

Contents

Executive Summary	vii
Foreword	xiii
Acknowledgments	xv
Background and Warrant for the Study	1
Review of Existing Evidence	2
Liberal Arts Colleges: Past and Present	3
Evidence About the Impacts of Liberal Arts Colleges	12
Summary	22
The Study	25
Datasets Analyzed	26
Sample Descriptions	28
Effects of Liberal Arts Colleges on Good Practices in Undergraduate Education	31
Data and Analyses	31
Results	33
Total Effects	37
Direct Effects	37
Conditional Effects	39
Timing of Effects	39
Effects of Liberal Arts Colleges on Intellectual and Personal Development	45
Data and Analyses	45
Results	50

Total Effects	51
Direct Effects	52
Additional Analyses	53
Timing of Impacts	57
Conditional Effects	57
Effects of an Institution's Liberal Arts Emphasis and Students' Liberal Arts Experiences on Intellectual and Personal Development	59
Data and Analyses	59
Results	62
Liberal Arts Emphasis I	62
Liberal Arts Emphasis II	65
Liberal Arts Experiences	66
Timing of Impacts	67
Conditional Effects	68
Long-Term Effects of Liberal Arts Colleges	71
Data and Analyses	71
Results: Total and Direct Effects	74
Results: Conditional Effects	82
Impacts of Liberal Arts Colleges and Liberal Arts Education:	
A Summary	87
Good Practices	87
Intellectual and Personal Development	91
Long-Term Effects	95
Conditional Effects	98
Conclusion	101
Notes	105
Appendix A: Operational Definitions of Variables	107
Appendix B: Statistical Controls Introduced in the Analysis of Different Study Outcomes	123
References	127
Name Index	139
Subject Index	142
About the Authors	145
