Graduating Students’ Reflections on their Personal and Intellectual Growth and Development

The Spring 2007 class of graduating students were asked to respond to the following prompt:

Keene State College seeks to “foster both the personal and intellectual growth of its students.” Do you think Keene State has accomplished this?

Sixty-four percent of the 849 students who received bachelor’s degrees in the spring responded to this question. Their thoughts and suggestions have been analyzed for content and arranged into categorical themes. Please note that student responses are presented as they were written—no attempt has been made to correct for spelling or grammar. Also, students often addressed more than one aspect of their Keene State experience. These responses have been unraveled and included in more than one categorical theme. The following table of contents lists the categorical themes, which are presented in the order of their prevalence in the students’ responses.

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Personal and Intellectual Growth and Development

Most students responded to the prompt by simply restating the question with added embellishments such as “there is no question I have grown personally and intellectually.” Other students, however, were more descriptive about their growth and development, maturation, academic, and social development, self-confidence, personal effort, and self-awareness.

Growth and development:

- I believe the classes were challenging and the diversity of the campus allowed for personal growth and maturity.
- After four and a half years at Keene State, while I am always discovering new things about myself, I have come out a more confident, aware and intellectually independent young woman.
- Keene State has really helped me become a better person.
- I have learned a lot about my ability to adapt to new situations and thrive in my environment. My classes have given me the knowledge to be an intelligent and articulate part of society along with teaching me social etiquette and working as a team. So much of college is discovering yourself and learning how to interact with everyone around you.
- I have been able to grow as a person and discover who I am. I know my limits and how far I can push myself intellectually and personally. I’ve learned how to handle different stress levels and grown into a young adult ready to face the real world and the challenges that will come with it.
- After I had been here for a couple of years I learned from professors along with other students how important my education is. Once I found what I was interested in my personal goals changed and I was eager to learn more.
- I have seen myself grow as a person and as a learner. I am able to think critically and look for the best option. I work hard and I have been taught to question.
- I have more fully developed what is important to me socially, mentally, spiritually, and academically. Here at keene state I have been able to discover who I am, and develop the feeling of being comfortable with who I am.
- I have become more open minded.
- I have become more organized and independent.

Maturation:

- I have matured a lot over the years here at Keene State, I started off getting ok grades and being more concerned with my social life. I still have a social life, but now I get good grades and am actually looking forward to the future and getting a good job.
- My parents have pointed out that I have changed dramatically for the better as a result of attending KSC.
- I am a different man now than I was when I was 19 years old.
- Before I came to college I was a lot more reserved. Being here made me a more outgoing person.
• I feel that through courses and working in a classroom setting and also out in the field, along with being able to work with others that have different perspectives, has help me grow as a student and as a person.
• Coming from high school I was a quiet kid, now I feel I am more outspoken and stand up for myself.
• Keene State college has provided me with a wonderful academic atmosphere along with helping me grow and develop into a well-rounded human.

Academic and social development:
• Through living with my peers and becoming more involved in my studies I have come to grow in a positive manner both socially and academically.
• Throughout my time I have grown into the person I always saw myself when I was younger. I have advanced academically and made friends whom I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Self-confidence:
• I have grown throughout my experiences at Keene State College and am leaving a stronger and more confident individual.
• I have grown from an individual who never raised their hand to one that can now never put it down. Through my years at Keene State I have become much more open minded on social and political ideas and problems. I have also gained a level of confidence I never thought I could achieve.

Personal effort:
• Most people in a college setting, no matter where you are, will grow tremendously during their 4 years.
• I have become more confident and sure of myself and have grown into the person I am today. I have pushed myself academically and I know that I am capable of succeeding.

Self-awareness:
• I’ve grown in many ways by seeing political views and ideals that I never got the chance to see before. In by doing so I’ve become a more rounded person who hopes to continue in my learning process through out my lifetime.
• I have a better understanding of who I want to be as a person.
• Before I came to college I wasn’t sure of who I was or what I wanted to do. KSC allowed me to develop both mentally and physically to discover myself.
• I’ve learned more about myself in the past 4 years than I ever may have before.

Critical comments:
• I think I could have grown more had I been pushed to figure out what I wanted to do in college earlier.
• too much time and energy was invested in trying to influence my personal growth, rather than focusing on the intellectual aspect.
• College is a now becoming a rite of passage and is now a life stage.
• By going through rite of passage we hope to achieve personal growth.
• I feel less mature than when I started to attend Keene State.
Faculty Qualities and Attributes

The students, for the most part, wrote favorably about the contributions that faculty had made to their personal and intellectual growth and development. Some responses compared ‘good’ faculty to ‘bad’, and a small number of comments were critical. The positive aspects of faculty-student interactions are presented first, followed by the good to bad comparisons. The critical comments are presented last.

