



Campus Climate 2008
Texas A&M – How's It Working For You?

Division of Student Affairs
April 7, 2010

Panelists & Presenters (in alphabetical order):

Lowell Kane, *GLBT Resource Center, Offices of the Dean of Student Life*

David McIntosh, *Office of the Vice President & Associate Provost for Diversity*

Kristie Orr, *Department of Disability Services*

Jennifer Reyes, *Department of Student Life Studies*

Marisa Suhm, *Department of Multicultural Services*

Keisha Thompson, *Counseling Psychology - Department of Educational Psychology*

Max Williams, *Program Coordinator of the Episcopal Student Center*

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Learning Outcomes

(1) Identify characteristics of campus climate that respect and nurture all members of the campus community

Involvement in student organizations
Participation in traditions
Experiencing Aggie Spirit

(2) Identify undergraduate perceptions of a “less-than-welcoming environment”

Belonging to Aggie Family
Have you ever felt uncomfortable based on someone's reaction to your:

Race/ethnicity?
Gender?
Nationality/citizenship?
Sexual orientation?
Religion?
Disability?

(3) Link understanding of student perceptions of campus climate to practice in the Division of Student Affairs

Panelists
Two-Minute Reflection

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Assessing Campus Climate

VISION 2020 IMPERATIVE 3: ENHANCE THE UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Precept: Value and enhance strongest and best values of Aggie Spirit: Encourage the involvement of all students in co-curricular activity. ~~Have 100 percent student involvement in “the other education.”~~ (p. 31)

VISION 2020 IMPERATIVE 6: DIVERSIFY AND GLOBALIZE THE A&M COMMUNITY

Precept: Lead in diversity: Create an environment that respects and nurtures all members of the student, faculty, and staff community - Reduce to zero the number of students, faculty, or staff who leave because of a perception of a less-than-welcoming environment. (p. 44)

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Survey Instrument Development

Survey Administration & Sample Design

Stratified random sample (classification and ethnicity) of 5,045 full-time, undergraduates

1,025 responded resulting in a 20% response rate

The web-based survey collected data from 03-24-08 to 04-30-08

Qualitative Data Analysis

Analyzed using a formal content analysis to consolidate comments into themes

Collaborated with content-experts from across the university

Comments were selected because:

Easy to understand

Representative of the main ideas

Comments were identified by class, ethnicity, and gender to protect confidentiality

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Sample & Survey Administration

Data Analysis - Quantitative Data

Classification (full-time): U1 (24%), U2 (26%), U3 (26%), U4 (24%)

Gender: Female (58%), Male (42%)

Transfer students: Transfer (15%), Not transfer (85%)

Religion: Baptist (18%), Catholic (25%), Other Christian (35%), Other religion (10%), None (12%)

Ethnicity (domestic): Asian (13%), Black (11%), Bi-multiracial (10%), Hispanic (23%), White (43%)

International students: International (7%), Domestic (93%)

Sexual orientation: Heterosexual (97%), Homosexual/Bisexual (3%)

Students with disabilities: Disability – Yes (8%), Disability – No (92%)

