more likely to report that their teacher education program enhanced these learning outcomes.

Figure 5: Instruction Outcomes and Overall Learning

Percentage of teacher education graduates responding "Extremely" (6 or 7) on questions related to instruction by their Overall Learning factor score



Lesson Planning

The Lesson Planning factor measured the degree to which the teacher education program experience enhanced students' ability to develop effective lesson plans that align to content standards, are modified to meet student needs, and integrate activities and materials effectively. Figure 6 displays the relationship between some questions in this factor and the Overall Learning factor. Overall, students who scored high on the Overall Learning factor were far more likely to report that their teacher education program enhanced learning outcomes related to lesson planning.

Figure 6: Lesson Planning Outcomes and Overall Learning

Percentage of teacher education graduates responding “Extremely” (6 or 7) on questions related to lesson planning by their Overall Learning factor score

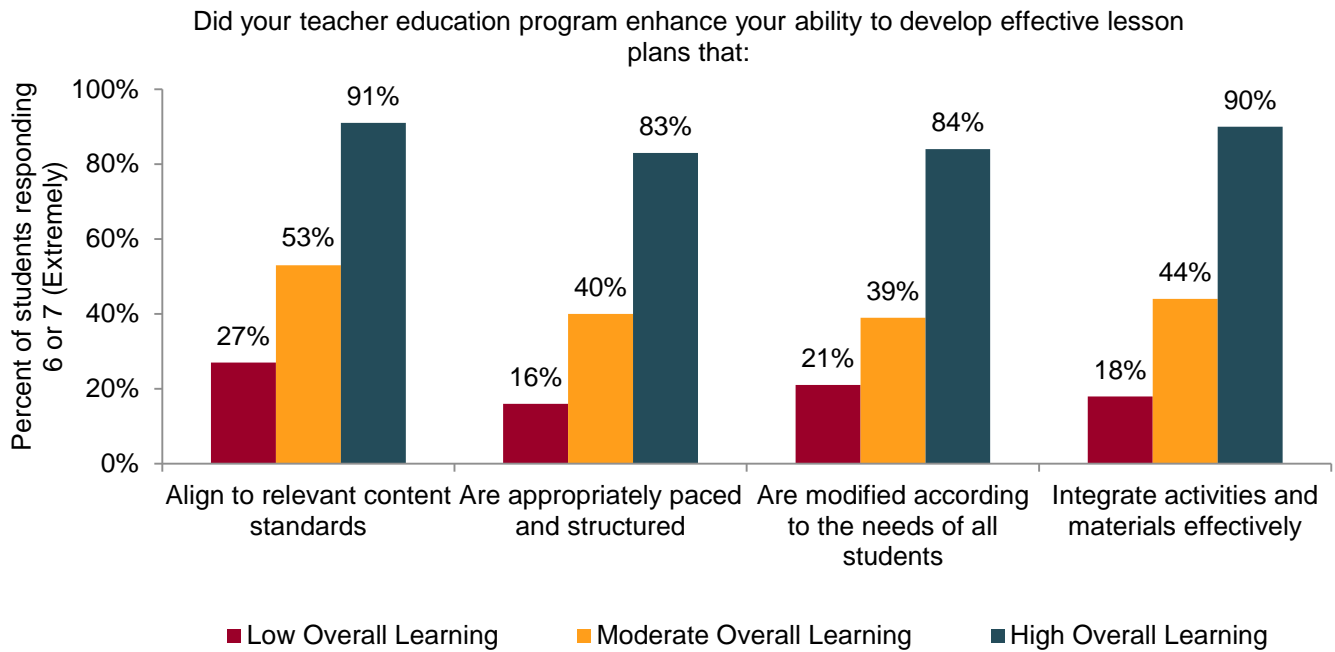
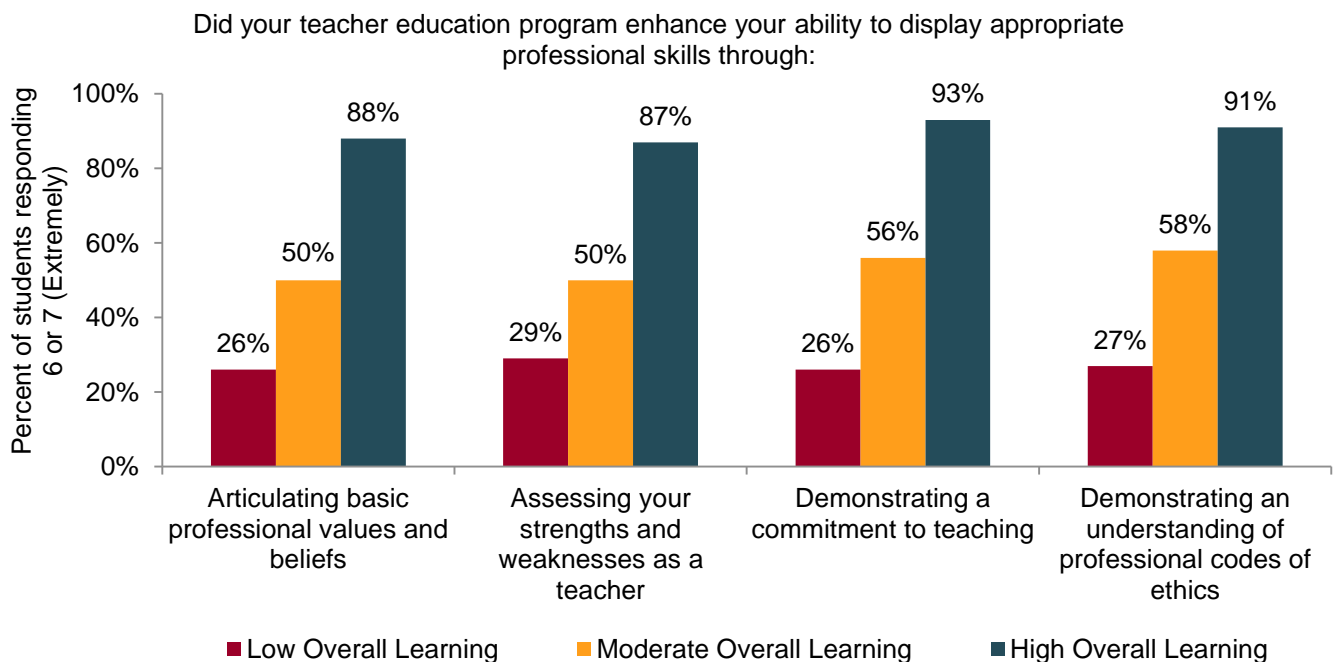