Nurturing and caring:
- Every professor at Keene State that I’ve been involved with cared and nurtured me as a student and as an adult.
- Most professor’s at this college are excellent teachers who actually care about there students and understand the needs of there students.
- Teachers are very personal which helps students achieve the growth that is needed at the college level.
- Teachers really care about each individual student and always make time to meet with them and guide them every step of the way.
- The teachers care so much about their students well being both acemically and emotionally.
- There are some faculty members I became really close with because they really care about me. They saw my potential and helped me see my OWN strengths.
- Keene State’s mission to increase personal awareness is seen through the attentiveness and consideration of the faculty and staff at the school.

Encouragement of diverse viewpoints:
- I feel that they are very open and create a comfortable environment for all different views and topics to be discussed. I feel that I have had the chance to expand my views on things and learn about new topics often.
- KSC teachers always encouraged us to speak our mind, (our personal feelings) toward a issue or problem. and our teachers would than help us re-phrase or help us look at the situation in other ways. a more intellectual way.
- It’s great that teachers are there for you whenever you have a question. You can feel free to voice your thought on something you are working on.

Helpful:
- My professors have always been helpful and have always made sure you understand the material. You feel like they are there to better you and thus have helped me to grow intellectually.
- Professors are willing and able to help students with work that is troublesome and challenging.
- Teachers and other faculty have helped students to achieve their goals.
- The faculty has been very helpful in encouraging students to become their best in their subject areas, and to become successful people.
- The faculty are willing to put in the extra time and effort to assist you.
Concern for student growth:

- The faculty that I have dealt with all help with my growth intellectually.
- The faculty with whom I have had the pleasure of working are terrific at encouraging personal growth while demanding academic excellence.
- The professors, for the most part, have been very good at getting students to broaden their horizons.

Dedication:

- The teachers and faculty at Keene State College are so dedicated to their work, they help students to become more interested.
- The inspiration provided by professors and the motivation that they give students by being involved in their success at Keene State College, makes it hard to not develop stronger personal and intellectual foundations for entering the ‘real world’.
- The professors at the college are top notch.

Student-faculty relationships:

- I have formed important relationships with some of my professors. They have showed me the wide variety of opportunities that are available for me.
- I have felt fully supported by my professors and have worked with them on important work that has defined my college years.

Faculty comparisons:

- I had several professors that encouraged my growth both academically and personally. . . of course there are still a few professors that make you feel like you can’t do anything and that you should just give up.
- I have had a select few of my professors whom have not helped me. . . the rest of the faculty made it known that they wanted to help us grow.
- I have had good times, bad times, amazing professors.
- Some teachers are great, want you to learn and understand the material. Others are very boring, are not motivating and also unfair to the students. Some give a insane amount of work, while some teachers don’t teach anything, don’t care if the students show up.
- Their will always be teachers and professors who do not care as much as others, but . . . enthusiasm has been one of the main characteristics of those professors that kept me motivated in class and ultimately lead me to success.
- Most of my professors really care about what their students are learning, and many are very approachable and have been very willing to assist me during their office hours. I have had some professors who were on power trips or did not know how, nor care to really instruct their students.
- Most proffessors really cared about my personal and intellectual well being. Others could have cared less and seemed as though they were almost against students.
- My experiences really depended on the teacher, boring teachers never helped me retain any information I learned. . . while some things I’ve learned from certaint teachers I will carry with me forever
- The faculty is an integral part of this mission statement. Some were more successful in implementing it in their courses than others.
• There are some faculty that I was honored and privileged to have here at Keene State, but some did not show any interest in promoting intellectual growth.
• I fear that often times students are not encouraged to think for themselves but are given the ideas and beliefs of their professors. This is not the case with all professors but some.
• Some of the teachers don’t demand as much as others, and at times I really wished they would put their foot down and make our minds work harder.

