



Longitudinal Study of Involvement At Texas A&M University Sophomore Year – Cohort I

Background

This survey is part of a longitudinal study that tracks what involvement opportunities students choose, what leadership positions they accept, and what they learn throughout their involvement in student organizations. This report covers involvement during the entire sophomore year.

Two cohorts were recruited for the project through the Freshman Leadership Organizations (FLO) applicant pool during fall 2007 and fall 2008. This report covers Cohort I which consisted of 254 freshmen who initially registered for the project. There were three surveys implemented during the year. The October 2008 survey had a response rate of 33%. The February 2009 survey had a response rate of 34%. And the April 2009 survey had a response rate of 32%.

Results

Bryan/College Station (BCS) Involvement

- 62% of participants were not involved in BCS community organizations
- The main reasons for not being involved were lack of time and not being familiar with community organizations
- 16% of participants said they had joined a community organization since April of their freshman year.

Texas A&M Involvement

- 99% were involved in campus organizations in October 2008
- 91% were involved in campus organizations in January 2009
- 86% were involved in campus organizations in April 2009
- The main reason for not getting involved was not having enough time to do so
- Up to 56% of the participants indicated they had joined a new campus organization during their

sophomore year. The organizations they joined were typically those that were not available to freshmen.

- Up to 39% of participants stopped their involvement in campus organizations during their sophomore year. Reasons included making time for other commitments, organizations being for freshmen only, and changing personal interests.

Texas A&M Leadership

- Up to 62% of participants served in a leadership position in their campus organizations during their sophomore year

Employment

- 37% were employed while in school in October 2008
- 38% were employed while in school in January 2009
- 81% said they planned to work during the summer in 2009

Skill Development

Participants were asked where they used specific skills during the school year. The following results indicate how many participants believed they had used the skills *within their campus organizations* during the year:

- 75% used time management skills
- 71% used project management skills
- 70% used group dynamics skills
- 64% used interpersonal communication skills
- 56% used critical thinking skills
- 55% used written communication skills
- 54% used public speaking skills
- 49% used delegation skills
- 42% used effective meeting skills

*Prepared on: October 20, 2009
For a complete report, please visit
the Student Life Studies web page.*