



Office of Student Engagement Commuter Student Survey
Winter 2018

Office of Institutional Research

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Fall 2017, the Office of Student Engagement and the Commuter Student Engagement Committee requested assistance in developing a survey that would allow them to assess current students' understanding of what it means to be a commuter student and how students are engaging with the various activities and programs offered not only by the Office of Student Engagement (OSE), but also other entities on campus. The overarching goal of the survey was to provide OSE and the Commuter Student Engagement Committee members with pertinent information needed to inform programmatic changes and to provide the Committee with a sense of students' needs and desires in terms of engagement opportunities and programming. This study was undertaken as a needs assessment for continual improvement purposes only and should not be viewed or utilized as an indication of the level of student engagement at CSUSB, as the survey was not set up as such and data were not analyzed to this end.

The purpose of this survey was to glean a general overview and sense of current CSUSB students' level of participation in various on-campus engagement activities based on the distance of their residence from campus and self-reported descriptors (e.g., adult re-entry, first-time freshman, veteran). Frequency of participation in on-campus activities and events was also explored, as was students' reasons for lack of involvement. Launched at the end of January 2018, the survey was distributed via email to all students enrolled in the winter quarter ($N = 21,273$), with 3,102 (14.58%) respondents.

Results of the survey indicate:

- Students consider themselves commuters if they live off-campus, regardless of distance.
- Differences exist between the San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses with regard to the frequency and type of students' participation in on-campus programs, activities, and events.
- Students participate in on-campus activities and events more frequently the closer they live to campus.
- While most other students cite not having enough time as their top reason for lack of on-campus involvement, those students who live more than 10 miles from campus most frequently cite the inconvenience of their commute.
- The percentage of students who indicate they have never participated in any on-campus program, event, or activity increases as the distance of their residences increases.
- The majority of students who responded indicated they had not participated in any of the listed campus involvement opportunities, regardless of student descriptors (e.g., adult re-entry, first-time freshman, veteran).
- Across student descriptors, students cited not having enough time more than any other reason for their lack of involvement.

PALM DESERT (PDC) AND SAN BERNARDINO (SB) CAMPUS COMPARISONS

When comparing survey results by campus (see Appendix A), several similarities between campuses are noted. The majority of respondents consider themselves commuter students (82%, PDC; 93% SB); reside more than 10 miles from campus (66%, PDC; 75%, SB); and identify

as transfer students, first-time freshmen (FTF), or graduate students. Nearly half (48%) of PDC respondents and 34% of SB respondents reported participating in on-campus programs, activities, or events at least a few times each quarter.

Differences exist between campuses, though, with regard to the types of activities in which students report they engage (see Table 1). Overall, PDC respondents were more likely to be involved in student leadership programs, on-going community or volunteer projects, and student clubs and organizations. SB respondents were more likely to participate in academic clubs, research with faculty, Greek organizations, internships, and on-campus student employment. The majority of respondents on both campuses cited not having enough time, commuting inconvenience, work commitments, and being focused on academics as top reasons for their lack of involvement in on-campus activities.

Table 1

Student Needs Assessment Survey: Results by Campus

Survey Items	PDC		SB		Total	
	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Total	112	-	2990	-	3102	-
Campus Involvement						
Academic club	2	2%	218	7%	220	7%
Engaged in research with faculty	2	2%	182	6%	184	6%
Fraternity/sorority	0	-	147	5%	147	5%
Internship	3	3%	208	7%	211	7%
National Student Exchange Program	0	-	10	0.3%	10	0.3%
On-campus student employment	8	7%	355	12%	363	12%
On-going community or volunteer project	13	12%	193	6%	206	7%
One time event	23	21%	626	21%	649	21%
Student club or organization	37	33%	763	26%	800	26%
Other academic engagement opportunities (i.e. Model UN)	4	4%	52	2%	56	2%
Other student leadership program (i.e. ASI, Ambassador, Resident Advisor, SOAR Leader, Peer Mentor)	23	21%	165	6%	188	6%
Other	2	2%	79	3%	81	3%
I have never been involved in any of these	48	43%	1333	45%	1381	45%

Note: Respondents were asked to select all that apply.