Critical comments:
• I would have liked a lot more guidance and support from my professors . . . I have learned how college is mostly about making a profit, placing a good education second.
• Teachers that have students that are in their classes and not studying their topic of interest usually do not give as much attention or help as the students that are studying in that teachers field of interest.
• After four years of college I expect to be treated as an adult in the classroom, however in some classes I feel more of a high school student being told what my priorities should be.
• With a few teachers at KSC they need to be aware of how their teaching skills affect students of all majors.
• Specific professors grade based on the students ability to reflect the professors personal politics. Debate is rarely tolerated in these classes.
• Teachers need to remember that students are still learning . . . help us, don’t watch us fail.
• There are some classes and professors that didn’t give enough of that push, to allow students to try hard.
• The professors in many fields are more concerned with how their grading system looks on paper than actually involving themselves to understand how much a student has actually progressed.
• When you get a bad grade without any type of explanation or advice on how to improve it, it is very disappointing.
• I have found that everything is political. Many of the professors are concerned about their reviews and will grade accordingly.
Student Engagement in Campus Organizations and Service Activities

Students wrote about the importance of their engagement in campus organizations, service activities, and social interactions to their personal and intellectual growth and development.

Campus involvement:

- Keene State provides a wide variety of opportunities for their students and encourages students to seek out various experiences.
- I have been an RA on campus, the President of a Club, the poster child for an advertising campaign on campus and an all around happily involved KSC student.
- Through the incredible professors I have had, my unbelievable experience studying abroad, and the wonderful friendships I have fostered, I am much more than just “different than I was before.” I have learned about myself, the world around me, and other people. . . I cannot wait to go out into the world and “go forth to serve.”
- The student center, gym, library, etc., are great resources for students that can help them grow.
- I was very impressed with the amount of fairs, recreational activities, concerts, festivals, merchandising booths/tables and fun things that were almost constantly provided around the campus.
- Keene State has done a good job making sure students have the resources they need to grow . . . they provide counseling centers, organizations and clubs that promote socializing with others, and they promote health and wellness.
- Keene State offers many different things for people to be involved in not only academically but also personally. They try to encourage cultural activities and diversity and that leads to personal growth.
- The college provides students with the opportunity to participate in many groups and activities to grow personally.
- The management department, my fraternity, and my social relationships have helped me to reach a level of maturity and intellect that I never thought I could reach.
- There are so many options ranging from class choice to extra curricular activities offered here and I think the variety allows every student to find at least one thing they are passionate about through out their college career.
- Keene State College allows the opportunity to grow and learn through a vast array of experiences in the college atmosphere and in the community.
- I have been given many oppurtunities here to grow and change in social situations. There have been an abundance of oppurtunities to get involved in the Keene State College community and the town community as well.
- Being part of an athletic team has helped me strengthen my personal skills.
- My academic studies have fostered my intellectual growth, and my participation with club activities have fostered my personal growth.
- It is very important to promote student organizations and encourage all students to become involved.
• The school encourages students to grow personally with cultural events.

Service activities:
• Keene State has fostered the personal growth of students by creating an environment with events for students to work together towards a common goal.
• I have learned so much about myself on a personal level through volunteer work, practicums, service learning and a campus organization.
• I have made great connections with the faculty, done an internship, and organized and participated in some amazing on campus activities ... I plan on hopefully making some changes in this world.
• Community Service hours, internships (mandatory), work studies ... help install values and a strong work ethic in the future graduates of Keene.
• Through my collective experiences at Keene State including academics, volunteer and other activities, I really do feel that I have grown both personally and intellectually.
• More internship opportunities linked both inside and outside of New Hampshire would increase student awareness of how important an education is.
• There should be more service learning and internships available, and if possible try to have the internships be paid.
• The university has done it’s best to help students get involved and feel like a part of the community.
• Through service learning my personal growth especially has enabled me to grow intellectually and in my own community.
• I have the qualities necessary to make a difference. Our motto could not be more perfect: “Enter to learn, go forth to serve.” That is exactly what I intend to do!
• I learned how to take initiative, be a self advocate, and how to extend my services to help others and the community.
• I think through the service learning aspects and community programs that Keene State affords, its students allow for real world experiences and academic progress.
• It should be required for students to complete both internships and co-ops. The more the better.
• Service learning made me more self aware.
• The community service programs on campus are definitely beneficial, and more students should become involved.
• Last spring, I spent a week in South Carolina working on a house with Habitat for Humanity. This was another life altering experience. I solidified a lot of strong relationships and built new ones.
• My participation in Greek life and alternative spring break has allowed me to participate in helping others with a similar goal. I have been taught to reach for my goals and continue striving and helping others in the community. I shall carry this with me after graduation.