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Data Analysis

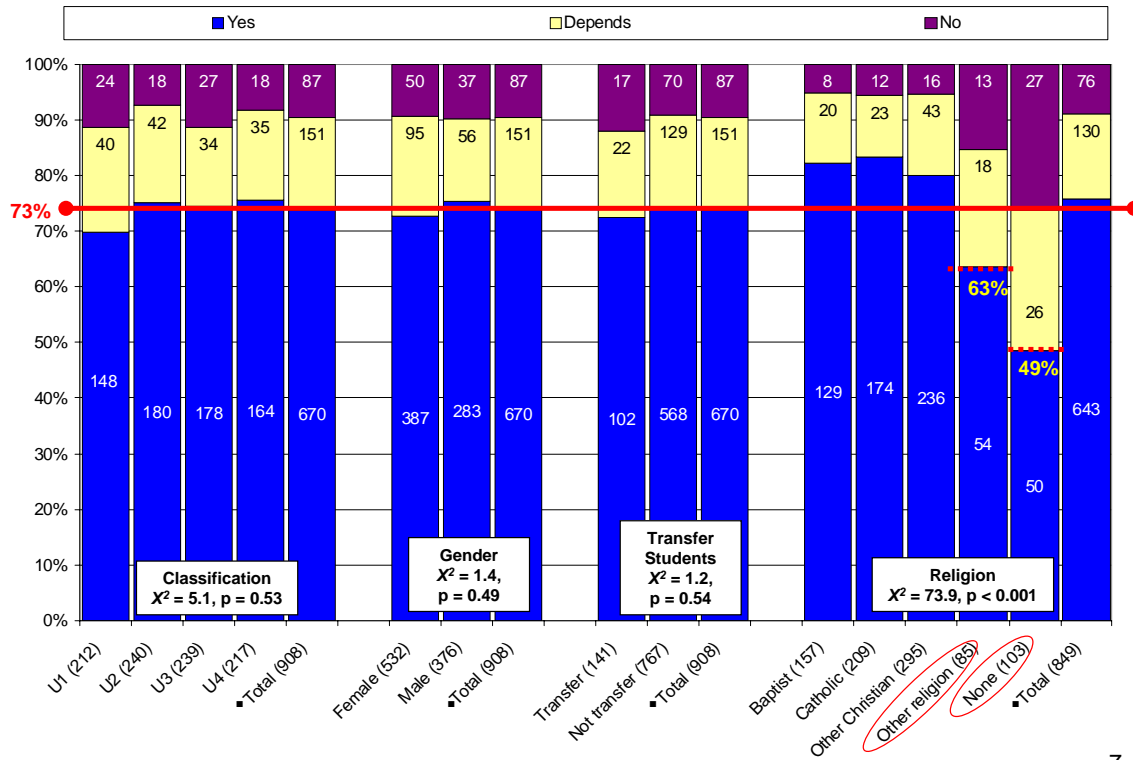
Learning Outcome (1): Identify characteristics of campus climate that “respect and nurture” all members of the campus community

Belonging to the Aggie Family

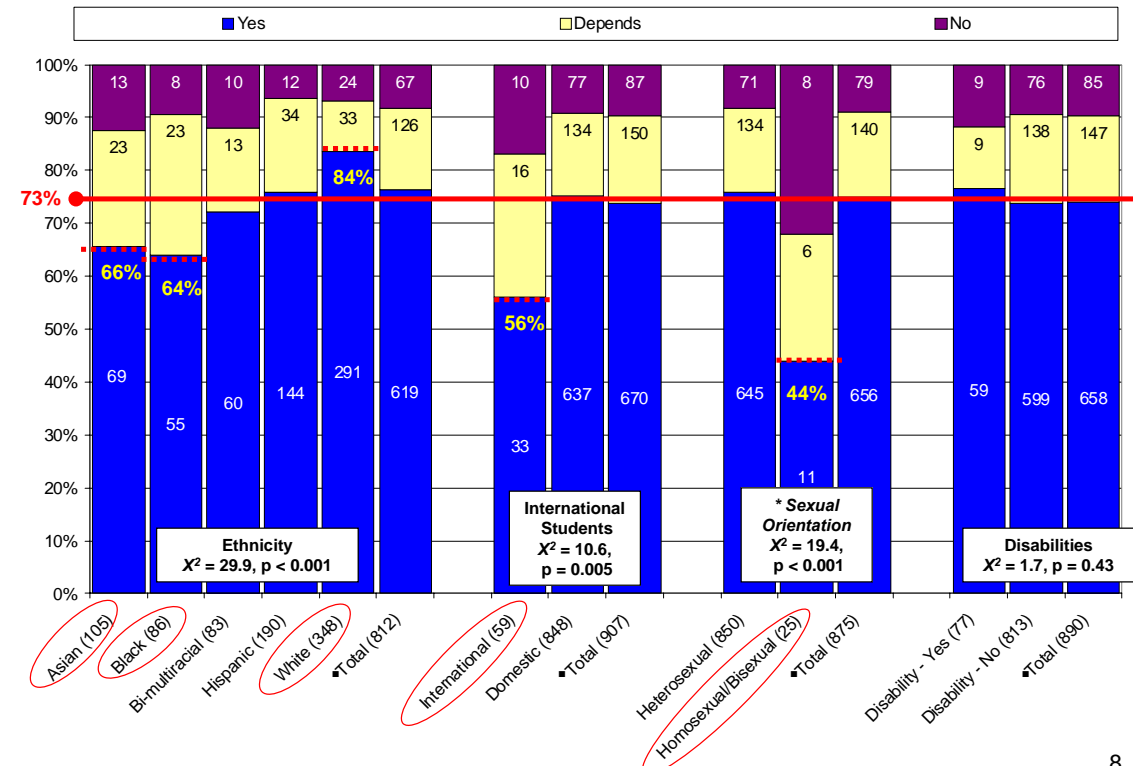
Valuing and enhancing Aggie Spirit: Involvement in student organizations