ON-CAMPUS PARTICIPATION AND RESIDENCE LOCATION DISTANCE FROM CAMPUS

Frequency of participation in on-campus activities and events, as well as students' reported reasons for lack of involvement, was cross-tabulated with the distance of students' residences from campus (Appendix B). As might be expected, the frequency of participation in on-campus programs, activities, and events appears to decline the further away from campus students live. Additionally, the inconvenience of their commute is reported most frequently (32%) among these students as the reason for their lack of involvement on campus. Among all groups of students who reported involvement in on-campus programs, activities, and events, the most frequently reported type of involvement was student club/organization. Only students who live in The Glen cited on-campus student employment as their most frequent type of involvement.

Interestingly, students who live at The Glen were the only group of students who cited work comments most frequently as their reason for lack of participation in on-campus programming; all other students (aside from those who live more than 10 miles from campus) most frequently cited general lack of time as their reason for lack of involvement.

ON-CAMPUS PARTICIPATION AND STUDENT DESCRIPTOR GROUPS

Frequency of participation in on-campus activities and events, as well as students' reported reasons for lack of involvement, was cross-tabulated with their self-reported student descriptors (Appendix C). In general, students who identified as veterans, staff, international students, students with disabilities, and/or parents reported less involvement in campus programs, activities, and events. Likewise, 57% of those who describe themselves as first-time freshmen, 37% of transfer students, and 28% of graduate students reported never having been involved in any of the given programs or activities. The most frequently reported engagement activities across all student descriptors included one-time event attendance, student clubs and organizations, and on-campus student employment. Commuting, lack of time, and family commitments were the most common reasons for lack of involvement across all groups.

APPENDIX A

Student Needs Assessment Survey: Results by Campus

Survey Items	PDC		SB		Total	
	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Total	112	-	2990	-	3102	-
Commuters						
Yes	92	82%	2790	93%	2882	93%
No	20	18%	112	4%	132	4%
Missing	-	-	88	3%	88	3%
Residence Location						
Dorms	0	-	94	3%	94	3%
Less than 2 miles from campus	2	2%	85	3%	87	3%
2 to 5 miles from campus	5	4%	138	5%	143	5%
6 to 10 miles from campus	21	19%	293	10%	314	10%
More than 10 miles from campus	74	66%	2243	75%	2317	75%
Other	10	9%	136	5%	146	5%
Student Descriptor						
Adult re-entry student	11	10%	174	6%	185	6%
First-time freshman	23	21%	412	14%	435	14%
Graduate student	9	8%	378	13%	387	12%
International student	1	1%	36	1%	37	1%
Parent	21	19%	279	9%	300	10%
Staff	0	-	37	1%	37	1%
Student with a disability	8	7%	91	3%	99	3%
Transfer student	49	44%	1005	34%	1054	34%
Veteran	2	2%	62	2%	64	2%
Participation Frequency						
A few times every month	21	19%	364	12%	385	12%
A few times every quarter	33	29%	647	22%	680	22%
A few times every year	14	13%	521	17%	535	17%
Once every year or two	18	16%	497	17%	515	17%
Other	2	2%	97	3%	99	3%
Never	24	21%	864	29%	888	29%
Campus Involvement						
Academic club	2	2%	218	7%	220	7%
Engaged in research with faculty	2	2%	182	6%	184	6%
Fraternity/sorority	0	-	147	5%	147	5%
Internship	3	3%	208	7%	211	7%
National Student Exchange Program	0	-	10	0.3%	10	0.3%
On-campus student employment	8	7%	355	12%	363	12%
On-going community or volunteer project	13	12%	193	6%	206	7%
One time event	23	21%	626	21%	649	21%
Student club or organization	37	33%	763	26%	800	26%
Other academic engagement opportunities (i.e. Model UN)	4	4%	52	2%	56	2%
Other student leadership program (i.e. ASI, Ambassador, Resident Advisor, SOAR Leader, Peer Mentor)	23	21%	165	6%	188	6%
Other	2	2%	79	3%	81	3%
I have never been involved in any of these	48	43%	1333	45%	1381	45%
Reason for Lack of Involvement						
I am focused on academics	22	20%	534	18%	556	18%
I am not interested in any of them	4	4%	133	4%	137	4%
I commute so it's not convenient	23	21%	808	27%	831	27%
I don't have enough time	28	25%	784	26%	812	26%
I don't have enough information	6	5%	294	10%	300	10%
I don't think it's important	1	1%	37	1%	38	1%
I have family commitments	18	16%	407	14%	425	14%
I have work commitments	20	18%	576	19%	596	19%
I was not aware of them	6	5%	230	8%	236	8%
Not interested	1	1%	50	2%	51	2%
Other	3	3%	45	2%	48	2%