Social interactions:
• Keene State has a good balance between the academic and social aspects of college.
• KSC does a great job through academic and social programs the school sponsors.
• Keene State College allows students to create a bond with not only fellow students but also get involved with more on campus.
• Keene State has offered not only educational support but provides so many different things students can take part in or attend to meet social expectations as well.
• If they [students] don’t have the opportunity to social network outside of their dorms and on the weekends then they are being deprived of the most important aspect of their development.
• The social atmosphere of this college is great for exploring yourself and abilities.
• They have many social events and gatherings for people to meet one another to allow for personal relationships

Student Effort and Initiative

These students emphasized how their self-effort and initiative was essential to their personal and intellectual growth and development.

Initiative:
• This needs to come from the student wanting to grow personally and intellectually.
• The student has full control over how they spend they’re time here.
• It is the student that needs to take the initiative. . . if they do not want to learn/growth, they won’t.
• The college provided me with the trials and tribulations necessary to develop and grow by my own experiences.
• I didn’t want to waste my time at college so I went to classes and did my work.
• These attributes were built upon due to my own self awareness and determination.
• I am a strong willed person that handled everything on my own.
• The students that take out the time to get as much out of the program that they are in will get the most out of that program.
• If you give students the freedom of living on their own, more or less, and the obligations required by taking classes, they’re bound to grow personally and intellectually. It’s not rocket science, it’s life.
• All the tools are laid out in front of students, students just need the drive to reach their goals.
• Keene State gives most of their students a chance to be successful. College is and always will be a two way street.
• Keene State provides students with the resources, but the rest is up to the individual.
• It is up to the student to decide where one wants to go with the opportunities that the school has given them.
• My intellectual growth during my time at KSC was not the accomplishment of the college, but my own. It has not been the course work that has challenged me, but my own initiative above and beyond that course work that has resulted in my collegic success.
• The resources were available, but it is up to the student to find those resources by personally taking the responsibility of obtaining them. Personal and intellectual growth will occur if the student takes action.
• There are many students who attend ksc who just do not care and this lowers the quality expectations from those who are willing and capable of doing quality work. Luckily they are, for the most part, the seeds of their own undoing, in that apathy and excessive partying usually roughes them out by senior year.
• A major focus of a lot of student’s lives becomes their personal growth, I wish that more students could take as much pride in their intellectual growth.
• It is up to the individual to take advantage of this aspect of education. It is quite possible for students to graduate from Keene State (with high grades) not having grown at all.

Academic effort:
• In leaving Keene State I am very happy with myself for being such a diligent and self-motivating student because I do not think I would have been successful if I wasn’t.
• At Keene State you have to do everything for yourself... no one helps and that is a bad thing.
• I do not believe that KSC has done much for the personal growth of students... education is what you make of it, and if you choose to float through college without really working hard, you can.
• College is one of the first times many kids are really on their own so it builds people in many aspects of responsibility since they no longer have their parents looking over their shoulder.
• Whatever lifestyle changes or perspectives I now hold are a natural result of simply ‘growing up.’

Keene State College Community

Students who addressed the qualities of the College community were divided into two camps, those who were comfortable in the community, and those who were not.

Affirming Comments:
• This is a very personable college.
• I fell in love with and created a home in the city of Keene.
• Keene is a positive place, with a small school feel.
• Keene is an overall amazing campus, there are so many services and friendly faces always around.
• Keene State is small and is a great tight knit community.
• Keene State offers an excellent learning environment and a beautiful campus as well as modern and useful facilities. There are many events on campus which also promote social interaction and good times.
• The facilities are state of the art and the campus is beautiful.
• The open and welcoming community of KSC helps foster such a positive mission.
• The physical environment of Keene is perfect in the fact that everything (shopping and partying!) are all walking distance, which encourages walking and I am all for that. The events held on campus like Spring Weekend are great for community building, and reducing student’s stress.
• The small campus has allowed me to make friends and foster strong relationships with them over the course of my time here... the dining commons food has gotten much better, and as a vegetarian for over a decade, it is good that they now offer many alternatives. Campus lectures and speakers have broadened my knowledge and provoked active thinking.
• There is a large social scene in Keene that helps one find themselves as a person.
• I really could not imagine a school that was better fit for me-I had a tough time in high school, with grades and what not but I truly feel that I have blossomed not only as a student but as an individual and I think Keene State College had a lot to do with that.
Critical Comments:

- The atmosphere is not conducive for learning and mainly blocks intellectual growth.
- The living accommodations on campus are terrible. The new dorms are quite nice but the tight leash put on by RA’s is dangerous. Students feel they will get in trouble staying in the dorms therefore wander around Keene.
- KSC is very supportive and you can find whatever help you need if you just ask.
- The second I walked on campus senior year of high school I knew this was the place for me.
- I may have felt more amused at times going to college in a large city, but I would not change anything here at Keene for my experiences here have been a part in shaping who I am today.
- KSC ultimately was not the correct choice for me because it took me out of my element a little too much. While I adapted very well I constantly missed various aspects of life in the environment I originally came from (suburbs of New York City).
- Keene was a great college experience, but the wrong college for me.