Participating in traditions

Do you feel like you are part of the Aggie Family? (Classification, gender, transfer students, religion)



Do you feel like you are part of the Aggie Family? (Ethnicity, international students, sexual orientation, students with disabilities)



Do you feel like you are part of the Aggie Family? Please feel free to explain:

Yes. I think that if you choose to participate in the traditions and get involved in groups, then you can't help but meet great people and feel included. U1/Freshman – White – Female

Depends: In some ways, I do and I like the school. But at other times I feel like an outsider staring into a WASP community. U2/Sophomore – Asian – Female

No: It feels like there are many groups that are hard to get into and make friends in unless you came in at Fish Camp. The fact that there is a Fish Camp instead of ONLY an Aggie Camp where anyone of any status can go makes it seem like it's too late to get involved (T-Camp and Howdy Camp seen like 2nd class affairs, it's not secret the most prominent and elite one is Fish Camp and many make college friends there). U4/Senior – Hispanic – Male

No: I do not feel comfortable here. It is nobody's fault. Just the simple fact that I don't feel comfortable here. U1/Freshman – Asian – Male

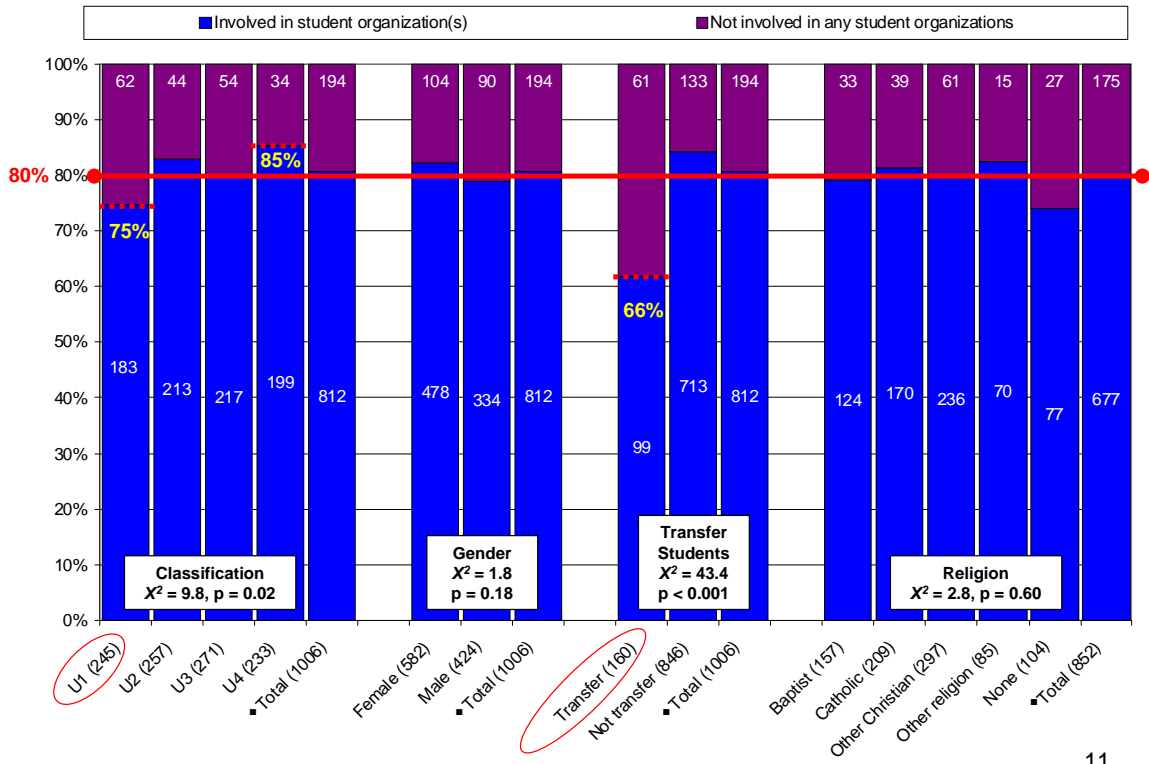
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Satisfaction with Texas A&M Experience