Note: Respondents were asked to select all that apply in terms of student descriptors, campus involvement, and reason for lack of involvement.

APPENDIX B

Survey Items	Location of Residence/Distance from Campus											
	The Villages		The Glen		Less than 2 Miles from Campus		2-5 Miles from Campus		6-10 Miles from Campus		More than 10 Miles from Campus	
	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Total	70	-	24	-	87	-	145	-	314	-	2319	-
Participation Frequency												
A few times every month	22	31%	2	8%	17	20%	31	21%	42	13%	255	11%
A few times every quarter	24	34%	9	38%	20	23%	36	25%	79	25%	478	21%
A few times every year	10	14%	5	21%	18	21%	17	12%	69	22%	387	17%
Once every year or two	9	13%	2	8%	15	17%	16	11%	43	14%	409	18%
Never	3	4%	6	25%	16	18%	30	21%	72	23%	715	31%
Other	2	3%	0	-	1	1%	7	5%	9	3%	75	3%
Campus Involvement												
Academic club	5	7%	2	8%	12	14%	11	8%	21	7%	161	7%
Engaged in research with faculty	2	3%	1	4%	12	14%	12	8%	16	5%	138	6%
Fraternity/sorority	9	13%	1	4%	9	10%	9	6%	24	8%	88	4%
Internship	0	-	0	-	6	7%	13	9%	30	10%	148	6%
National Student Exchange Program	5	7%	0	-	1	1%	0	-	0	-	4	0.2%
On-campus student employment	18	26%	8	33%	24	28%	31	21%	45	14%	231	10%
On-going community or volunteer project	6	9%	2	8%	14	16%	17	12%	29	9%	133	6%
One time event	14	20%	3	13%	18	21%	43	30%	72	23%	476	21%
Other academic engagement opportunities (i.e. Model UN)	1	1%	0	-	1	1%	5	3%	3	1%	43	2%
Other student leadership program (i.e. ASI, Ambassador, Resident Advisor, SOAR Leader, Peer Mentor)	8	11%	3	13%	7	8%	15	10%	21	7%	131	6%
Student club or organization	23	33%	4	17%	27	31%	59	41%	90	29%	562	24%
Other	3	4%	1	4%	1	1%	7	5%	11	4%	51	2%
I have never been involved in any of these	17	24%	8	33%	29	33%	50	34%	137	44%	1074	46%
Reason for Lack of Involvement												
I am focused on academics	6	9%	3	13%	12	14%	20	14%	50	16%	442	19%
I commute so it's not convenient	0	-	2	8%	4	5%	10	7%	49	16%	731	32%
I don't have enough time	9	13%	3	13%	17	20%	29	20%	81	26%	630	27%
I don't have enough information	4	6%	2	8%	10	11%	9	6%	42	13%	225	10%
I don't think it's important	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	1%	4	1%	31	1%
I have family commitments	0	-	2	8%	7	8%	13	9%	36	11%	350	15%
I have work commitments	3	4%	6	25%	14	16%	18	12%	46	15%	483	21%
I was not aware of them	2	3%	3	13%	8	9%	11	8%	23	7%	175	8%
Not interested	3	4%	1	4%	5	6%	6	4%	20	6%	145	6%
Other	1	1%	0	-	1	1%	3	2%	4	1%	37	2%

Note: Respondents were asked to select all that apply in terms of campus involvement and reason for lack of involvement.

