



Communication across the Curriculum Louisiana State University

Sponsored by the Gordon A. & Mary Cain Foundation

Communication across the Curriculum (CxC) helps LSU's students improve their writing, speaking, visual, and technological communication skills.

LSU's CxC Program is the most ambitious program of its kind in the nation, and because of it, LSU students are acquiring the competitive skills and knowledge needed for 21st Century leadership.

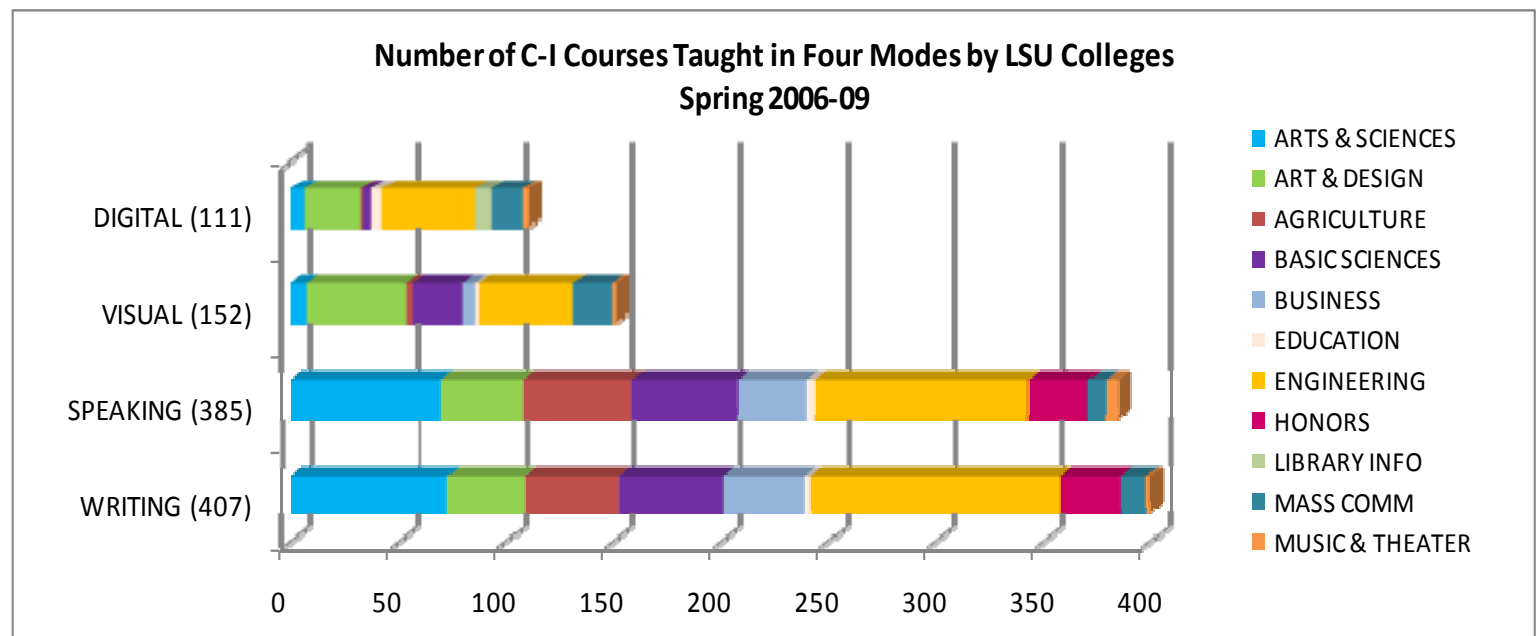
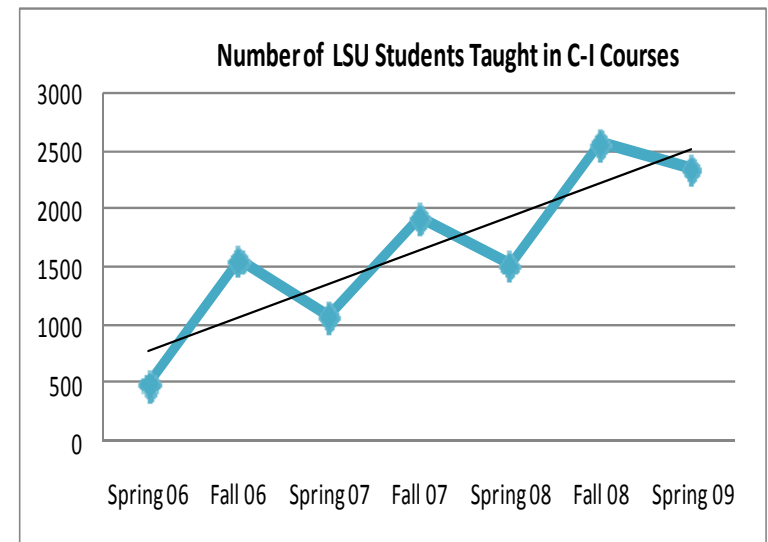
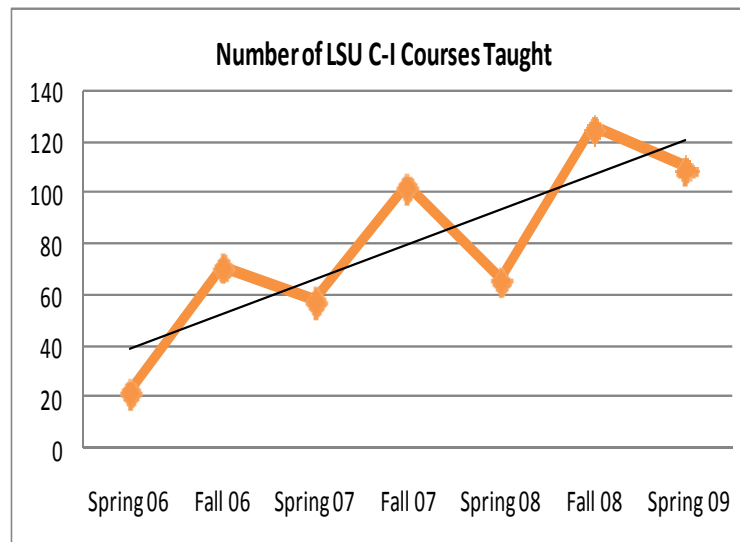
Growth of LSU's CxC Program

