

Critical Thinking Skills Among Hope College Students

Summary of March 10, 2023 Frost Center Friday Discussion and Recommended Action Steps

Who at Hope College (positions or departments) would benefit from the information shared today?

Frost Center Friday handouts were sent to Deans' Council, the Provost, and Dean of Students, asking them to share with their chairs and cocurricular program directors; Deans' Council and Provost were asked to provide professional development opportunities for teaching and using critical thinking; presentation posted on the Frost Center website and announced to all faculty and staff on Hope Daily.

Thinking about your own work at Hope, how will you use what you've learned today?

We need to emphasize and name analytical thinking to students when we and they are using it; in curricular and cocurricular settings give students the time and space to use critical thinking rather than quickly giving them the "right" answer; allow ambiguity and be willing to put opposing perspectives into our casual conversation; tie the demand for critical thinking skills to workforce needs.

How might data from this survey continuously inform decisions for the benefit of our students?

We need to make sure we are hiring the right people to facilitate critical thinking in the classroom; data suggest that staff and faculty need professional development in this area - perhaps May or summer workshops for faculty and staff to gather and discuss practical implementation; ensure that critical thinking is an expectation in 100-level courses, not just upper-division courses.