

Barriers to Certification: Student Perceptions

Kathy Webster: Illinois State University; kwebbst@ilstu.edu

- NAACLS accreditation standards have placed increased emphasis on certification exam pass rates.
- Laboratory education programs are examining ways to increase the pass rates among their program graduates.
- The purpose of my study is to better understand what students perceive to be their greatest barriers to certification.

Barriers to Certification: Student Perceptions

- What do they think are their barriers?
- Do their perceptions align with faculty perceptions?
- Do they believe they can overcome their barriers, or not?
- Can we help them overcome any barriers?
- What can we do to help or advise students and exam candidates?

Survey of Program Alumni

- Recent graduates were surveyed and asked:
 - What study methods and strategies worked best or least for them for them
 - What materials proved the most or least beneficial for them
 - What were their reasons for not attempting the exam
 - What were their perceived reasons for being unsuccessful at passing the exam.

Results of Survey:

- Barrier 1:
- Barrier 2:
- Barrier 3:

Results of Survey:

- Most helpful review strategies:
- Other useful strategies:
- Least helpful strategies:

Helping Students to Overcome Barriers

- What can we do to help them succeed?
- What advice can we give them?