



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Executive Summary

May 27, 2015

Results and Analysis of Fall 2014 Student Survey

The District Student Survey is an important source of information about LACCD students. Coordinated by the District's Office of Institutional Effectiveness and college research offices, this biennial survey--administered to a random sample of LACCD students--provides information that supports accreditation, program review, policy analysis, and institutional decision-making. About 31,000 students responded to this in-class survey. The main survey results, organized around areas of inquiry, are described below.

Why did students enroll at their college? Students indicated the course schedule, both paper and online, and the college or district website were the most important sources of information in their decision to enroll at their college. When it came to their reason for enrolling, low cost and proximity to home or work were most important. In contrast, newspaper, radio, and television ads as well as special events related to recruitment were not important information sources for decision-making.

What are students' goals and challenges to achieving them? Most students intend to prepare for transfer to a 4-year university or complete an Associate degree. A college education is valued by almost all students and their families. Also, more than half have been able to follow their Educational Plan. In terms of reaching their goals, the biggest challenges were the cost of textbooks and financial factors. This was followed by being unable to enroll in courses they need. A significant minority of students also reported job and family obligations as problems in reaching their academic goals.

Who are our students? The majority of students were born in the United States. One third have at least one parent who was also born in the U.S. Over half of their parents have at least completed high school. Nearly half of students are first-generation college students, and over two-thirds are low income. Also, most students have no children and live in a household of no more than four people. In terms of employment, about half work off campus and half do not work. About three times as many students work part-time as are employed full-time. Most do not receive money from any public assistance program.

How satisfied are students with college services? For mainstream services, students were most satisfied with the Admissions and Records and the Library. For categorical, they were satisfied with the Financial Aid Office. Also, more than half were satisfied with orientation, either on-campus or online.

How satisfied are students with college facilities? The majority of students said campus buildings and signage are clear, they feel safe and secure on campus, they feel the public areas on campus are clean and well maintained, and are satisfied with the overall cleanliness and maintenance of the college buildings. However, a significant minority of students expressed dissatisfaction with the Cleanliness of Restrooms and the sufficiency of Food Services and Parking.



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What happens in the classroom? In the classroom, students often engage in class discussions or group work. They often discuss ideas from their courses with others outside of class, but over half of reported that serious conversations with other students having differing beliefs, opinions, or backgrounds occurred infrequently. Overall, most students are satisfied with adherence to the course syllabi, clear grading policies, and enforcement of penalties for cheating. The majority of students agree that instructors present information fairly and objectively and inform them of learning outcomes. However, half rarely visit their instructors during office hours nor discuss future career plans with them. Most students believe college has increased their ability to learn effectively on their own as well as think critically and analytically, although a significant minority of did not see improvement in their ability to contribute to their community, acquire job or work-related knowledge and skills, or advance in their careers.

How do students use technology? Most students use a computer, either desktop or laptop, for coursework. They also frequently use electronic methods to work on assignments with other students. Students generally agree that their college website is easy to navigate and up-to-date and college Wi-Fi is accessible and secure. However, many students do not regularly check their LACCD email and do not know who to contact should they have a problem with it. A significant minority said their experiences in and out of the class did little to help improve their ability to use computers and information technology.

What college activities are students involved in? While many students are aware of opportunities for involvement in student clubs and activities, they do not actually participate in them.

How informed are students about college outcomes? Most students feel their needs are taken into consideration by their college during decision-making. Also, majority are aware of where to find information on courses and programs, as well as learning outcomes for their program and courses.

How do students feel about their college? The majority of students said they are satisfied with their college experience overall and would encourage others to attend their college.