



Student Engagement Survey

Proposed Survey Plan

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Prepared by:
Cathy Hasson, Director
Office of Planning, Research & Institutional Effectiveness

Overview

Educational research on student learning has shown that “Student learning and student retention are correlated strongly with student engagement. The more actively engaged students are — with college faculty and staff, with other students, with the subject matter being learned — the more likely they are to persist in their college studies and to achieve at higher levels. This connection has been emphasized in a number of major studies and reports on the undergraduate experience.” (CCSSE, 2007) Skyline College is currently involved in the following initiatives that are focused on improving student learning: The Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Cycle (SLOAC), the Basic Skills Initiative, and the First Year Experience Program. All of these initiatives will benefit from research that focuses on uncovering patterns of student learning behavior and student engagement in the learning process.

Purpose

The purpose of this survey study will be to measure students’ behavior in their learning process. The survey will provide faculty, staff and administrators with information that will help to evaluate the degree to which students are engaged in good educational practices. This information may be used to help inform program and services planning decisions at the college. In addition, the survey results may be used to contribute to the research and assessment of institutional SLOs, the First Year Experience students and Basic Skills students.

Survey Population

The survey will be administered to students from randomly selected classes. All classes except for lab classes will be part of the survey universe from which a random stratified sample will be generated. The strata for the sample will be based on time of day (day, afternoon or evening). This will provide for a representative sample by time segment. Approximately 70 course sections will be surveyed including special targeted group from the Basic Skills classes so that there will be representation from Basic Skills (approximately 1,200 students).

Instrumentation

The instrument contains 89 items about student engagement (learning behavior) including questions about frequency, importance and satisfaction with services. The items are grouped into five behavioral clusters: Academic and Collaborative Learning, Student Effort, Academic Challenge, Student-Faculty Interaction and Support for Learners. The survey also contains 18 profile questions (e.g., gender, age and education goal) and two questions on overall satisfaction. Skyline will also create a set of 15 college-specific questions with a focus on Basic Skills and SLOs (Student Learning Outcomes).

Methodology

The data collection methodology for this survey is a scannable form (pencil and paper), which will be administered during one class period. The survey will take approximately 45 minutes for students to complete. Survey packets containing the survey instrument and pencils will be distributed by the PRIE Office to faculty who were randomly selected to be in the sample. Instructions for administering the survey and returning the survey packets will be included in the packet.

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Analytical Plan

The results of the survey will be tabulated by the CCSSE Program at the University of Texas, Austin. Electronic reports will be provided for three years through their website and hardcopy reports will be sent to the college along with a data flat file for additional reporting. The college's Office of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness will provide written reports and oral briefings that will be widely shared with college constituencies in the fall 2008.

Implementation

Communications: College constituency groups will be informed and connected to the process through continuous communication some of which will include:

1. Review and selection of the custom items in the survey instrument,
2. Electronic pre-notifications to faculty, and
3. Executive summary report of results and oral briefings.

Administration: The surveys will be administered during seventh and eighth week of the Spring 2008 semester. The Office of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE) will distribute the survey packets to the selected faculty. The packets will contain the survey instruments, pencils and instructions. Each division will have a drop box available for returning the survey packets or faculty may return the packets directly to the PRIE Office. The surveys will take approximately 45 minutes to complete and should be administered during one class period (**not be given to the students to complete at home**). Faculty may request assistance from the Research Office in administering the surveys.

Tentative Timeline and Milestones:

Dec. 3: Custom items created

Dec.3: Pre-notifications sent to all faculty

January 22: Reminder notifications sent to all faculty

March 10: Selected faculty notified

March 17: Distribute survey packets

March 24-April 7: Survey administered in classes

April 2: Send surveys to CCSSE for processing

July 31: Research Office receives data and reports from CCSSE

August 15: Research Office compiles reports and prepares briefings

September 29: Research Office shares results with college community

Budget Estimates

CCSSE Membership by IPEDS enrollment	\$ 6,200.00
Additional surveys for Basic Skills classes	\$ 1,000.00
10% Consortium discount	\$ 620.00-

Approximate Total: \$6,589.00