Figure 7: Professional Development Outcomes and Overall Learning

Percentage of teacher education graduates responding “Extremely” (6 or 7) on questions related to professional development by their Overall Learning factor score



Professional Development

The Professional Development factor measured the degree to which the teacher education program experience enhanced students' ability to develop effective lesson plans that align to content standards, are modified to meet student needs, and integrate activities and materials effectively. Figure 7 displays the relationship between some questions in this factor and the Overall Learning factor. Overall, students who scored high on the Overall Learning factor were far more likely to report that their teacher education program enhanced learning outcomes related to lesson planning.

Which Satisfaction Factors Relate to Overall Learning in Teacher Education Programs?

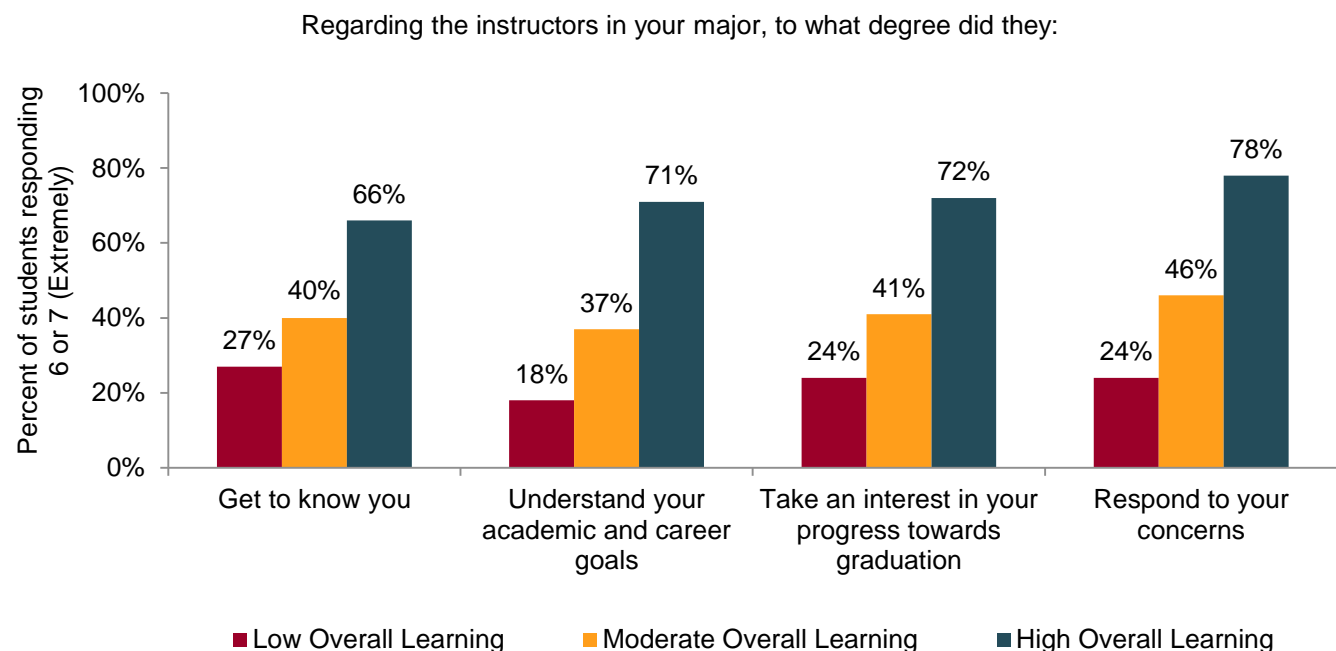
Additionally, the analysis for this note also included concepts related to program satisfaction that had strong relationships with overall learning in teacher education programs.

Faculty Connections

The faculty connections factor measured the degree to which the teacher education program students were satisfied with a variety of aspects of faculty connections, including the degree to which faculty got to know them and took an interest in their progress towards graduation. Figure 8 displays the relationship between some questions in this factor and the Overall Learning factor. Overall, students who scored high on the Overall Learning factor were far more likely to report that they formed meaningful connections with faculty across a variety of measures.

Figure 8: Faculty Connections and Overall Learning

Percentage of teacher education graduates responding "Extremely" (6 or 7) on questions related to faculty connections by their Overall Learning factor score