APPENDIX C

Survey Items	Student Descriptor*																	
	Adult re-entry student		First-time freshman		Graduate student		International student		Parent		Staff		Student with a disability		Transfer student		Veteran	
	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %	Count	Column %
Total	186	-	435	-	388	-	37	-	301	-	38	-	99	-	1058	-	64	-
Campus Involvement	17	9%	22	5%	29	7%	2	5%	7	2%	4	11%	6	6%	30	3%	2	3%
Academic club	12	6%	14	3%	53	14%	3	8%	2	1%	0	-	5	5%	24	2%	2	3%
Engaged in research with faculty	3	2%	16	4%	9	2%	0	-	2	1%	1	3%	1	1%	15	1%	0	-
Fraternity/Sorority	16	9%	6	1%	64	16%	3	8%	7	2%	6	16%	4	4%	46	4%	0	-
Internship	0	-	2	0.5%	0	-	3	8%	0	-	0	-	0	-	3	0.3%	0	-
National Student Exchange Program	22	12%	17	4%	67	17%	7	19%	13	4%	13	34%	4	4%	47	4%	2	3%
On-campus student employment	20	11%	19	4%	28	7%	2	5%	7	2%	3	8%	5	5%	32	3%	1	2%
On-going community or volunteer project	7	4%	8	2%	10	3%	2	5%	0	-	1	3%	1	1%	9	1%	0	-
Other academic engagement opportunities (i.e. Model UN)	6	3%	33	8%	24	6%	0	-	9	3%	2	5%	2	2%	21	2%	0	-
Other student leadership program (i.e. ASI)	43	23%	71	16%	104	27%	5	14%	29	10%	9	24%	14	14%	152	14%	4	6%
Ambassador, Resident Advisor, SOAR Leader, Peer Mentor)	46	25%	75	17%	77	20%	4	11%	36	12%	4	11%	11	11%	104	10%	3	5%
Student club or organization	6	3%	12	3%	7	2%	0	-	0	-	0	-	4	4%	18	2%	0	-
One time event	81	44%	247	57%	109	28%	11	30%	88	29%	0	-	19	19%	388	37%	7	11%
Other																		
I have never been involved in any of these																		
Reason for Lack of Involvement																		
I am focused on academics	43	23%	91	21%	38	10%	2	5%	33	11%	0	-	10	10%	154	15%	4	6%
I commute so it's not convenient	46	25%	137	31%	67	17%	2	5%	57	19%	0	-	12	12%	230	22%	6	9%
I don't have enough time	52	28%	109	25%	71	18%	4	11%	66	22%	0	-	15	15%	236	22%	3	5%
I don't have enough information	12	6%	63	14%	12	3%	3	8%	16	5%	0	-	7	7%	84	8%	2	3%
I don't think it's important	1	1%	7	2%	3	1%	0	-	1	0.3%	0	-	0	-	9	1%	1	2%
I have family commitments	46	25%	41	9%	39	10%	0	-	74	25%	0	-	6	6%	99	9%	3	5%
I have work commitments	34	18%	81	19%	65	17%	1	3%	39	13%	0	-	7	7%	182	17%	3	5%
I was not aware of them	10	5%	53	12%	18	5%	3	8%	8	3%	0	-	4	4%	55	5%	0	-
Not interested	7	4%	2	0%	10	3%	0	-	2	1%	0	-	5	5%	47	4%	1	2%
Other																		

*Many students identified with more than one descriptor.
 Note: Respondents were asked to select all that apply in terms of campus involvement and lack of involvement.