Student Apathy and Lack of Commitment

This group of students was critical of Keene State’s general student body:

- I did not feel that students around me want to better themselves in any way.
- I feel as though much of the student community is separated through particular ‘cliques’. Students seem close-minded at times when it comes to meeting people outside of their usual friends.
- If I had to make any recommendation over how KSC could better prepare its students, I would say that it should do more to reduce its image of being a party school.
- There is a ubiquitous apathy that lingers among many of the students here at Keene, and it gives a bad name to those who actually received something out of their educational experience.
- While KSC may hold many outings and such, so long as some [students] just refuse to leave their dorm because they have no friends or they don’t want to meet other people because they’d rather play video games hurts both their intellectual and personal growth.
- Get rid of the pathetic frats and stop fostering an atmosphere that is conducive to babying the rich.
- Keene State has taught me how to adapt to the ‘worst case scenario’ as well as how to make the best out of a bad situation. I feel as though Keene State itself helps to foster the ‘partying’ reputation that it holds in the majority of the surrounding states.
- KSC students have the mentality that it is cool to be dumb and not go to class.
- Often, while living on campus, I felt my studies were interrupted by the obnoxious behavior of others, often related to alcohol use.
- The admissions requirements should be more stringent, as a small minority of the student body do not seem ready for a 4-year college education.
- The friends I’ve made and the experiences we’ve shared over four years of drinking and mayhem have matured and prepared me far better for the real world outside of the small and insular world of school than any course or institution ever could.
- There are so many problems on this campus I don’t know where to begin. Other than the drinking, the sexual assaults, the political apathy, the narrow-minded thinking in the dorms, the blind New England racism, and the disgusting labor practices, I would ask that KSC focus more on the students rather than the students’ money.
• They're aren't enough kids at this school who actually seem to care about anything but drinking and using drugs.
• This campus is occupied by like-minded, ignorant, racist, homophobic, and sexist morons. Each day, I can't walk down Appian Way or walk around campus without hearing some simpleton scream “Hey Faggot” to a friend thirty yards away. Kids spit everywhere, on the sidewalks, in front of the library. This school is dirty. How can Keene State foster both the personal and intellectual growth of their students when there are students who will write “NIGGER” and paint swastikas on posters at Huntress? Kids are more concerned about how drunk they got Thursday, Friday, and Saturday than about intelligent conversations discussing politics, mathematics, the sciences, literature, and poetry.

**Student Preparation**

Students wrote about the knowledge and skills they had developed and their preparation for their professional and personal lives.

**Personal and intellectual fulfillment:**

• I am much more prepared for my life after college.
• My KSC experience has transformed me into the person I need and want to be in my field of study.
• I have grown into an adult and am ready to face the real world.
• I was able to find what I wanted to do with my life.
• Keene State College has successfully prepared me for my future, and I cant wait to get out in the real world and start really applying my learnings and helping society.
• Keene State has done a good job of preparing me academically for my future.
• Keene State has helped me to become a capable adult, and prepared me for the responsibilities—personal and intellectual—of the world outside college.
• Keene State has helped me to figure out what I want to do in my future. It has taught me to work hard and do my best.
• Keene State has provided me with the opportunity to experience the field I hope to continue in.
• Keene State has provided the services for me to succeed in my chosen field.
• KSC has done a good job preparing me for various real-world situations and I feel confident with taking the next steps in my life.
• KSC has given me a first hand look at many different career paths. . . I have become a person that is well prepared for the outside world.
• KSC has given me the academic, social, and personal skills necessary for a successful life after graduation.
• KSC has prepared me for the next step in life.
Life Skills:
- Students learn to work with others in a professional manner which causes growth in communication skills and better prepares students for the future in whatever area they decide.
- I have learned a lot of helpful ways to deal with problems and situations both in my personal and professional life.
- I’m much more prepared to enter the world as an independent and strong person.
- Keene State has made me more in touch with my intellectual capabilities as well as helped me get over talking in front of big groups.
- I have become a leader and when i’m done school in the fall in December I feel i’ll be ready for the real world.
- The most important thing that I have learned here at Keene State is how to both manage my time well, and understanding how the world works outside of college.

