

# Backpack KU Assessment | Summer 2014



## PROPOSED GOALS & OUTCOMES:

### 1. Cognitive Complexity

*KU CORE: Critical Thinking*

- Apply acquired knowledge to new situations to solve the issue

### 2. Humanitarianism & Civic Engagement

*KU CORE: Culture & Diversity*

- Recognize & develop an appreciation for history, experience, and lifestyle of others

### 3. Interpersonal Competence

*KU CORE: Communication*

- Feeling accepted as part of a group

### 4. Practical Competence

*KU CORE: Integration & Creativity*

- Attending to all areas that define one's well-being

## METHOD

Survey administered on site, during trip home from Backpack KU experience

One-time data collection. N= 12

### Scale (importance)

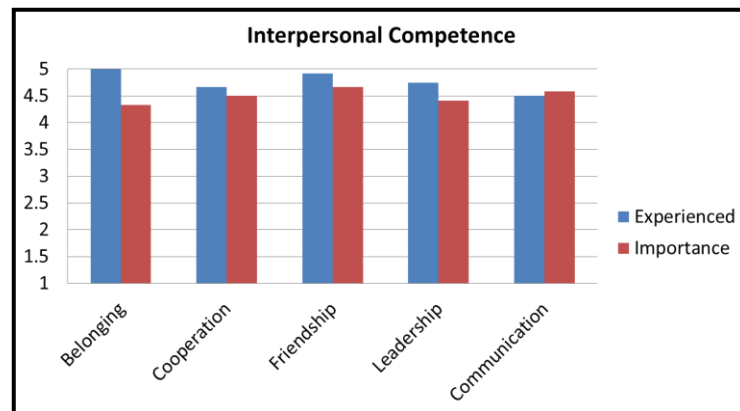
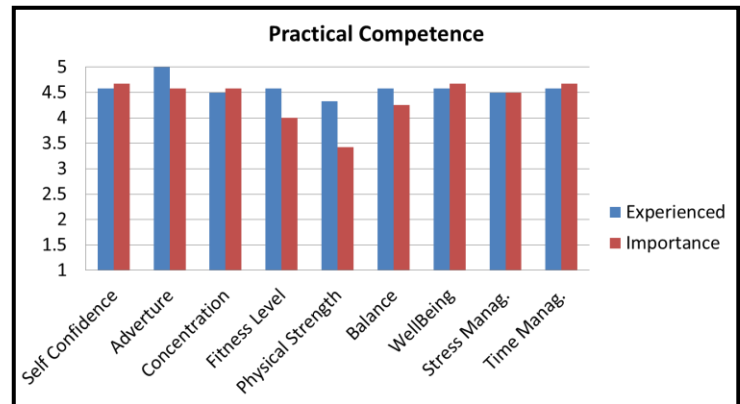
- 1 = Not at all
- 2 = Slightly
- 3 = Moderately
- 4 = Very
- 5 = Critical

### Scale (experienced)

- 1 = Strongly Disagree
- 2 = Disagree
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Agree
- 5 = Strongly Agree

## DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Participants were asked whether they **experienced** each learning outcome, and whether the outcome was **important** to accomplish their KU academic goals
  - Cognitive Complexity: experienced (Mean = 4.33); importance: (Mean = 4.42)
  - Humanitarianism & Civic Engagement: experienced (Mean = 4.46); importance (Mean = 4.54)
  - Interpersonal Competence: experienced (Mean = 4.77); importance (Mean = 4.49)
  - Practical Competence: experienced (Mean = 4.58); importance (Mean = 4.37)
2. 2/3 of participants believed that every freshmen should enroll in Backpack KU
  - Those who disagree indicated that the experience is only meaningful if you have an interest in the activity... students should not be forced into attending



## ACTION STEPS AS RESULT OF ASSESSMENT:

1. Overall, participants experienced the stated learning outcomes
  - Cognitive complexity least likely to experience
  - Staff should evaluate opportunities for problem-solving and multi-tasking
2. With exception of humanitarianism, participants not as likely to connect outcomes to academic goals
  - During experience, help students connect how the experience will help with academic pursuits
  - In particular, the following themes should be addressed: respecting others, physical strength, fitness levels, finding balance, sense of belonging