

The Langara College Student Survey was conducted during the period of October 12 to 23, 2011. The email invitations were sent to a sample of 3,000 randomly selected students. Of those, 1,000 students were asked to respond to a set of survey questions on a planned Learning Commons in the Library. The survey was completed by 263 students, a 26% response rate. In view of the low response rate, caution is recommended in making generalizations based on these findings.

In the survey, a Learning Commons was described to the respondents as “services, spaces and activities that support learning outside the classroom. It can include learning skills workshops, peer tutoring, technology, group work spaces, quiet study space and other learning aides.”

Results

A majority of respondents used the Library’s current study and computer spaces, and most services were rated positively. Of current services, study spaces with laptop plugins received the most negative ratings.

Table 1: User Ratings of Current Study Services

	Very Poor	Poor	Good	Very Good	(No. of Students)
Quiet Study	2%	11%	65%	22%	(169)
Space for working in groups (2-4 people)	2%	11%	66%	21%	(144)
Computer work stations	1%	9%	67%	24%	(172)
Study spaces where you can plug in a laptop/tablet	5%	23%	57%	16%	(154)

Students were also provided with a list of proposed Langara Learning Commons features, and asked to rate each feature’s importance and how much they would use it. Study space was a clear priority, receiving the highest ratings of importance and the most expected use. Spaces with laptop plugins, where Langara’s current services were only moderately well rated, was the most important to students. Quiet study space, Langara’s best rated current service, was second most important, but students anticipated using it slightly more than laptop plugin stations.

Table 2: Importance of the Proposed Langara Learning Commons Features

How important to you?	Not at all	Somewhat	Very	(No. of Students)
Individual study spaces where you can plug in a laptop/tablet	10%	37%	53%	(206)
Quiet Study (no talking or group work, but food & laptops are allowed)	8%	42%	49%	(212)
Furniture & technology that support 2-4 people working or studying together	9%	54%	37%	(214)
Tutoring on academic subjects (Accounting, Biology, etc.)	20%	43%	36%	(196)
Help with writing skills	22%	43%	35%	(193)
Silent Study (no talking, food, laptops or phones)	32%	41%	27%	(206)
Help with general learning skills (time management, exam preparation, etc.)	33%	42%	25%	(186)
Help with multimedia for presentations & reports (e.g.: adding videos to presentations)	39%	45%	16%	(192)

Table 3: Expected Use of Proposed Learning Commons Features/Services

How often do you think you would use this?	I would not use	A few times a term	1-3 hrs/wk	4-6 hrs/wk	7+ hrs/wk	(No. of Students)
Quiet Study (no talking or group work, but food & laptops are allowed)	8%	30%	28%	20%	14%	(254)
Individual study spaces where you can plug in a laptop/tablet	14%	30%	25%	20%	11%	(249)
Furniture & technology that support 2-4 people working or studying together	10%	39%	28%	16%	6%	(250)
Silent Study (no talking, food, laptops or phones)	38%	29%	18%	9%	6%	(250)
Tutoring on academic subjects (Accounting, Biology, etc.)	30%	37%	18%	8%	6%	(254)
Help with writing skills	34%	42%	14%	6%	5%	(244)
Help with general learning skills (time management, exam preparation, etc.)	44%	38%	12%	3%	3%	(250)
Help with multimedia for presentations & reports (e.g.: adding videos to presentations)	46%	39%	9%	3%	2%	(247)

Figure 1: Importance and Predicted Use of Proposed Features/Services