In **Communication-Intensive (C-I) courses** instructors emphasize two of the four modes of communication: writing, speaking, visual, and/or technological.

C-I courses use informal communication for learning content and formal communication for sharing ideas publicly. C-I courses give students continuous feedback and enable a draft-revision process. C-I courses have a maximum 35:1 student-teacher ratio to make active learning and student-faculty interaction effective.

On average, LSU offers 90 C-I classes per semester. From Spring 06 – Spring 09, LSU has offered a total of 585 C-I courses, serving 11,782 students.

There are currently 155 LSU faculty members certified to teach C-I courses.

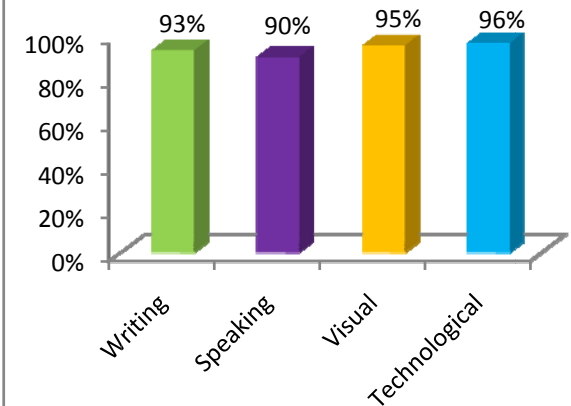


Impact on LSU Students

86% of LSU C-I Faculty said their *students gained a greater understanding of the course content* because of the C-I activities they incorporated into the course.

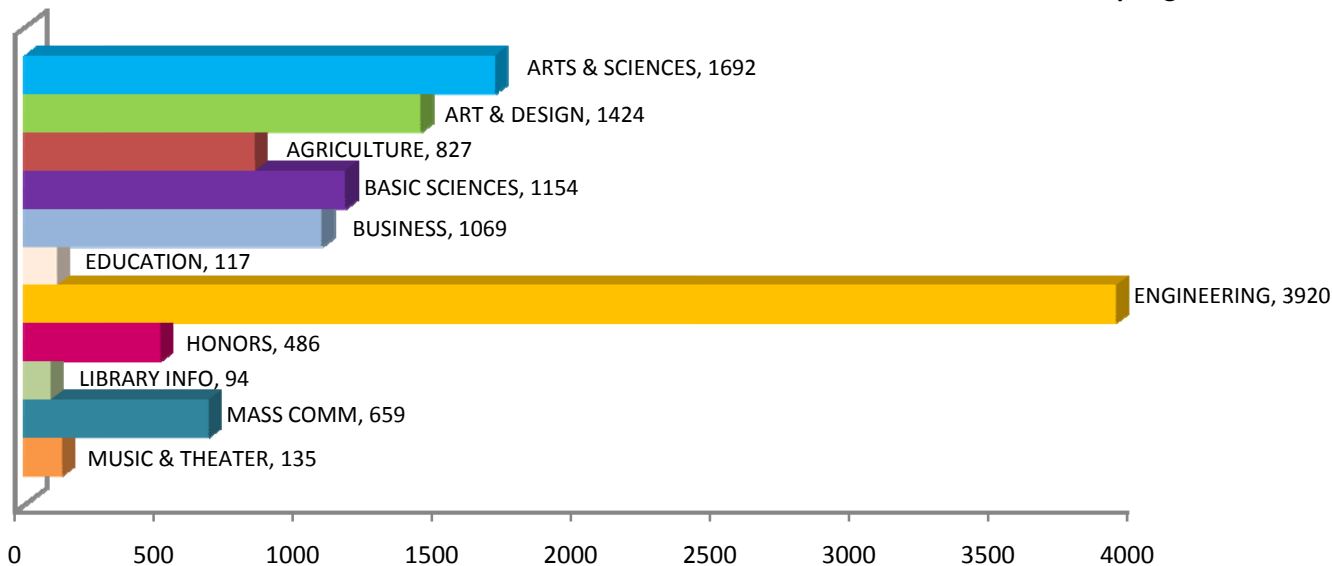
75% of LSU C-I Faculty said *CxC Studio resources helped to improve students' communication skills*.