Work:
- I am now prepared to enter the work force.
- I have been prepared to enter the work force based on the education I received at Keene State.
- I have gained the skills and knowledge I believe to be necessary to attain a job in my field of study.
- I have learned much from my experience that will help me out in the work world.
- It has provided me with the tools I need to succeed in life within my career.
- Keene has brought an understanding of life to my eyes and has helped round my college experience into a tool that can be used in the work force.
- Keene State College gave me the time/task management skills necessary to be competitive in the business world.
- KSC has given me the ability to go out into the world and try my chosen career path.
- What I have learned has prepared me for a career; the experience has prepared me for the world.

Graduate school:
- I was engaged in academics just as much as social/volunteer work, and it helped me to grow in the academic world, preparing me for graduate school, and also socially, giving me the confidence to try new things.
- Keene State has provided me with ample knowledge in my field of study to better prepare me for graduate school.
Administration

These comments were directed at campus administrative and service units.

Higher Administration:

- Keene state does not foster anything except for large amounts of dept so they can build crappy new buildings that look nice on the outside and nothing more. You should try hiring people that actually care about the students here.
- Keene State is trying to accomplish quite a bit for a school its size . . . the problem. is that the College seems to have bit off a good deal more than it can chew . . . when all focus is on that growth, existing elements are sometimes overlooked or forgotten altogether. . . what I have seen as a student, day-to-day, is a hard-working, dedicated group of faculty and staff who do a wonderful job and in many cases do it without some of the important resources they need.
- The higher staff does not seem to care about individuals and will not take anything that a student has to say into account before making a decision.
- The school often overcharges us for various ‘services’, some of which are required for our academic wellbeing. Do we need to pay to withdraw from classes? This practice serves no purpose other than to take money from the pockets of hardworking students so the school can build more dorms . . . Obviously the money you take from us doesn’t go back into the DC, nor does it go into the roofs of any of the new buildings, since all the roofs leak . . . you care more about money than you do about us or our grades. I haven’t received any job placement information, but this is to be expected as once we graduate you have no need for us anymore.
- There has been a lack of respect for some clubs and organizations. The sports teams here are given credit but credit should be given when credit is due. . . . Habitat for humanity gives up their spring break every year to go help build houses, women’s rugby has a program where they are raising money for Darfur, and even men’s rugby who have accomplished so much but have been battling the system for years to try and build there name back up to what the school will see to be respectful. . . . show respect to all clubs to do not eliminate a certain club, do not make it harder for clubs to stay alive, and do not make it so hard for new clubs to form.
- There are some very serious flaws that absolutely must be addressed across the entire academic field. The ‘politics’ of the college in addition to the absolutely horribe selection of certain ‘professors’.
- Classes need to be smaller at this school. . . they have grown a great deal since I have been here. I feel I have learned more in my small seminar classes than my large classes. Instead of making this school into a university it needs to focus on improving academics itself. . . this school also needs to really listen to the students when they give a teacher a bad review. There are some teachers that I have had that are terrible and I know they will never get rid of them. It is just not fair when we are paying lots of money to a professor that just likes to talk about how they bought a house. I feel I have wasted my time and money in a lot of classes. This school provides people with what to do after Keene, but you have to be willing to go find it as a student. If you do not find it you are lost at this school. I also think that the way this school is going is not the right way, and good luck to the students that have to live through the change over of this schools academics!
- I feel that a lot of administrators on this campus carry out personal vendettas against targeted students for various reasons, and sadly I feel that nothing will be done about this.
• I felt wrongly threatened by certain members of the administration. While I was extremely successful in my field of study, certain individuals were still determined to squander my growth due to social affiliations. I believe these incidents display a level of poorly managed priorities as an institution . . . you have my money, now I’d like my diploma, so I can be on my way.
• The KSC Administration is out of touch with Greek life and is slowly killing one of the best thinks the KSC has to offer. I wont let my own little brother come here because of it.

Helpful service:
• Whether it be with course selection, help with classes, assistance in financial aid, all aspects of my personal and intellectual needs have been met, one way or another.
• Res. Life staff, advisors, and a number of other services are there and willing to help if you seek them out.

Course Scheduling:
• Many of the classes I wanted to take were hard to fit into schedule due to being an Athletic training major and I feel this is something the college needs to take into consideration.
• The one issue that has been a reoccurring problem is the lack of available classes for students.