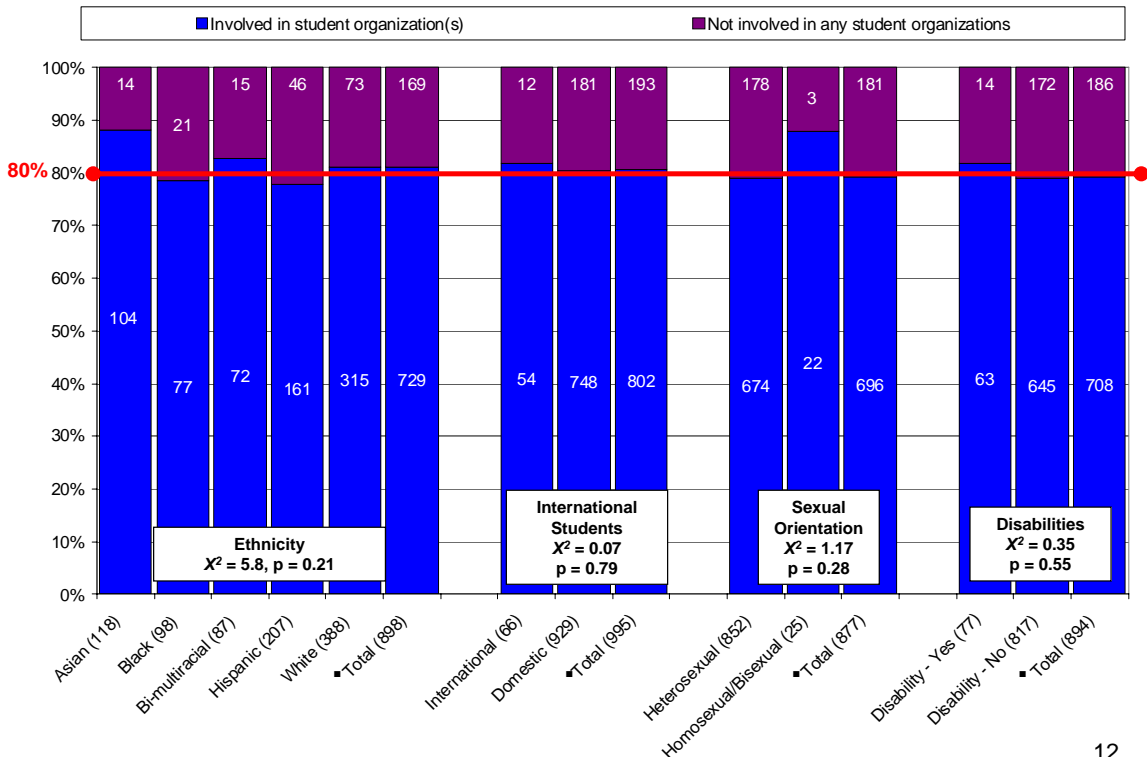
Have you ever been or are you currently involved in ... ? (Check all that apply)