Did your students' skills improve in the C-I mode you emphasized in your course?



LSU C-I Faculty Survey, Spring 2009

Number of LSU Students Taught in C-I Courses by College
Spring 2006-09



Two-thirds of LSU students say they *will definitely use what they've learned about communication* in the future, a positive finding given the lack of "relevance" that students attribute to college courses across the nation.

Impact on LSU Faculty

CxC hosts a variety of workshops dedicated to training faculty to teach C-I courses and sharing best practices for integrating formal and informal written, spoken, visual, and technological communication into the LSU curriculum.

Through these workshops, CxC provides an energizing environment for faculty and stimulates innovative ideas for engaging students and improving their discipline-specific communication skills.

Since Spring 2006, CxC has trained more than 160 LSU faculty members in its workshops and intensive Faculty Summer Institute.



89% of LSU C-I Faculty are using CxC Studios for overall course support.
62% have sought CxC's help in designing innovative & effective assignments.
54% have consulted with CxC's on effective strategies for assessment/grading.

"CxC's Summer Institute was the most valuable teaching experience I've had in more than 25 years. Every new and veteran professor should participate...old dogs can learn new tricks there!"

~ Paul S. Russo, Ph.D
Roy Paul Daniels Professor
of Chemistry

"My teaching will never be the same...CxC has opened an exciting new window for me and my courses will be much improved!"

~ Brooks Ellwood, Ph.D
Robey H. Clark Distinguished Professor
of Geology & Geophysics

Impact on the LSU Culture

CxC has raised the bar for excellence in communication at LSU—inside and outside the classroom. **Four Communication Studios** across campus are equipped with state-of-the-art technology and staffed by highly-skilled communication advisors who provide a variety of services for both students and faculty at LSU.

Each studio provides a host of basic services including:

- assignment review and feedback consultations for writing, speaking, visual, and technological communication projects
- video recording of student practice sessions, final presentations, and critiques
- instructional support and guidance in creating digital portfolios
- special workshops on a variety of communication modes
- support and guidance for completion of the LSU Distinguished Communicator Award
- assistance for faculty in designing assignments and assessments for C-I courses

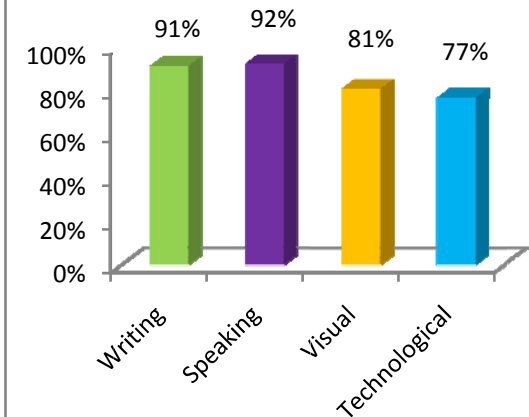


Students who are interested in enhancing their communication skills and excelling in their chosen professions have the opportunity to become certified as **LSU Distinguished Communicators**. This designation becomes part of students' official transcripts and gives them significant leverage in today's job market.

Since Fall 2007, LSU has certified 58 students as Distinguished Communicators and more than 200 are currently enrolled in this prestigious program.

LSU is currently the only university in the U.S. rewarding and recognizing students for superior communication skills.

Taking into consideration what is available to LSU students now, which communication modes (if any) do students need more training in?



LSU C-I Faculty Survey, Spring 2009

Each semester, LSU students clock an average of **11,770** hours in the CxC Studios.

On average, **1,385** LSU students visit the CxC Studios each semester.