Cañada College

# Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO) Assessment

## Graduation Survey Results
## 2025-2026

Presented to the Academic Senate
November 12, 2026
by the

Office of Planning, Research & Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE)

# Highlights

- **A majority of graduates self-report completing their programs within 3 years**
- **CSM and SKY # of degrees earned  have recovered faster since low point in 2022/23**
  Cañada's completions have also recovered, but not at the same rate as the rest of the district.
- **Overall, graduates 8092% Agree / Strongly Agree that they have "improved their ability to effectively" to perform every learning outcome**
  However, Quantitative Reasoning score the lowest amongst the 8 ILOs. Unsurprisingly, S&T graduates score this outcome higher than other divisions.
- **Disaggregated data shows little difference for ILO ratings**
  Results were not statistically significant, given the small sample sizes.

# Project Background

# ILO Assessment

Cañada College regularly assesses its Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) in order assure institutional effectiveness and promote continuous improvement.

The College uses multiple methods of assessment:

1) A survey of students petitioning to graduate with a degree or certificate every year
2) Program Learning Outcomes Assessments aligned with ILOs.

The results of these assessments are discussed by our participatory governance bodies including the Instructional Planning Council and the Planning and Budgeting Council, and appropriate action plans are developed.

# Cañada's Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) Revised 3/2025

- **Critical Thinking & Information Literacy**
  Select, evaluate, and use information to investigate a point of view, support a conclusion, or engage in problem solving.

- **Creativity**
  Produce, combine, or synthesize ideas in creative ways within or across disciplines.

- **Communication**
  Use language to effectively convey an idea or a set of facts, including the accurate use of source material and evidence according to institutional and discipline standards.

# Cañada's Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) revised 3/2025

- **Community, Civic Responsibility, and Ability to Engage with Diverse Perspectives**
  Understand and interpret various points of view that emerge from a diverse world of peoples and cultures. Understand the civic duties and obligations as a member of society to participate in the life of their community, society, and the world.

- **Quantitative Reasoning**
  Represent data in various forms (e.g., graphs, diagrams, tables, statistics or equations) and analyze these data to draw appropriate conclusions. disciplines.

# Survey details

- Field date: April 20- May 18, 2026
- 157 out of 680 graduates responded
  - 23% response rate, 6.9% Margin of Error for 95% confidence
- Respondents were generally representative of the graduating student population, except:
  - Older (15 pts fewer students age 21 and 9 pts more students over age 40)
  - Slightly more female (65% of respondents vs. 60% of all graduates)
  - Fewer part-time and Less-than-part-time respondents

# Our ILO Statements were updated in March, 2025

- To stay consistent with the new (2024) accreditation standards; and
- To clarify language

As a result, the PRIE Office updated the survey prompts.

# Survey prompts: Critical Thinking & Information Literacy

*"During my time at Cañada College, I have improved my ability to effectively…"*

## 2025 survey

- Select, evaluate, and use information to investigate a point of view
- Use information to support a conclusion
- Engage in problem solving

## 2026 survey

- Select, evaluate, and use information to investigate a point of view or support a conclusion
- Select, evaluate and use information to engage in problem solving

Combined to reduce 3 questions to 2

# Survey prompts: Creativity

*“During my time at Cañada College, I have improved my ability to effectively…”*

## 2025 survey

- Generate new ideas that synthesize more than one concept
- Think originally and apply creative solutions
- Identify credible sources of information

## 2026 survey

- Produce, combine, or synthesize ideas in creative ways within or across disciplines

Combined to reduce 3 questions to 1

# Survey prompts: Communication

*"During my time at Cañada College, I have improved my ability to effectively…"*

## 2025 survey

- Convey my ideas confidently both orally and in writing
- Manage my time

## 2026 survey

- Use language to effectively convey an idea or a set of facts
- Accurately use source material and evidence according to institutional and discipline standards

Replaced prior questions to match revised ILO language

# Survey prompts: Community, Civic Responsibility, and Ability to Engage with Diverse Perspectives

*"During my time at Cañada College, I have improved my ability to effectively…"*

## 2025 survey

- Understand and interpret various points of view in a world of diverse peoples and cultures
- Engage with diverse groups across the campus community

## 2026 survey

- Understand and interpret various points of view that emerge from a diverse world of peoples and cultures
- Understand the civic duties and obligations as a member of society to participate in the life of their community, society, and the world

Replaced second question to match revised ILO language

# Survey prompts: Quantitative Reasoning

*"During my time at Cañada College, I have improved my ability to effectively…"*

## 2025 survey

- Represent complex data in various mathematical forms (e.g., equations, graphs, diagrams, tables and words)
- Analyze data to draw appropriate conclusions

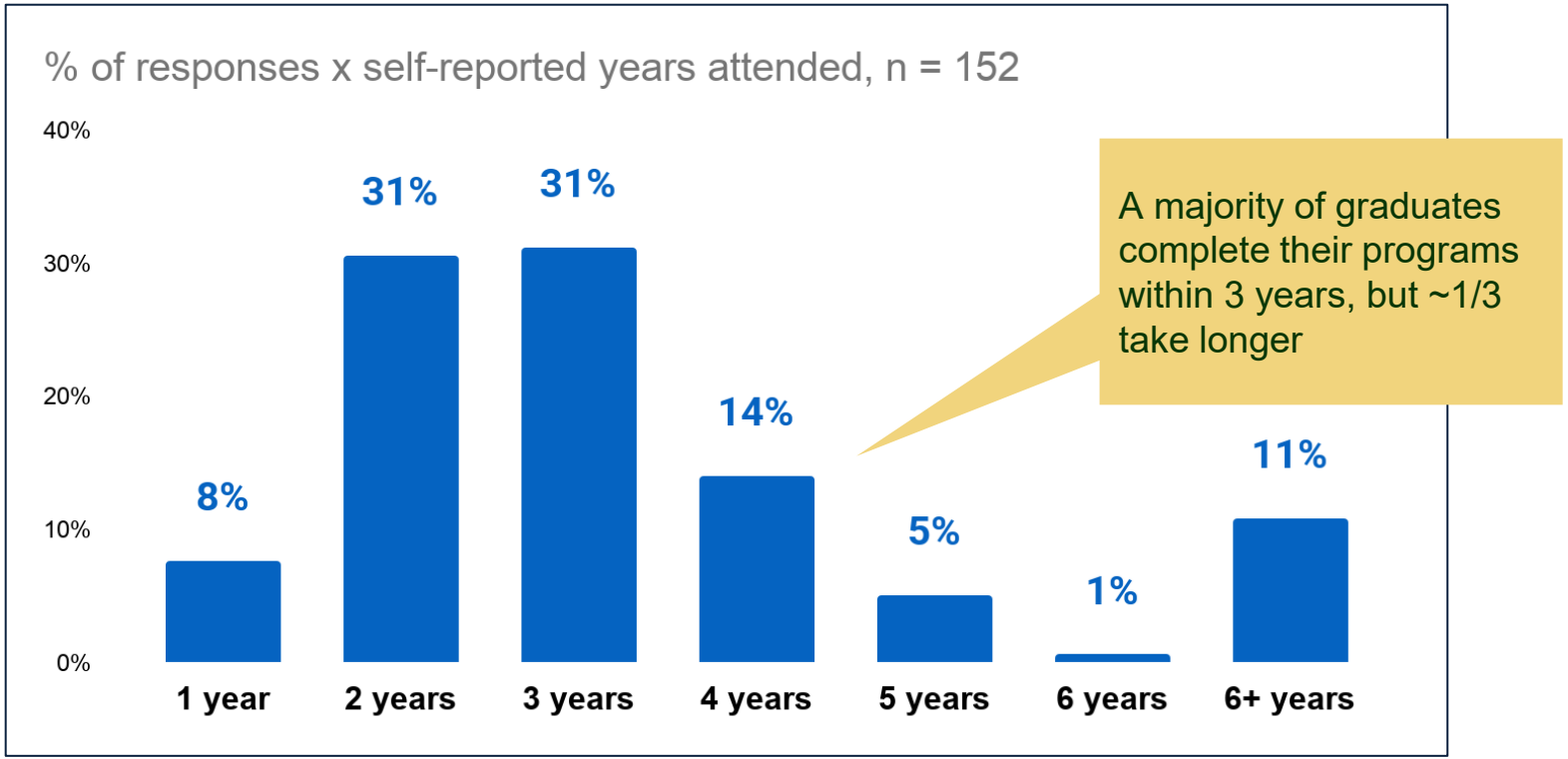
## 2026 survey

- Represent data in various forms (e.g., graphs, diagrams, tables, statistics or equations) and analyze these data to draw appropriate conclusions