Type of student organization (Check all that apply)	Frequency	Percentage
The Corps of Cadets	57	6%
A Greek sorority/fraternity	93	9%
An MSC committee/group	95	9%
SGA, Senate, or SGA committee or group	38	4%
A residence hall group	86	9%
A formal learning community	82	8%
Other student organization(s) not listed above	614	61%
I'm not currently involved in any student organizations	194	19%

Student Organization Involvement (Classification, gender, transfer students, religion)



Student Organization Involvement (Ethnicity, international students, sexual orientation, students with disabilities)



Please explain why you have not been involved in any student organizations?

My first year here I didn't want to have other things taking up my time. I wanted to get used to the college life. U2/Sophomore – Hispanic – Male

I transferred in as a Junior. Almost all organizations are for building freshmen. Not for making others feel welcome. U3/Junior – White – Male

I am currently in the process of joining a fraternity but right now I don't have sufficient grades. U1/Freshman – Hispanic – Male

Some organizations have fees I also cannot afford. U4/Senior – Black – Female

I tried but I have been denied. U1/Freshman – Hispanic – Female

Most people that I've met from those organizations are stuck up and don't get along with anyone that is not like themselves. U1/Freshman – White – Male

Between working and studying, I haven't had much time to join any organizations yet. U2/Sophomore – Black – Female

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Involvement

Since you have been at Texas A&M, which Aggie traditions have you participated in? (Check all that apply)

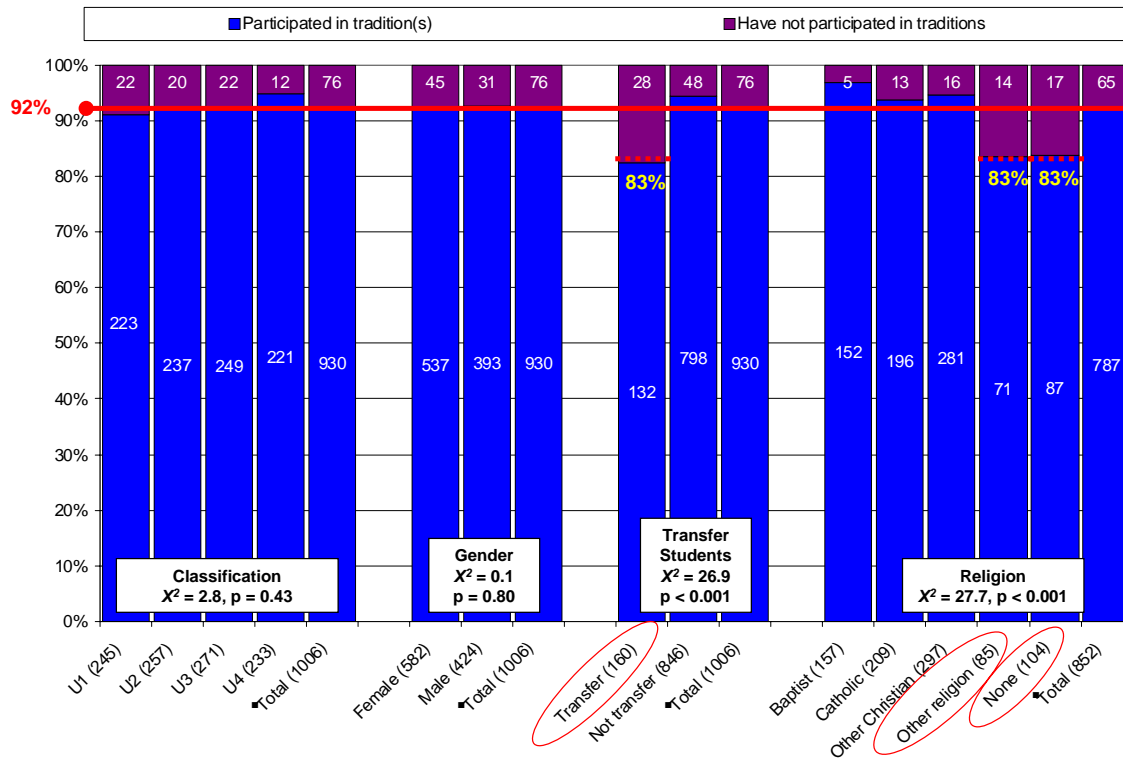
Tradition (Check all that apply)	Frequency	Percentage
Yell Practice	735	73%
Silver Taps	598	59%
Muster	286	28%
Ring Dance	43	4%
Boot Dance	15	1%
Elephant Walk	56	6%
Junior E-Walk	68	7%
Parent's weekend	330	33%
Big Event	466	46%
12th Man (Aggie Athletic events)	639	64%
Purchased/received an Aggie Ring	172	17%
Other:	54	5%
None	76	8%

