

MEMORANDUM

To: Core Committee

From: Mike Stob, Director of Assessment and Claudia Beversluis, Dean for Instruction

Date: 9/23/2004

Re: Summary Assessment: BF II Core Category, Spring 2004

The effectiveness of the core category was assessed using self-report data. Seven questions were added to the Instructional Assessment course evaluation form, with each question linked to student learning objectives for the Biblical Foundations II core category. Eight sections were assessed. Students responded on a Likert scale, choosing an answer from A: Strongly Agree (value=1) to G: Strongly Disagree (Value=7.) Note comments on the next page.

Section: Faculty member:	All students	Section Medians			Your median
		25%	50%	75%	
In this core course, I gained an appreciation for the complexity and depth of the biblical text.	1.33	1.21	1.26	1.46	
In this core course, I gained an appreciation for the unity of the biblical text.	1.72	1.50	1.62	1.90	
In this core course, I gained an appreciation for the literary and historical settings of the biblical text	1.45	1.33	1.43	1.57	
In this core course, I gained an understanding of the issues of canon, authority, and interpretation.	2.12	1.84	2.07	2.35	
In this core course, I gained an understanding of the biblical text as the rule of Christian faith and life.	2.03	1.85	1.94	2.24	
In this core course, I gained a familiarity with the ways the Bible is used in the life of faith.	2.03	1.86	2.03	2.52	
In this core course, I gained familiarity with the ways the Bible is used in the tradition of the church.	2.25	2.00	2.24	2.65	

The first column above reports the median over all student responses for that core category. The last column reports the median response for an individual section. The middle three columns summarize the distribution of section medians over all sections in the category. For example, the 1.21 in the first row indicates that 25% of all sections had a median of 1.21 or lower on that question.

Comment: The overall median score for each learning statement suggests that these courses are, at least according to student report, effectively meeting the student learning objectives of the core. Students largely agree that they are meeting the described goals. Furthermore, variation within and between sections is relatively limited – few students would disagree that they are meeting the learning goals. Rather, variance relates to the strength of agreement.

While students generally agreed with the statement “*In this core course, I gained familiarity with the ways the Bible is used in the tradition of the church,*” strength of agreement with that statement is consistently less than for each of the other statements. Instructors of BFII courses might profitably have a discussion about why that might be so.