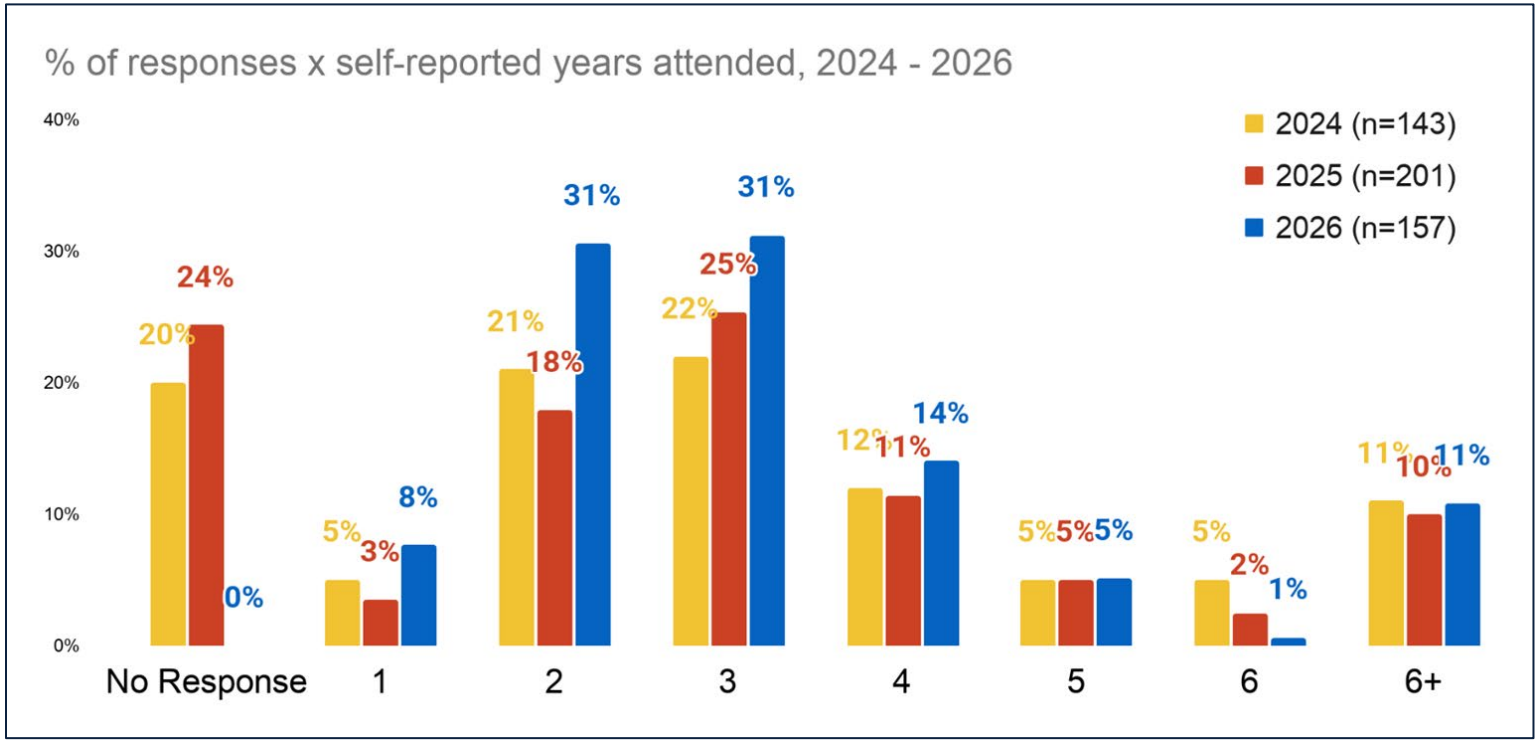
Rephrased and combined questions to reflect ILO revisions made in March 2025