“Other” responses:

- Replant and Bonfire
- Football games
- Participating and/or being counselors for Howdy Camp/T-Camp/Fish Camp
- Pennies at Sul Ross
- Ring dunking
- Purchasing an Aggie Ring

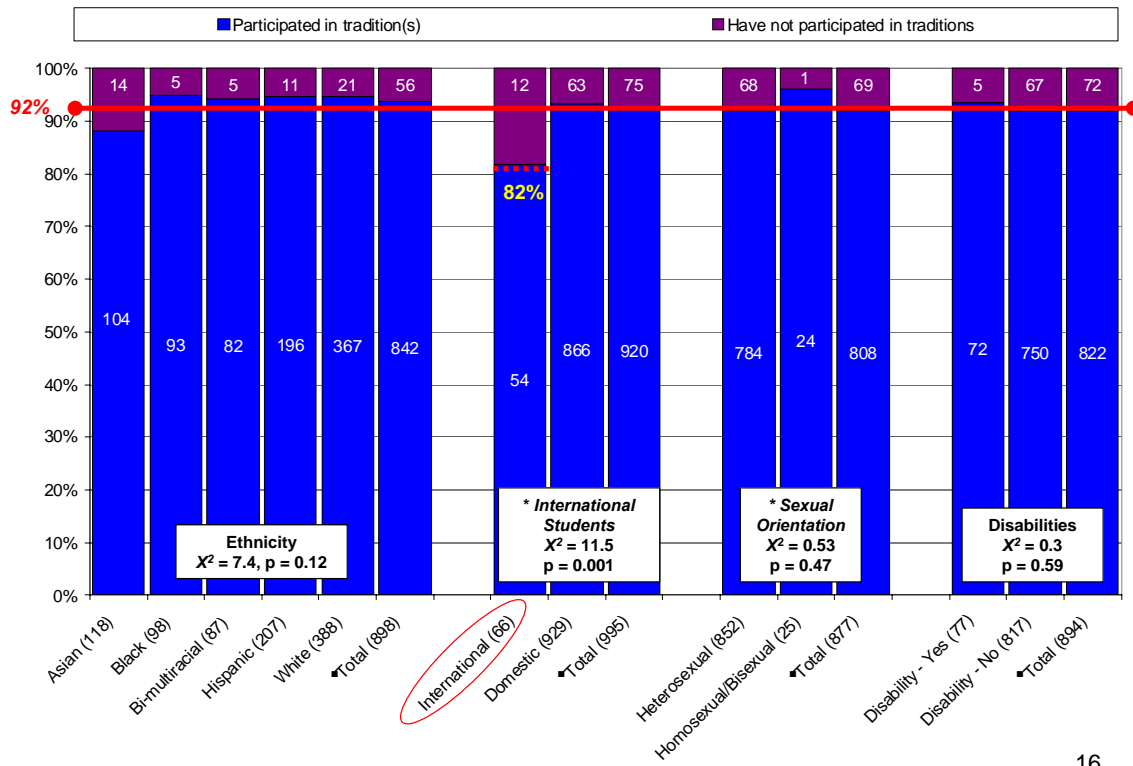
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Involvement

Participation in Aggie Traditions (Classification, gender, transfer students, religion)



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Involvement

Participation in Aggie Traditions (Ethnicity, international students, sexual orientation, students with disabilities)



* - Groups too small to interpret χ^2

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Involvement

Please explain why you have not participated in Aggie traditions?