Critical comments:
• Keene State College administrators, particularly those in financial services make practice of blaming mistakes made by their office on the student.
• The staff in Student Financial Services were extremely unhelpful.
• I did NOT find most administrators and other KSC personel to be nice . . . they seem very distant and often times acted like I wasbothering them from there jobs.
• There are certain factors in my college experience here at Keene State that keep me from fully believing that Keene State in all its elements attempts to foster both personal and intellectual growth of its students, at least in a positive way . . . these experiences range from miscommunication between offices on campus to unprofessionalism of the faculty and staff in various positions on campus.

Non-Traditional Students

These students identified themselves as non-traditional and offered their views on their campus experiences, both positive and negative.

Personal and intellectual growth:
• Keene State provided me with an environment where it was easy for me to continue the success I had achieved at [prior 2-year institution].
• Despite the fact that the Adult Learner Program was disbanded a year ago— the faculty and my advisor have attempted to make my passage as smooth as possible.
• Even as a non-traditional student, I believe strongly that I have grown personally, as well as intellectually.
• I am a non-traditional student and probably one of the oldest students. It is never too late to learn and I have grown immensely both personally and intelectually.
• I am a non-traditional student. I have observed tremendous personal and intellectual growth in traditional aged college students from their first semester here at KSC.
• I am an untraditional student and before continuing my education through KSC I was unable to achieve my employment goals, and now I am feeling confident that I can succeed in the field of my major.
• I’m a 53 year old non-traditional student and will be the first in my immediate family to recieve a degree. KSC definately fostered personal and intellectual growth.
• I’m a non-traditional student. I had little need interest in personal . . . but, obviously I grew intellectually.
• Working full time and being a non-traditional student has been both challenging and rewarding.
• Keene State College has provided frequent and varied opportunities to meet people with common goals and interests, to participate in professional development activities, and to examine my personal goals and beliefs. Although I came to Keene State as a mature non-traditional student, I feel I have been given an amazing opportunity to reflect on myself, and to change for the better.

Critical comments:
• As a non-traditional student I did not feel supported at Keene State. . . since more and more people are changing careers in their forties, KSC may want to try and address this for the future.
• As a non-traditional student, I feel that KSC lacks that connection. . . class hours are not wholly conducive for students who work full time. Additionally some KSC sponsored events (honors society, club meetings, and college leadership groups) all met at times during which non-traditional students are not available. I definitely wish I could have been more active on campus but felt limited by available options.
• I am/was older than other individuals I was paired with in the dorms and it was difficult to relate to them because I felt years a head of them maturity wise . . . I feel I would have grown more overall—had I been sharing my living space with someone of comparable age & maturity. . . I—at one point shared a room with an individual who enjoyed drinking very much. I on the other hand did not . . . I didn’t rat her out but I also didn’t approve of her behavior. It wasan awkward position to be in.
• Keene State College needs to do more for transfer students . . . I feel that I missed out on chances of being involved with the athletics, basically volleyball. . . there were no papers/announcements saying when tryouts were or anything. I feel that all in all transfer students don’t get to do as much as students who have been here all four years.
• I’ve learned much, but sadly to say I had learned much more about my degree from my two years at the tech college.
• More effort and programs could be developed and made available for non-traditional students.
Diversity

Students recognized diversity in their classroom experiences, conversations and individual learning and living styles:

- Going to school here has definitely helped me to become a more intelligent person. It has also helped my to develop my personal skills by interacting with a variety of different people.
- Classwork has caused me to think in new and different ways and to grow intellectually.
- Each of the courses I have taken has made me think and engage in conversations that I never thought I would have to.
- I grew the most as a person though the lifestyle in college and the different people you get to meet and interact with from different areas.
- I learned how to interact socially with people I would normally never speak to.
- KSC provides an atmosphere where students can explore and learn in different social environments, while interacting with different types of people.
- I think Keene State has done a fairly good job of catering to the different learning styles and helping us grow as individuals and as students to prepare us for the road ahead.
- I was forced to be in a classroom with people who did not care about learning as I did, but this was an important lesson for me about the many types of people I will encounter in the world and how to deal with them amicably.
- It has showed me that I can live with people and also work with them as a community.
- Keene State has accomplished this by having classes that challenge the students to think and work together as a team.
- KSC has put such an emphasis on working together and it is such a good thing. Learning to work with others is so important and that is a skill KSC has taught me.