# Survey Findings

# Survey Question: “Including this year, how many years have you attended Cañada College?”

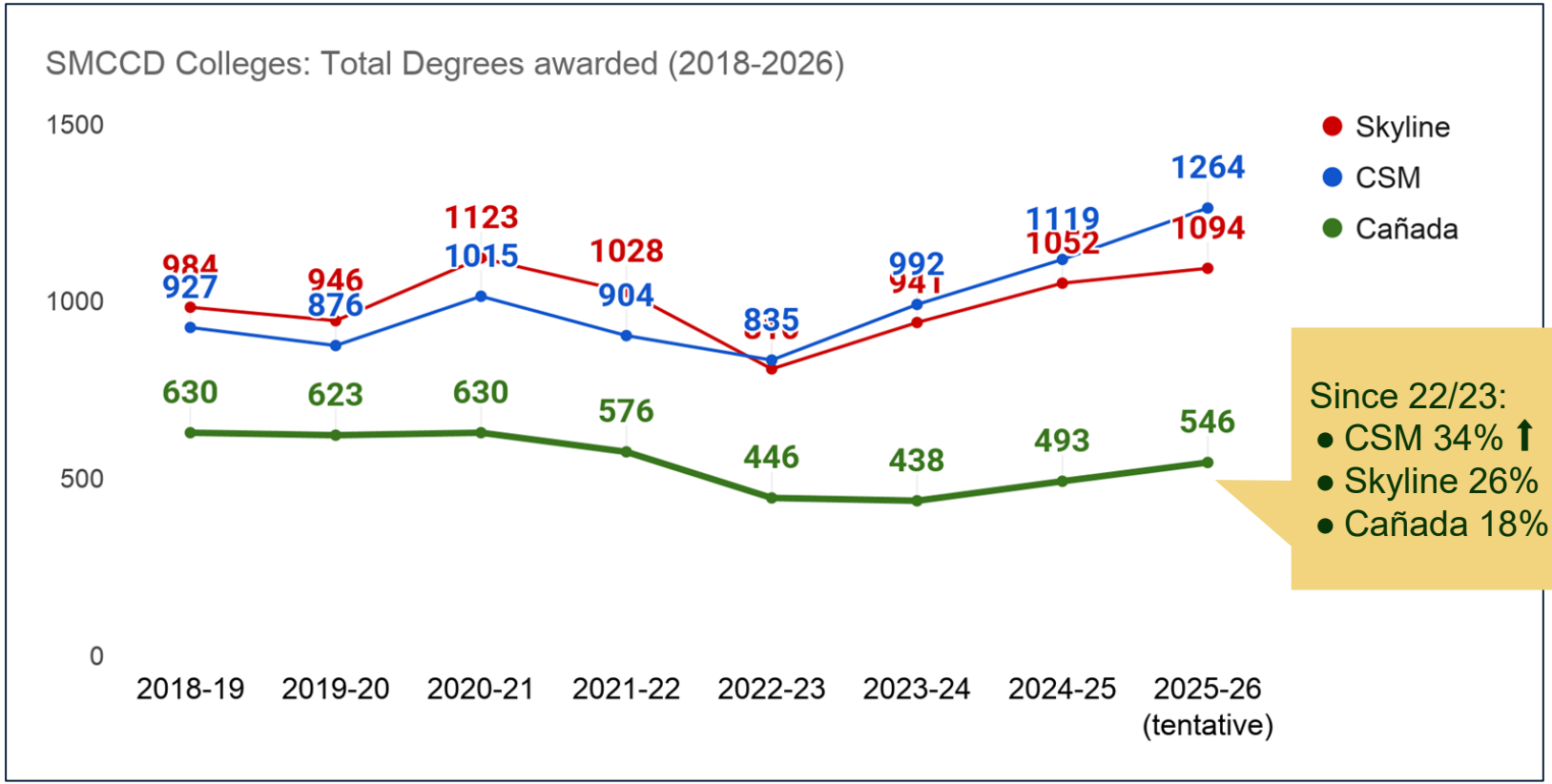


# Survey Question: “Including this year, how many years have you attended Cañada College?”

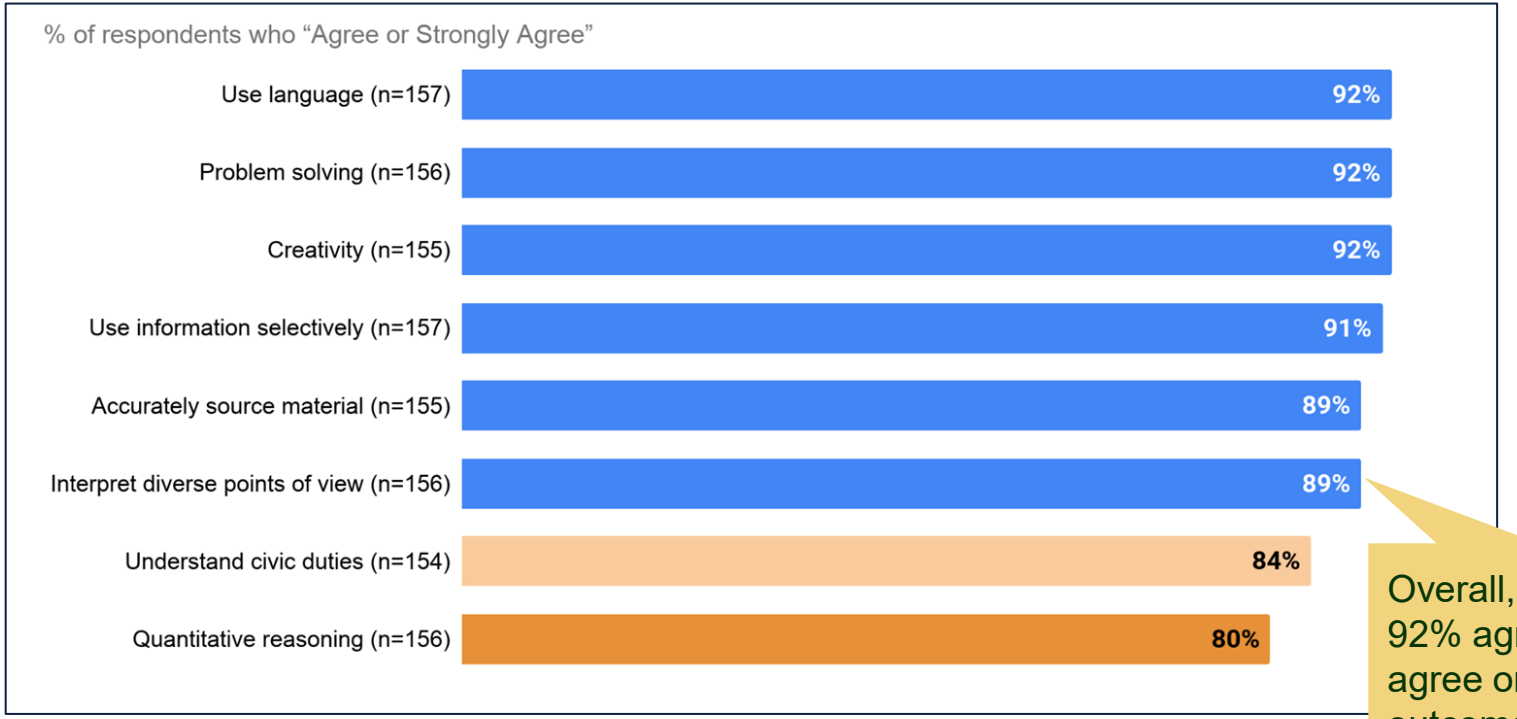



Note: 2026 has 0 null response, likely because this was the first question in the survey, unlike prior years

# CSM and Skyline degrees have recovered faster since low point in 2022/23



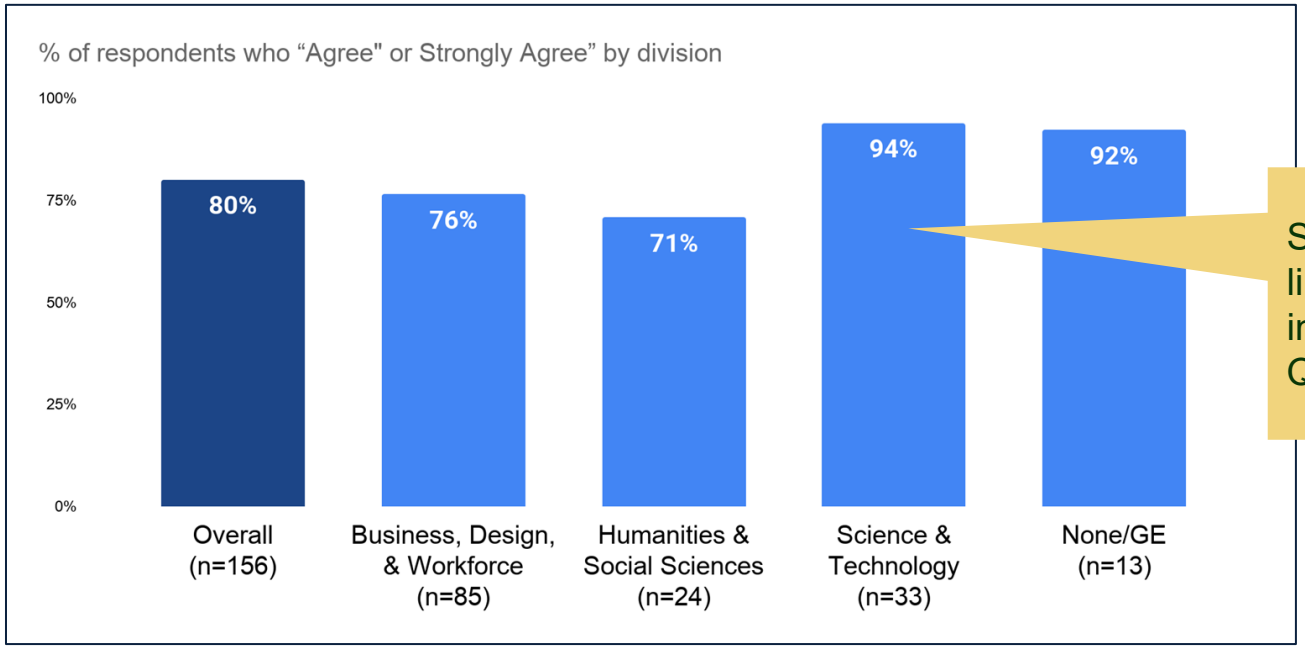
# Survey Question: “During my time at Cañada College, I have improved my ability to effectively…”




Overall, graduates 80-92% agree or strongly agree on every single outcome

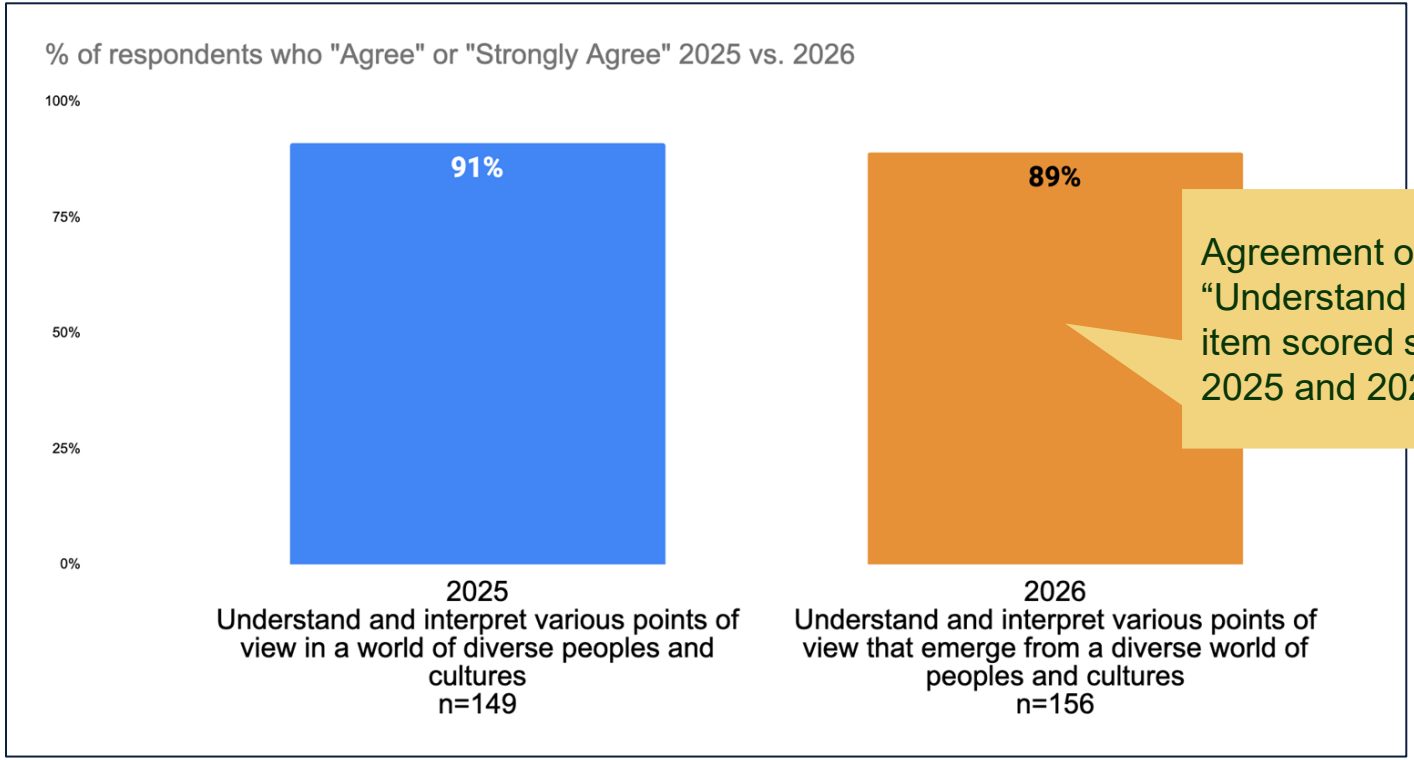
Note: Shortened labels used for chart readability

# Survey Question: “During my time at Cañada College, I have improved my ability to effectively..Represent data in various forms (e.g., graphs, diagrams, tables, statistics or equations) and analyze these data to draw appropriate conclusions.”