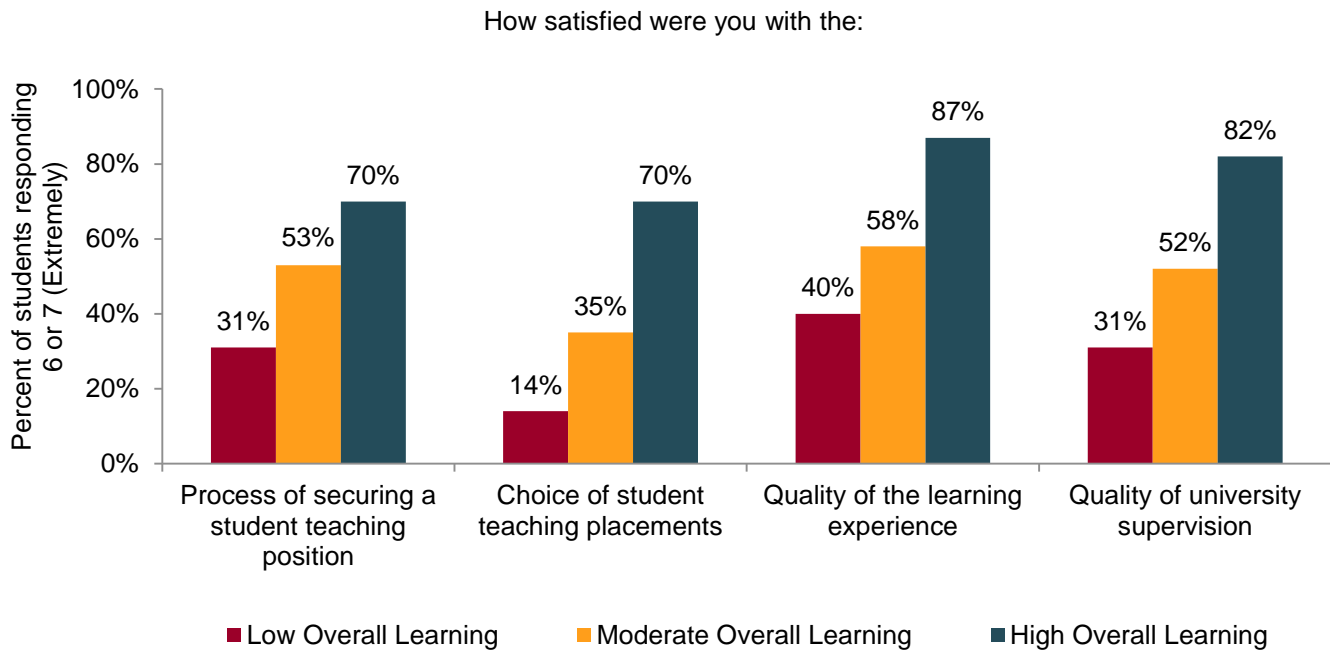


Student Teaching

The Student Teaching factor measured the degree to which the teacher education program students were satisfied with several aspects of the student teaching experience, including the placement process and quality of the learning experience. Figure 9 displays the relationship between some questions in this factor and the Overall Learning factor. Overall, students who scored high on the Overall Learning factor were far more likely to report high satisfaction with their student teaching experience.

Figure 9: Student Teaching Outcomes and Overall Learning

Percentage of teacher education graduates responding “Extremely” (6 or 7) on questions related to student teaching by their Overall Learning factor score



Conclusion

Overall, teacher education students graduate with positive evaluations of the academic program. Most students reported high levels of overall learning and satisfaction. Satisfaction is an important component to the teacher education program, as highly satisfied students tended to report higher levels of overall learning. The survey data revealed the three teacher education program components that best predict overall learning: instruction, lesson planning, and professional development. For each of these three factors, over 65% of students responded with highly positive ratings on the questions making up each factor. The survey also showed the three satisfaction factors that best predict overall learning: quality of instruction, faculty and courses, and student teaching experiences. For each factor, the majority of students reported high levels of satisfaction regarding each of the questions making up the factors.

About the Data

The data used in this research note is from the 2017-2018 Benchworks Teacher Education Exit Assessment. This exit assessment provides administrators with valuable insight into the teacher education student experience and important outcomes from that experience. Results can be effectively utilized to focus attention on both strengths and areas in need of improvement. The instrument was designed to map to key accreditation standards, including CAEP and In-TASC. The data in this note is from 2,670 undergraduate teacher education students from 21 four-year institutions in the United States.

About Skyfactor

Since 1994, Skyfactor has been dedicated to improving retention, student success, and the quality of the college student experience. Our products and services have empowered over 1,500 college and universities to positively impact student development, learning, retention and satisfaction through the Mapworks student success and retention system, and through Benchworks national benchmarking assessments.

Mapworks is a research-based, comprehensive, student retention and success platform created through a partnership between Skyfactor and Ball State University. It capitalizes on Ball State's 20+ years of experience with the original Making Achievement Possible (MAP) program and Skyfactor's expertise in national benchmarking assessments. Mapworks leverages predictive analytics to identify at-risk students. It presents that information in a format that makes it easy for an institution's faculty and staff to focus on the needs of students early in the term and to have a positive impact on student success and retention.

Benchworks includes over 50 easy-to-use student affairs and academic affairs program assessments. These assessments are rooted in accreditation and professional standards and are designed to support a culture of continuous program improvement. Assessment reports include longitudinal data, the ability to benchmark against peer institutions, and interactive dashboards that enable rapid identification of critical issues.



For more information about Skyfactor,
to schedule a demonstration, or to sign up for a webinar,
please write to us at info@skyfactor.com or visit www.skyfactor.com