I just recently transferred here in January, and am not well-informed on the traditions yet. U2/Sophomore – White – Female

Well because I don't know anyone and would feel pretty weird being alone. U1/Freshman – Hispanic – Female

Haven't had the money. U4/Senior – Black – Female

I do not like the traditions very much because some people take them too seriously. U1/Freshman – Hispanic – Female

I do not have the time as the school gives you credit on the classes you are taking and get grades in, there is no grading system for participating in the school's traditions, so therefore I am spending my time on class and not outside activities. U3/Junior – Hispanic – Female

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Involvement

Learning Outcome (2): Identify undergraduate perceptions of a “less-than-welcoming environment”

Belonging to Aggie Family

Have you ever felt uncomfortable based on someone's reaction to your:

Race/ethnicity?

Gender?

Nationality/citizenship?

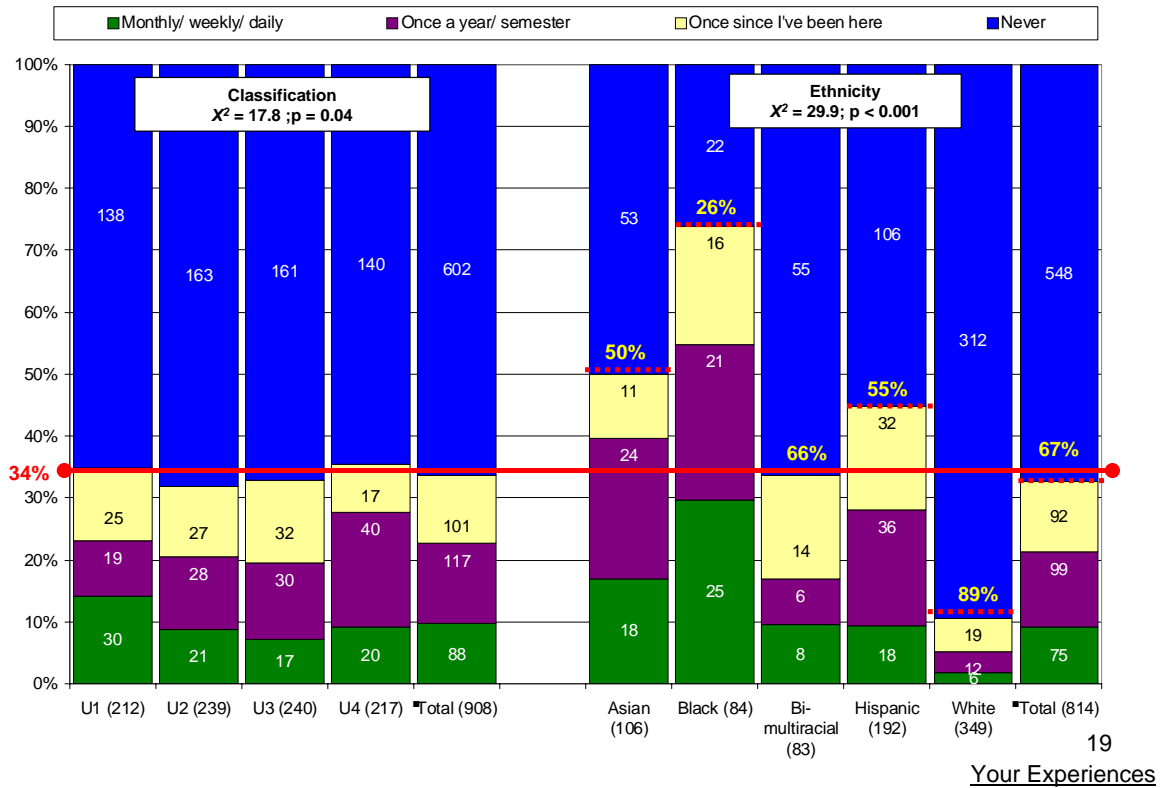
Sexual orientation?