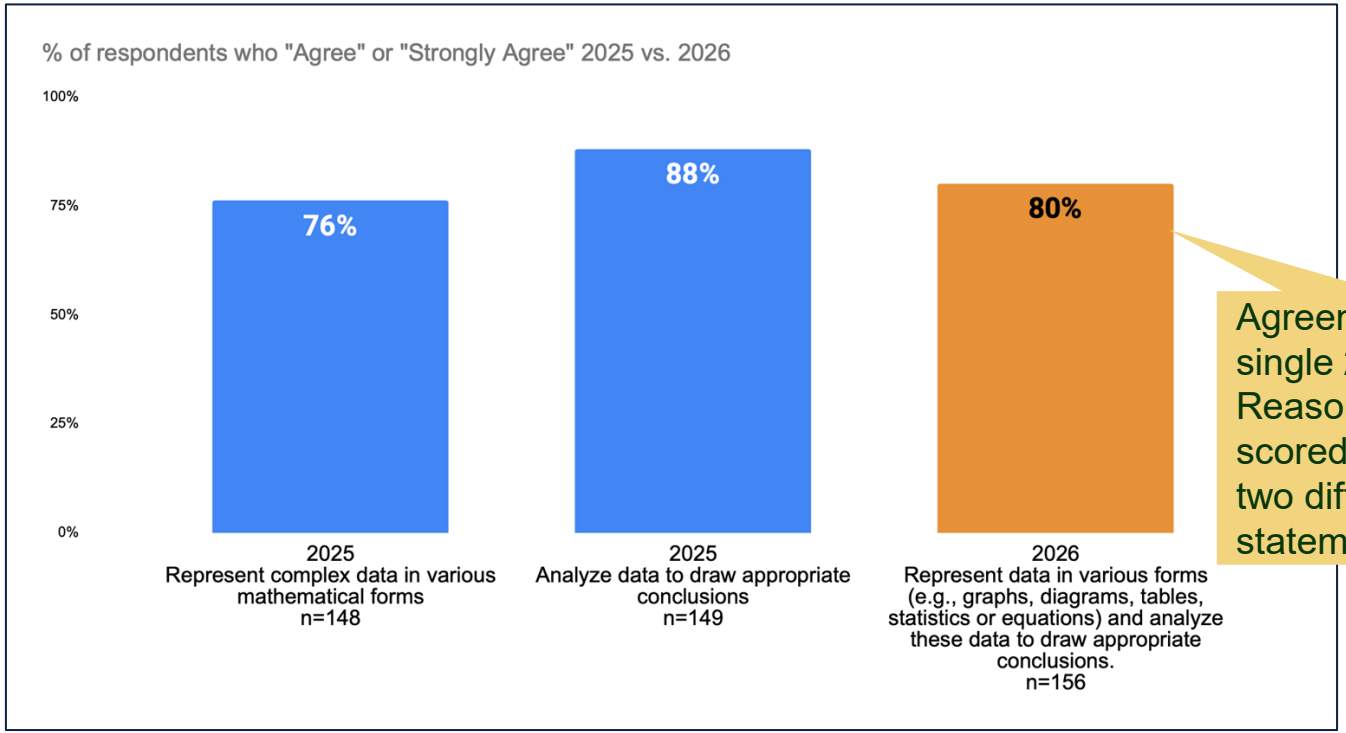

S&T graduates are more likely to agree about improvements for Quantitative Reasoning

# Survey Question: “During my time at Cañada College, I have improved my ability to effectively…”




Note: The 2025 survey used a slider scale of 1-100, while 2026 used a 5-point Likert scale.
2025 values are converted as 60-100 points count for “Agree” and “Strongly Agree” for YoY comparison.

# Survey Question: “During my time at Cañada College, I have improved my ability to effectively…”




Agreement on the single 2026 Quant. Reasoning item scored between the two different 2025 statements

# Disaggregating Survey Results

- **Responses were examined across our usual population attributes:** ethnicity, gender, age, division, first generation status, income, degree type, and credit load.

- **Subgroups showed little differences for ILO ratings** as results were not statistically significant, given the small sample sizes of the subgroups.
  - **Quant. Reasoning and Civic Engagement were generally the lowest rated ILOs** within every group
  - **Less than part time (LTPT) students rated 2 ILOs higher: Creativity and Diverse Perspectives.** This however could be a response bias as there were fewe LPT responses and those who responded are likely more engaged than non responding LPT students.

# Open-ended responses

# Open Response Themes | Challenges (n=120)

- **Students are managing substantial responsibilities outside college** – 38% (43 mentions, repeat theme)
  Flexible schedules, predictable course offerings, and multiple instructional modalities are therefore central to equity and completion.
  - *"I am a single mom, and full time worker, my big obstacles was the economic situation."*
  - *“One of the obstacles for me was being a working mom, at the same time managing school”*

- **Cañada’s support environment is a major strength** – 21% (24 mentions)
  Many students attributed their persistence to faculty, counselors, financial aid, disability services, mentors, and other campus resources.
  - *“...the supportive campus environment and helpful faculty at Cañada College have helped me stay focused and motivated in pursuing my educational goals.”*
  - *“I didn’t really have any hardships. I think the support from the campus’ services helped me get through the semesters.”*

# Open Response Themes | Challenges (n=120)

- **Access to support can depend too heavily on student initiative** ~13% (15 mentions)
  Students who knew where to go and felt comfortable asking often received help, while others discovered services too late or struggled to reach the appropriate office.
  - *“For me, I had all the help because I went looking for it. My teacher never ignored or rejected me, b it takes one to need and find the help.”*
  - *“The only obstacles I faced was being unaware of how many resources Cañada College offered, a once I did know it was too late.”*

- **Consistency is a key improvement opportunity.** ~24% (27 mentions)
  Student experiences varied across instructors, counselors, online courses, departments, and services. Clearer course sequencing, more reliable communication, timely feedback, and consistent advising could reduce avoidable barriers.
  - *"I often found myself getting a myriad of mixed answers. Some advice was helpful, other advice wa unclear, and one time, the advice was blatantly wrong."*

# Q: Please describe any obstacles you experienced while working towards your educational goals at Cañada College.

- I had difficulties as a student with dyslexia.
- -had trouble with some counselors never being able to give me a straight response to my questions and class scheduling advice that led to me having to take too much units in one semester or stacking too many core classes into one
- A lack of sleep
- A struggle I faced was motivation and financial hard ships which Canada college has helped me over come
- As an older student returning to school I faced challenges with self confidence. I worked through those challenges and found the school, support staff, counselors and teachers supportive and helpful.
- As an online student I have not been able to meet any student from the classes I have attended.
- At Cañada, I only had issues with a counselor, and that was from another CSM school when trying to get the degree I wanted. However, at Cañada College, I received all the help I was looking for. I'm not sure about Skyline or College of San Mateo, but so far, it outscores the others.
- At first, it was a challenge, but learning to manage my own schedule and classes helped me a lot.
- At times, it was quite difficult to balance sports, work, and class. However, working hard comes with the territory of being a college student. I enjoyed overcoming these obstacles and improving my time management skills.
- Balancing coursework with personal responsibilities sometimes made it difficult to stay on top of assignments and maintain consistent focus. There were also moments where I felt uncertain about my academic direction, which made it harder to stay motivated.
- Balancing social with school was hard. Especially with being a commuter school, the times which events are kind of inconvenient to go to.
- Because of my schedule, I had to take some classes online, and I always prefer in person's class as it is better to learn from our professors.
- Being able to go to the campus because of my busy schedule with work and kids
- Cañada college offers lots of support and resources for students. The financial Aid director is amazing and everyone is so friendly and willing to help. I am very happy with the support I had.
- Counseling seems badly understaffed. Was a significant inconvenience.

