The Effect of Educational Experiences on Student Learning Outcomes in General Education

Abstract

The objective of this study was to examine which educational experiences in general education impact on the student’s learning outcomes. The survey included 1,201 students in South Korea. Hierarchical multiple regressions were used. The result showed that educational experiences in general education demonstrated greater predictive power for the student’s learning outcomes than individual and institutional characteristics. However, not all educational experiences positively predicted learning outcomes. Educators are advised to improve general education towards better educational experiences in a way that encourages teaching higher-order thinking, evaluation and feedback, and active class participation.

Key words: general education, educational experience, learning outcome, college student

Introduction

In a rapidly changing society with a decreasing time span for the practical relevance of knowledge acquired at university, general education, deemed to provide students with the necessary qualities as professionals, as well as the intellectual capability of liberal thinking and balanced judgment, is being prioritized over departmentalized specialist education. The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Heart Research Associates (2009) reported that 56% of...