

Critical Thinking and Study Skills Course: Efficacy Evidence

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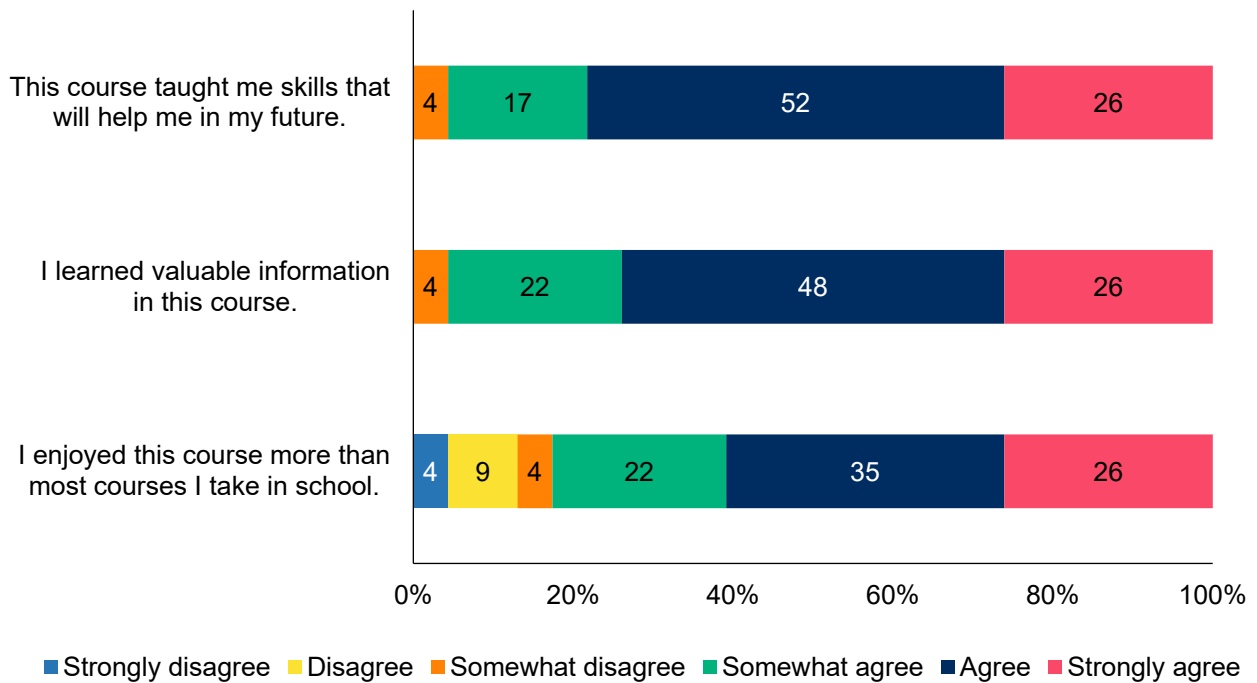
Critical Thinking and Study Skills Course Overview

The Critical Thinking and Study Skills (CTSS) course, which is part of the Mosaic by ACT® Social Emotional Learning solution, teaches students practical strategies to increase their academic success in high school and beyond. Students learn to challenge assumptions, understand others' perspectives, and develop counterarguments to help them think critically in their academic studies and personal lives. Students also learn how to use success mindsets, study skills, and testing skills to help them perform at new levels and increase their scores on key tests, such as the ACT® test and tests for graduation.

Efficacy Data

Kirkpatrick (1959, 1976) outlined a four-level training evaluation model used to evaluate training and learning programs. Despite its age, the model is still the gold standard for efficacy research. The first level of the model refers to the extent to which individuals find the learning event enjoyable and valuable.

Upon completion of the CTSS course, students were asked three questions to evaluate this level of efficacy. Results for 23 students are below (Figure 1). Overall, students had positive reactions to the course and found it valuable and enjoyable. For example, over 95% of students at least somewhat agreed that they learned valuable information and skills that will help them in the future. These results thereby demonstrate the efficacy of the CTSS course.

Figure 1. Efficacy Evidence for Critical Thinking and Study Skills Course

References

- Kirkpatrick, D. L. (1959). Techniques for evaluating training programs. *Journal of the American Society of Training Directors*, 13, 3–9.
- Kirkpatrick, D. L. (1976). Evaluation of training. In R. L. Craig (Ed.), *Training and development handbook: A guide to human resource development* (2nd ed., pp. 301–319). McGraw-Hill.



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