# Q: Please describe any obstacles you experienced while working towards your educational goals at Cañada College.

- Economic hardship, family health conditions that requires less time to focus, study or work.
- For me Evrything was good
- For me, I had all the help because I went looking for it. My teacher never ignored or rejected me, but it takes one to need and find the help.
- From the very moment I took a course at Cañada College in 2021, I recognized it as the educational home I had been searching for. While it is true that I faced difficulties at Skyline College, I overcame them and achieved my goal of completing my studies and graduating as an Early Childhood Education teacher, finishing my final course at Cañada College. Difficulties are always present, but they can be overcome with intelligence and self-control.
- Having to drop a needed class because a teacher had "zero" tolerance for mistakes. What is the point of learning, right?
- Having to work long hours to support myself financially.
- I am a single mom, and full time worker, my big obstacles was the economic situation.
- I am graduating with an Associate of Science in Interior Design. I worked with my counselor to develop an Ed Plan, which was generally helpful. However, it would have been immensely helpful to have had more specific guidance on the order of classes I should take throughout the program. For instance, if I had known to take AutoCAD or Chief Architecture as one of my foundational classes, it would have made a huge difference in my success. Knowing the order of courses should be suggested by each department to aid in the success of students.
- I ask my professor for a lot of help and met them during their office hours
- I believe it is very important for professors, mentors, and counselors to truly encourage and support their students. One of the challenges I experienced was finding professors who are passionate about what they do and genuinely care about student success. While I had some great instructors, I also encountered a few who seemed disengaged or not very supportive, which made the learning experience more difficult.
- I did not have clear goal of study when I started my college year, and sometimes I had hard time to keep my motivation for study. After setting my goal to earn certificates I could find what to do next.
- I didn’t face any major obstacles while pursuing my educational goals at Cañada College. The experience was really wonderful; the college felt like a family, and I truly enjoyed every part of it.

# Q: Please describe any obstacles you experienced while working towards your educational goals at Cañada College.

- I didn't really have any hardships. I think the support from the campus' services helped me get through the semesters.
- I felt like I wasn't really represented as a student at Cañada in terms of resources and workshops. I am an art major and I didn't feel like there were great resources for majors outside of STEM at Cañada. Cañada also did not offer several major requirements and I found i preferred taking art classes at other SMCCD campuses as they had more options. I also feel like many classes don't encourage socialization among classmates which is important. Community college can be lonely and when you're talking lecture based classes that don't offer any opportunities for group work or even partner review it can become extremely challenging to start making connections and building a community.
- I had to find my rhythm with work, parenting, and studying.
- I have young children so I was sometimes tricky to match my personal schedule with the class schedule
- I haven't taken the statistics classes yet.
- I think this semester was difficult for me because I had no option for in person classes on a few classes. I don't do well with online so it's been hard to keep up.
- I was working full time, from 9 to 5, and the college having the Saturday Gen Chem classes was a lifesaver for me.
- In my time here in Canada college I was facing academic difficulties but I was given another chance and I am now going to transfer. I was also able to make it to deans list of honors last semester.
- It was have free time to do homework and tae more classes in order to finish my educational goal on time.
- Language
- Language was at one point and issue that was easily overcome with help from the student center.
- Learning disabilities I did not realize I had. And how I was gently guided to how I could better my learning by assessing the disability resources.
- I also experienced stress and therefore felt my mental wellbeing shift towards something I was not. I found people and resources to help me guide me through those times and to understand that it was not me.

# Q: Please describe any obstacles you experienced while working towards your educational goals at Cañada College.

- Living very far away from the college forced me to only do online classes.
- Los horarios de algunas clases no están disponibles, particularmente para los que recibimos clases en el turno de noche y que combinamos la atencion a la familia, el trabajo y los estudios. (Translation: The schedules of some classes are not available, particularly for those of us who receive classes on the night shift and who combine attention to family, work and studies.)
- Main obstacles were due to outside influences and distractions.
- Mainly transportation. When I started my journey in the college, I had to wait around 45 minutes to get another bus. I got used to at the end.
- Managing my time wasn't necesarily an obstacle, but it was a skill I had to develop a litte more since I had work and a sport to balance. I also faced some challenges with office hours since I didn't have much free time. Another obstacle was course registration - several of the classes I registered for got dropped a week before classes would start and then I would have to scramble to find a new class that worked with my schedule and wasn't already full! I faced a massive personal roadblock this last semester, my dad had a massive medical emergency that turned my family's world upside down. This was really hard to navigate in the middle of the semester.
- Managing work and school was hard.
- Mi principal obstáculo fué el idioma (Translation: My main obstacle was the language)
- more classes with the same asignatura at the same time
- Most of the obstacles I faced were in my personal life. Cañada helped me get through most of them without realizing how meaning it meant it for me to show up for myself and for my education as well as never giving up.
- Mostly some materials where niche to find.
- My biggest obstacle was believing in myself. I was in and out of school for so many semesters because I genuinely believed I couldn't get it done. Eventually, I had great friends and mentors who pushed me to go back to school. I was scared, because some time had passed, but mentally I had changed. Something clicked and I wanted to grow and get to the next level of my education.

# Q: Please describe any obstacles you experienced while working towards your educational goals at Cañada College.

- My experience at Cañada College was the best. Obstacles I had in my time here were personal. I withdrew from a class 3 separate semesters because I wasn't confident in my communication skills. Then, my dad sadly passed away so staying motivated was a hard thing to accomplish. I am sincerely grateful for the amazing people that help me through this.
- One of the obstacles for me was being a working mom, at the same time managing school
- Procrastination was one of my biggest obstacles
- Returning to school while balancing family responsibilities and preparing for a career change has been challenging at times. However, the supportive campus environment and helpful faculty at Cañada College have helped me stay focused and motivated in pursuing my educational goals.
- Some obstacles I encounter were that at times it was difficult to find people to connect with socially and that there was a lack of access to many clubs.
- Some obstacles I have experienced while working toward my educational goals at Cañada College include managing my time between school and my responsibilities at home. As a homemaker, I have to balance my studies with taking care of my family, which can make it difficult to focus on assignments and deadlines.
- Some online classes were great, but I felt that a couple of them lacked a proper connection between the professor and students. Communication is inevitably limited with asynchronous courses, but I wish some professors made the classes feel more involved. Online classes that simply provide readings/assignments with no culture of asking questions or creating dialogue feel dull and limit actual learning. The course becomes focused solely on completing assignments and less on understanding and building on the content. The degree of communication seems to vary from professor to professor, but I found those less involved classes to be less helpful in the long term, as it was challenging to stay engaged.

# Q: Please describe any obstacles you experienced while working towards your educational goals at Cañada College.

- As someone who had limited support from family and friends with regard to transferring, I struggled with navigating that process. I wish I were better informed of transfer opportunities and risks before it was too late. Things like the opportunity of double majoring, the effect of impacted majors, and knowledge of private universities, among many others, were all factors I felt like I learned about too late in my transfer process. I did seek out help with counselors and in the transfer center, but I often found myself getting a myriad of mixed answers. Some advice was helpful, other advice was unclear, and one time, the advice was blatantly wrong. Figuring out the transfer process was certainly a challenge.
- Some professors are very hard to reach which made me anxious most of the times
- Some teachers were not following simple rules, such as grading assignments every week and providing feedback for improvements
- Sometimes it was hard to keep up with the homework assignments
- Sometimes my obstacles are the language.
- Staying organized while raising two kids
- Struggled financially when getting kicked out of my family's home
- Tackling on homework assignments
- The biggest obstacle I experienced was getting in touch with staff for counseling or admission/records related matters. I reached out via email and it was hard to get assistance or answers from staff.
- The courses being hard to understand sometimes.
- The long trip to get to school and back is time consuming
- The obstacles I faced were mainly personal, but was able to find help!
- The only obstacle I experience was that I thought I wouldn't pass a class and had to retake it.
- The only obstacle that I have experienced is the graduation process. The process was confusing and did not understand why I needed appeal. All three years I have had a counselor and I had never heard of possibility of exceeding 150%.