Liberal Arts

Students wrote about the value of a liberal arts program:

- The liberal arts education I received has made me a more well-rounded person ready for the next phase of life.
- I have been forced to think outside the box and have been encouraged to be myself and to experiment with what I am not experienced with.
- Keene helped me discover what I really want to do with my life and who I am.
- Keene State College courses have taught me a great deal and changed the course of my life by directing me to a different profession than I came in to this college to pursue.
- Keene State helps you grow, there are so many opportunities to learn outside of your own degree.
- Requiring a variety of general requirements and core courses allows students to grow in areas that they may not have sought on their own.
- The college has provided me with ways of going about solving problems within my daily life as well as helped me to recognized that a college education is more than just ‘hitting the books’.
- The general education requirements give students an opportunity to explore other fields in case they are not completely satisfied with their chosen major.
• In requiring Gen Ed’s, Keene has made me become more of a well rounded individual.
• Each class I’ve taken has helped me become a stronger person in my ability to think, gather, and process information that I can use help better my life.
• The liberal arts education has left me with a sense of balance in my everyday life.
• Classes foster a need to improve intellectually and independent thinking. Students learn what they are capable of, what they enjoy doing, and what they will not enjoy doing in the future.

Academic Advising

These students described their experiences with the Academic and Career Advising Center, and the advising they had received in their major department.

Academic and Career Advising Center:
• Thank God for the Academic & Career Advising office.
• Without the help from the career and academic advising department, I would most likely be lost as to what really makes me happy. Thanks.
• I was unclear of what I wanted to do when I entered KSC and I am very grateful for the direction the school has given me.

Advising in the Major—Positive:
• It is my personal experience that my advisors and my professors have shown a great deal of support towards me and my academic agenda. I have received recommendations, advice and personal feedback that has allowed me to succeed at KSC.
• My advisor encouraged me to look into graduate school, even though I didn’t even think I would be able to gain admittance to a graduate school. I will be attending the University of Utah’s Exercise Physiology program and hope to get a PhD of Exercise Physiology and Sport Nutrition. If someone told me this is what I would be doing after graduation my freshmen year, I would have told them they are full of it.

Advising in the Major—Negative:
• Doing an internship wasn’t really encouraged and I wasn’t as encouraged to find a future career.
• I believe things could be changed in my major to prep students for the job search.
• I feel KSC could network for graduating seniors better, for instance locating alumni in the area of study the student’s in, or the region the student wishes to travel. Obtaining a job within a students desirable field includes connections, and I think that KSC could do a better job of helping.
• I find the advising aspect of the college tough. It is extremely hard to get good advising
• The only thing I would really like to suggest is to have job placement. The job fairs were nice, but there were not a lot of them.
• Keene State could do a better job at preparing students for life after college. I think taking a career course to build a resume should be required and completing an internship in your major should be a requirement by senior year. . . they could do a better job at getting networking for students and job placement for the seniors graduating.
• The school should put a greater emphasis on advisors. It's difficult when we ask a professor to be our advisor, but yet they are barely there to help us, or for that matter remember who we are. I think the advising situation should definitely be more structured and mandatory.
• I wish that Keene State was more helpful with gaining job experience, internships, help with resumes and help with finding jobs.
• If I could go back, I would take different courses. I do wish I had been advised better at times.

Study Abroad
The experiences gained during their study abroad experiences were especially relevant to the personal and intellectual growth of these students:
• I studied abroad twice in my 4 years here. Had I not left the country on exchange, my education would not be half as good as it is.
• I have grown both personally and intellectually, especially through being able to study abroad, it helped broaden my perspective on life.
• A large part of that came from my study abroad in England during my Junior year.
• I have grown personally through my study abroad experience.
• It is the experiences I have had; studying abroad, the relationships I have made, and the time I have had to learn about myself, that made it possible for me to grow not only on an intellectual level, but also on a personal one as well.
• My study abroad experience changed my life.
• My unbelievable experience studying abroad.
• Studying abroad also enabled this growth and I would encourage the college to continue to promote study abroad programs to students.

Counseling
These students wrote about how much they valued the counseling services they had received at KSC:
• My personal and intellectual growth is not only due to my time at Keene State, but because of the guidance and support that I have experienced here.
• The Aspire office helped me a great deal when I came into Keene via the link program and they continued to be a part of my success up to this point. Those people were key to my success.
• You make services such as mental health available, and you have excellent classes with well-educated teachers that teach us exactly what we need for the proverbial ‘real world’.