# Q: Please describe any obstacles you experienced while working towards your educational goals at Cañada College.

- The only obstacles I faced was being unaware of how many resources Cañada College offered, and once I did know it was too late.
- The only obstacles I faced were juggling work + parenting with access to the classes I needed that fit my schedule. It took a bit longer to graduate because I had to wait for a long time for certain classes to be offered again, especially as I got toward the advanced classes for my major. I don't blame the college, I know that professors' schedules also come into play with when classes are offered.
- The only obstacles I would say is that time management with being a single mother and going to school part-time
- The program started excellent, but I had problems with three teachers. They didn't answer on time. With only three days left to finish the semester, they reviewed our homework and told us to change everything. It was illogical, and they lowered our grades. I felt very bad.
- That is a lack of responsibility. They didn't respect our time. Many of us have a complicated life: two jobs, family.
- That is why teacher surveys should not be at the beginning of the course. They should be at the end. At the beginning, you don't know the teacher.
- Also, some teachers need more empathy. Latina students sometimes don't know how to express ourselves well or how to do critical writing. Some teachers make us feel like we are not good enough. When we ask for help or have tutors, they don't believe us.
- This happened to me and my classmates. We couldn't speak because of fear and shame.
- The timing at Canada was such a difference from high school, just based on how you have to handle what you need to.
- There wasn't that many issues that I can recall.
- There were a lot of G.E. classes that I had to take, which at times felt unnecessary for my field of study.
- Time and money
- Time management
- Time management as a full-time employee.
- Time to get more classes and finish earlier.ever
- WebSMART for class registration is hard to maneuver after changing into different format.
- Went through a divorce and dealt with unstable home conditions for a year after

# Q: Please describe any obstacles you experienced while working towards your educational goals at Cañada College.

- While working toward my educational goals at Cañada College, I faced several obstacles. One of the biggest challenges was balancing school with family responsibilities, work, and daily life. Sometimes it was difficult to manage my time, especially when I had many assignments, exams, and personal responsibilities at the same time. English is also not my first language, so I had to spend extra time reading, writing, and understanding some course materials. Even with these challenges, I continued to stay focused, ask for help when needed, and work hard to complete my classes and move closer to my educational goals.
- Work schedules
- Working and attending school full time
- Working full time and managing time was my biggest struggle.
- Working with the disabilities center sometimes - I felt like I didn't always get the support that was needed and I had to be extra proactive to get help.

# Open Response themes | Positive learning experiences (n=112)

- **Faculty relationships & mentorship**~29% (32 mentions, repeat theme)
  Often mentioned by name, specific professor's encouragement, patience, or belief in the student
  - *"One great learning experience was when I met Professor Kristina Brower... I am very grateful for h because she made me feel that someone believes in me and wants me to become a good professi*
  - *"I had the most amazing English professor Dr. Fitzgerald, he taught me English much more that I h ever learned at school and encouraged me to reach for more and trust that I can."*

- **Community, peer connection & belonging**~13% (14 mentions)
  Finding people (classmates, clubs, teammates) across different backgrounds shaped students socially and academically
  - *"Finding community. The biggest take away for me is that, in community college you can find peopl different backgrounds, people who share the same desire to learn as you..."*
    *"Playing on the women's soccer team was an invaluable experience... I got to learn about disciplin and leadership skills."*

# Open Response themes | Positive learning experiences (n=112)

- **Confidence and self-belief** ~12% (13 mentions)
  Students describe a shift from self-doubt to confidence in academic ability, a new career direction, or in themselves generally
  - *"Before that class, I lacked the confidence to believe I could build something of my own... I also dis belief in myself I didn't know I had."*
  - *"Learning to speak up in front gave me more confidence to keep doing it."*

- **A specific transformative course or subject** ~20% (22 mentions)
  Students point to one class (usually outside their comfort zone, ie, chemistry, anatomy, psychology, ethnic studies, business, art) as a pivotal experience
  - *"I loved taking economics classes here at Cañada College... it really shaped my interest in academ whole through my desire to further understand economic mechanisms."*
  - *"One learning experience I think that helped shape who I am was taking organic chemistry. I put it through my 3 years... out of fear from its reputation."*

# Q: Please describe one learning experience you had at Cañada College that has h shape who you are.

- A learning experience I had that helped shaped me was to slow down and not get ahead of myself there is alway a ton of resources you just have to ask
- A learning experience that shaped me was taking psychology and sociology classes where we talked about real life social issues that connected to the work I do at a nonprofit. I was able to learn and expand my knowledge on these topics which are going to help me in the future.
- Anatomy class with lab was great resource for me as I was preparing healthcare prerequisite
- As an adult student, I can say that there is not obstacles to stop studying. Callada college provides me a bunch of resources to continue improve my skills. Nowadays, I'm confident to speak in this amazing language even is not 100% correct, I'm confident and I'm able to express my ideas. Thanks for your support.
- Be consistent and never give up.
- Being able to try multiple things really tuned what I wanted to do for my major
- Being able to work with the Outreach department has been such a blessing for me. I have been able to work on my communication skills and get involved in my school and find my own footing.
- Being apart of Puente and meeting and connecting with other people
- Building relationships with staff members of many great resources by helping me navigate and refocus in my academic goals.
- Calworks and EOPS have been such huge motivators and changed my life completely, I can honestly say that if it wasn't for these programs and the amazing people running it I'm not sure my experience would have been this great or if I would have even made it this far.
- Cañada College has not shaped who I am. Canada was instrumental in expanding my knowledge in some areas as I completed my degree in a field I have been working in my whole life. I've grown with life experiences which have shaped who I am.
- Cañada College it is full of wonderful people who help every student to be successful.
- Canada has helped me understand different cultures, how to effectively problem solve and communicate any struggles I may be facing. It has showed me how to navigate a professional world and do so with grace and strength.
- Creating professional-grade presentations was just one of the many learning experiences I gained while attending Cañada College.

# Q: Please describe one learning experience you had at Cañada College that has l shape who you are.

- Do not dim your light!! Be you! Be your own self and be proud to show it. Respectful of course, but do not change the beautiful you that you are. Enhance it with knowledge, but do not change yourself.
- El apoyo incondicional de todos los que trabajan en la institución. (Translation: The unconditional support of all those who work in the institution.)
- Ethics and Ethnic Studies broadened my outlook and understanding of the world. Excellent courses!
- Every experience from each professor's teaching shape who l am. Also my counselors and tutors and programs l attended.
- Everything was good
- Finding community. The biggest take away for me is that, in community college you can find people from different backgrounds, people who share the same desire to learn as you, no matter their age or what they do for a living.This is great place to find community.
- Finding people and making connections within Cañada College helped me feel more confident and become more successful as I was getting ready to transfer. I joined TRiO SSS and it was Candace Johnson and Maria Huning who took me on a tour of SJSU, where it solidified that it was the school for me. TRiO was a great program where I could check-in, if I was feeling overwhelmed with school and get back on track. My counselors, Diana and Soraya Sohrabi sat down with me to tell me exactly where I was on my journey and what I needed to take to be able to transfer. Soraya walked me through the transfer process, setting up my CalApply, and providing a lot of support in helping me. I am so grateful for all of these individuals. Also my English professor Doniella Maher was the first professor I had after coming back and made me feel more comfortable and confident in my writing.
- Getting opportunity of learning Anatomy on a cadaver.
- Great support from the ID department, teachers, staff, and students club and community.
- Having classes that pushed me to step outside of my comfort zone really helped shape me. Professors providing lots of constructive feedback to finetune my skills and make me a better designer.
- Help me to see where my strengths are and see what I'd be good at
- Honestly, failing classes, being placed under academic probation then getting myself out of that situation and ultimately making it on the dean's list twice really was a massive learning lesson for me. It really has shaped me into being not only being a more responsible person but also lead me to sobriety for the better in my life.
- Honor Transfer Program

# Q: Please describe one learning experience you had at Cañada College that has h shape who you are.

- Honors English C1000, taught me so much especially in terms of analyzing texts deeper than expected and how to connect it to other forms of media.
- I asked my counselor for help a lot and my professor
- I believe all the resources like spark point , and eops have helped made this possible to complete as a single parent. Without them I don't know how I would of got through the year
- I believe the professors I had helped me in guiding me to shape who I am. The professors really helped me a lot to work harder and I can see how passionate they were in teaching the students. I think they made me realize my full potential and made me want to work harder for myself.
- I can't pinpoint one experience. Rather it's a continuing experience of support from my professors that helped me realize that I do hae knowledge and talent, and will be successful in my career. That support means a lot to me!
- I felt more comfortable
- I had many learning experiences at Cañada, one being during my summer semester in 2025 when I was taking general chemistry. It was one of the most challenging courses for me, Dr Sanchez was absolutely brilliant and all the tutors helped me get through this course during the summer.
- I had so much fun in Professor Cantin's and Professor Puenzo's chemistry classes.
- I had the most amazing English professor Dr. Fitzgerald, he taught me English much more that I have ever learned at school and encouraged me to reach for more and trust that I can.
- I had to learn to check my email constantly and to ask the professor for help.
- I have become much more diligent towards my work
- I have been able to maintain a good learning schedule, to be able to read, analyze and answer questions each week on time. The Professors have helped by instructing, commenting and encouraging students to do produce the best quality of assignments for our coursework. The campus is well maintained and feels safe at all times. The athletic center has been an awesome environment to work out and relieve stress.
- I have taken several courses with professors who stand out in my memory for their positive impact on my academic journey. Meara Kauffman, Anthony Swanson, Camille Kaslan, and Sarita Santos were all unique in their ability to balance effective learning with accommodating my needs as an individual. My interactions with these professors improved my confidence in communicating with professors and helped revive my passion for learning in times of struggle.

# Q: Please describe one learning experience you had at Cañada College that has shape who you are.

- I learned English as a second language that change my perspective, my boosts cognitive abilities and new personal or professional opportunities.
- I learned that community helps you grow, building relationships with others does help you both academically and socially.
- I learned that everyone is working towards their goals at their own pace and you shouldn't be too concerned about when you're going to accomplish your goals, but what can you do at the present moment to get closer to accomplishing them.
- I learned that people in positions of influence will change the story to protect their best interests
- I loved taking economics classes here at Cañada College. I learned a lot about how the modern world functions, and it really shaped my interest in academics as a whole through my desire to further understand economic mechanisms.
- I managed to get through the tough courses.
- I realized that putting in the time and effort after returning after 15+ years has shaped me to be a better student and reach my goals.
- I really appreciate everything of Cañada, my experiences were very good, the professors and the environment are amazing.
- I think it's just the pure freedom of learning.
- I took a lab class in biology, and it was a wonderful experience for me. I really enjoyed conducting the experiments hands on, and it gave me a lot more confidence in my abilities.
- I took a life drawing class at Cañada recently that was super awesome! I felt free to explore figure drawing in my own way and it was a great experience. I was intimidated by the class and my expectations of the structure but it was amazing and really helped me develop technical skills in a way that wasn't demoralizing or too strict. Thanks for hiring diverse instructors who encourage creative exploration while teaching you how to improve.
- I took a lot of psychology based classes and a lot of the material I really connected with and shaped who I am because it gave me an understanding of myself.
- I want to thank the CWA, or now know as NOW program within canada always available to help providing support
- I was able to reach out to my professors for help. They weren't intimitating as my other professors.
- I wasn't able to have enough units to play basketball for the fall but that motivated me to stick thru it and when I got enough units I was able to play and I played well

# Q: Please describe one learning experience you had at Cañada College that has shape who you are.

- I went back to college at 49 and completed a fully online program. I have become way more proficient and/or tech-savvy than I could have imagined.
- I went to library I was exhausted I was trying to scan paperwork for one class and this gentleman saw how frustrated I was and without hesitation ask me very calmly what could he do to help, I wish I could give you his name I cannot remember right now but I really wanted to give up but his action had a huge impact on me.
- I would say the teachers. I had a psychology professor who also taught at San Jose State University. Their instruction provided me with the help I needed, including the tools to understand the class and the attention to detail that was very helpful.
- I've experienced an opportunity opened up for me to illustrate for a book but I had classes so I don't think we went through.
- I've got support from the current teachers
- "In MEDA 100, we explored different roles in the health care industry, which I found extremely helpful. We also had to complete a Vision Statement of what we are looking for as we move forward, or wrap up our education at CC. I found that exercise to be very insightful."
- It was helpful that i got to know other perspectives.
- It's open for everyone that's why you can start from anywhere you want.
- Ive learned to speak up for myself and be more assertive w my education. Ive had some challenges w my ADHD, but here i am graduating and I'm proud of that immensely.
- Las asignaciones y proyectos académicos de investigación, como los ensayos presentados en forma grupal y/o individual, y la facilitación de las herramientas brindadas por Cañada College para lograr alcanzar los objetivos del curso. (translation: ""Academic research assignments and projects, such as essays presented in groups and/or individually, and the facilitation of the tools provided by Cañada College to achieve the objectives of the course."
- La profesionalidad de los profesores, tutores y personal de apoyo al alumnado facilitaron el logro de nuestras metas academicas. (Translation: The professionalism of the teachers, tutors and student support staff facilitated the achievement of our academic goals.)
- Leaning the language English

# Q: Please describe one learning experience you had at Cañada College that has shape who you are.

- Learning about ethnic studies
- Learning to deal with different personalities from teachers has definitely given me a greater perspective on the world and why it is so important to learn from different people.
- Learning to speak up in front gave me more confidence to keep doing it.
- My academic experience at Cañada College has been fulfilling. It feels like a second home—a place where I feel comfortable. Everyone—from administrative staff and professors to counselors, advisors, and library staff—has offered me incredible support and guidance. I'm not leaving for good; I'll be back in 2027. Who knows? I might even continue studying, because we never stop learning.
- My business class was really amazing, professor Shankar made the class very interesting as he was always pushing us to participate and engage.
- My business classes have been very productive for my professional development.
- My interior design courses helped shape the interior designer I plan on becoming, giving me tools and confidence to be successful in this new field.
- My learning experience that I had in Canada is the teachers. every class that I have taken, the teachers help me provide extra time to better understand the class.
- My professor from CIS 262 helped me to be more organized.
- Before, I used to do things randomly. After taking his class, I became more efficient in my work."
- My teachers help me in every step of the way so they make more easy my way.
- One experience that truly shaped me was taking the Professional Services class at Cañada College. Before that class, I lacked the confidence to believe I could build something of my own. Through it, I not only gained essential business knowledge — from how to structure a company to understanding the foundations of entrepreneurship — but I also discovered a belief in myself I didn't know I had. That combination of practical skills and newfound self-confidence set me on the path to creating my own business.
- One great learning experience was when I met Professor Kristina Brower. She gave me the tools I needed to learn and grow professionally. What surprised me the most was her passion for teaching and helping students. She is very present as a teacher.

# Q: Please describe one learning experience you had at Cañada College that has h shape who you are.

- I am very grateful for her because she made me feel that someone believes in me and wants me to become a good professional.
- One learning experience I had at Cañada College that helped shape who I am was learning how to stay committed to my education despite having a very busy schedule. Even though I had many responsibilities at home, I was able to stay focused, manage my time, and complete my assignments. This experience taught me discipline, perseverance, and the importance of giving my best effort in everything I do. It showed me that I am capable of overcoming challenges and being a dedicated student. As a result, I have grown more confident in myself and my ability to achieve my educational goals.
- One learning experience I had at Cañada College that really shaped who I am was working on a collaborative class project. In that experience, I had to communicate my ideas clearly, listen to others' perspectives, and adapt when our group faced challenges or differing opinions.
- One learning experience I think that helped shape who I am was taking organic chemistry. I put it off through my 3 years of community college out of fear from its reputation. I finally decided to take it and it made me realize that I was always capable of doing it as long as I really applied to myself.
- one learning experience is that classes with no online access are good since you are able to learn the core of the class and pay more attention.
- One learning experience that changed me personally was learning how to maintain a schedule and what needs to get done. Seeing my schedule and all the different times helped me learn to get things done efficiently and potentially on time, even with other challenges in the way.
- One learning experience that has helped me tremendously was the club fair. It opened my eyes to the numerous careers within the business field. It allowed me to ask questions and collaborate with peers of similar interests.
- One learning experience that helped me was being able to ask for help from counselors. Learning to reach out to teachers if I feel stuck.
- "One learning experience that really shaped me was learning how to balance school, work, and family at the same time. As a parent, it has not always been easy, but it has made me more disciplined, responsible, and motivated to succeed.
- I also had a few classes where the professors were very supportive and encouraging, and that made a big difference in my confidence. It showed me that when someone believes in you, you push yourself harder. That experience helped me grow not only as a student but also as a person."

# Q: Please describe one learning experience you had at Cañada College that has h shape who you are.

- The math and tutoring department's support and mentorship throughout the years has been vital in shaping me into the person that I am today.
- The program support student encourage me to continue my education.
- The teachers in the interior design program really do a great job of taking a side variety of critical skills sets, if varied, weaving them together and always do a great job of merging the mixed student population where they are. I appreciate both of these very much.
- The very first garment making in the tailoring class, which settled my mindset of garment construction
- Throughout my career path, I have had many experiences that have helped me shape the person I am right now. For example, when I was taking my ESL courses, I had the opportunity to tutor my fellow students and help them with their homework. Those experiences helped me with my career as a medical assistant student because I was able to develop many skills that I will apply when I work as a medical assistant.
- Understanding how to communicate effectively with my professors and ask for help.
- Utilizing tools to me advantage as well as networking.
- When I started to join the Promise Scholarship Program
- Work under pressure.
- Working together in groups during my lab class

# Appendix

# Cañada's Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) as of 2025

- **Critical Thinking**
  Select, evaluate, and use information to investigate a point of view, support a conclusion, or engage in problem solving.

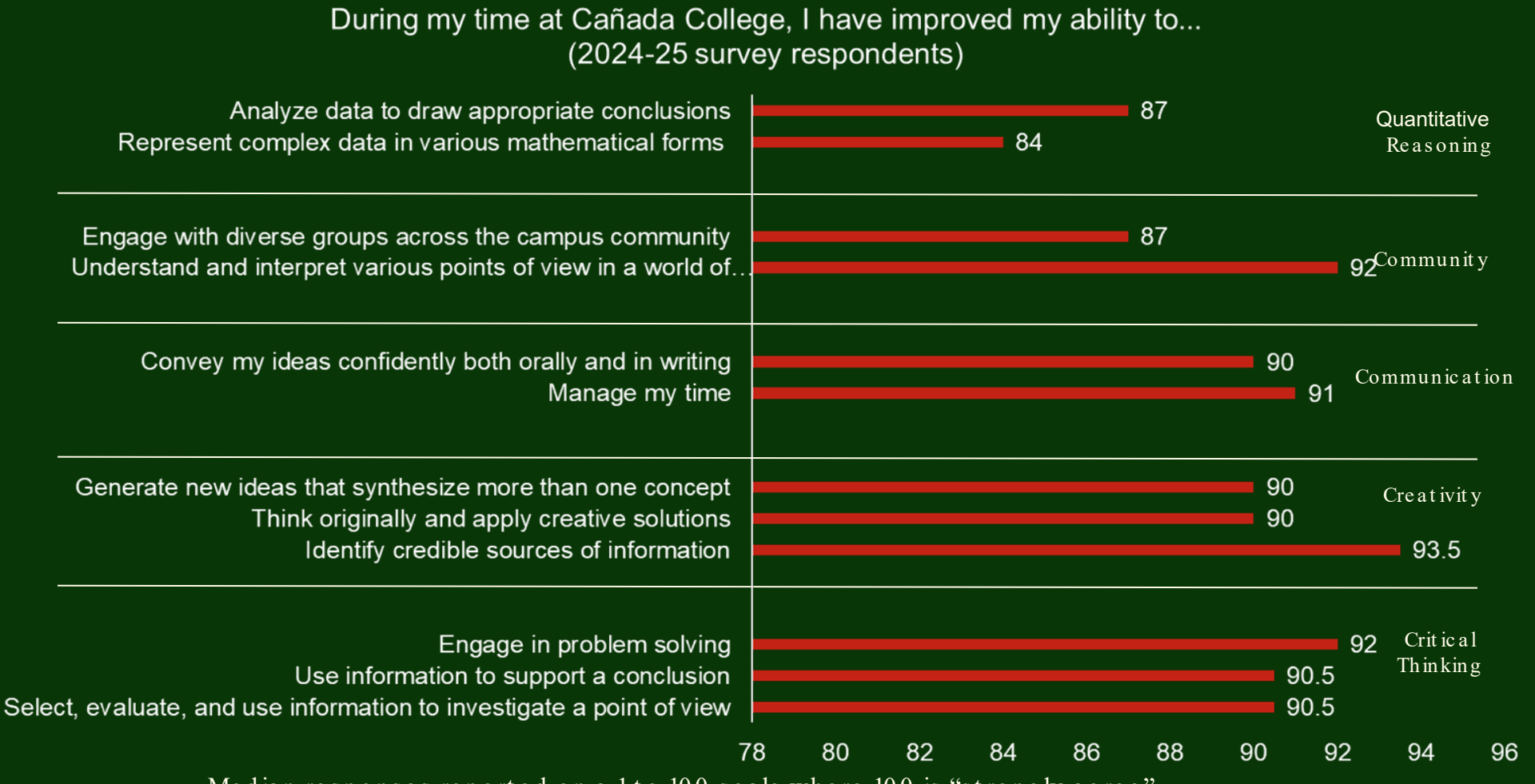
- **Creativity**
  Produce, combine, or synthesize ideas in creative ways within or across disciplines.

- **Communication**
  Use language to effectively convey an idea or a set of facts, including the accurate use of source material and evidence according to institutional and discipline standards.

- **Community**
  Understand and interpret various points of view that emerge from a diverse world of people and cultures.

- **Quantitative Reasoning**
  Represent complex data in various mathematical forms (e.g., equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, and words) and analyze these data to draw appropriate conclusions

Note: In spring 2025 the Academic Senate updated the College ILO statements. These new statements will be assessed in future cycles. For this cycle, the ILOs approved from 2012-25 were evaluated.


During my time at Cañada College, I have improved my ability to...
(2024-25 survey respondents)
Analyze data to draw appropriate conclusions
87
Represent complex data in various mathematical forms
84
Quantitative Reasoning
Engage with diverse groups across the campus community
87
Understand and interpret various points of view in a world of…
92
Community
Convey my ideas confidently both orally and in writing
90
Manage my time
91
Communication
Generate new ideas that synthesize more than one concept
90
Think originally and apply creative solutions
90
Identify credible sources of information
93.5
Creativity
Engage in problem solving
92
Use information to support a conclusion
90.5
Select, evaluate, and use information to investigate a point of view
90.5
Critical Thinking
78
80
82
84
86
88
90
92
94
96
Median responses reported on a 1 to 100 scale where 100 is “strongly agree”

# Civic Engagement and Quantitative Reasoning by subgroup

| | | n | Civic Engagement | Civic Engagement gap (pts) | Quantitative Reasoning | Quantitative Reasoning gap (pts) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **ALL RESPONDENTS** | **157** | **84%** | | **80%** | |
| Ethnicity | Hispanic | 91 | 84% | +1 | 85% | +4 |
| Ethnicity | White, non-Hispanic | 30 | 76% | -8 | 79% | -1 |
| Ethnicity | Asian | 13* | 77% | -7 | 77% | -3 |
| Gender | Female | 102 | 85% | +1 | 80% | 0 |
| Gender | Male | 43 | 86% | +2 | 83% | +3 |
| First gen? | First generation | 83 | 84% | 0 | 80% | -1 |
| First gen? | Not first generation | 40 | 78% | -6 | 78% | -3 |

Gap = Subgroups % “Agree” + “Strongly Agree” for ILO minus ALL RESPONDENTS

* Small sample: < 20 students

# Civic Engagement and Quantitative Reasoning by subgroup

| | | n | Civic Engagement | Civic Engagement gap (pts) | Quantitative Reasoning | Quantitative Reasoning gap (pts) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **ALL RESPONDENTS** | **157** | **84%** | | **80%** | |
| Degree type | AA | 19* | 68% | -15 | 68% | -12 |
| | AA-T | 26 | 79% | -5 | 77% | -3 |
| | AS | 52 | 90% | +6 | 90% | +10 |
| | AS-T | 17* | 76% | -7 | 65% | -15 |
| | Certificate (CERT) | 25 | 84% | 0 | 80% | 0 |
| | Certificate of Ach. (CB) | 18* | 94% | +11 | 83% | +3 |
| Division | Business, Design & Workforce | 86 | 82% | -2 | 76% | -4 |
| | Science & Technology | 33 | 91% | +7 | 94% | +14 |
| | Humanities & Social Sciences | 24 | 78% | -6 | 71% | -9 |
| | No division / GE | 13* | 92% | +9 | 92% | +12 |

* Small sample: < 20 students. Highlighted boxes (red and green) note differences >10 pts, but differences not statistically significant

# Civic Engagement and Quantitative Reasoning by subgroup

| | | n | Civic Engagement | Civic Engagement gap (pts) | Quantitative Reasoning | Quantitative Reasoning gap (pts) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **ALL RESPONDENTS** | **157** | **84%** | | **80%** | |
| Income | Low income | 39 | 89% | +6 | 76% | -4 |
| | Not low income | 115 | 82% | -1 | 83% | +2 |
| Credit load | Full-time | 53 | 84% | +1 | 75% | -5 |
| | Part-time | 73 | 83% | 0 | 85% | +5 |
| | Less than part-time | 28 | 86% | +2 | 82% | +2 |

* Small sample: < 20 students