Religion?

Disability?

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At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your race/ethnicity? (Classification, ethnicity)



At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your race/ethnicity? Please feel free to explain:

Weekly: I put weekly, just to be nice. But I am sure some redneck has a problem with me at least once a day, that usually results in a stare. You learn to ignore it. U4/Senior – Hispanic – Male

Monthly: When we talk about things in our diversity classes we talk about White people in a way that make is seem like "all White people are racist" and I'm not, so that makes me feel very uncomfortable. U1/Sophomore – White – Female

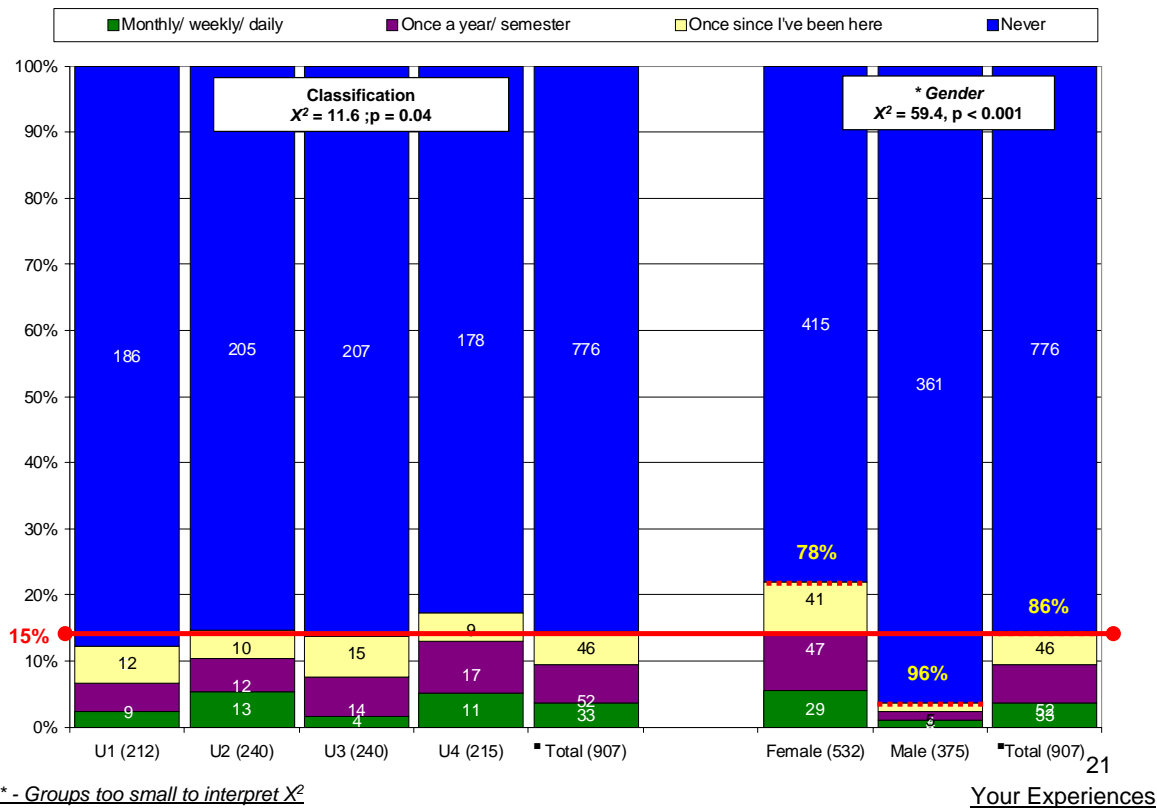
Once a semester: Reactions sometimes change when ethnicity and religious, political and social orientations are discovered. It has led to reluctance to speak up in class for fear of how I might be viewed and/or treated. U4/Senior – Hispanic – Male

Once since I've been here: As I walk some people stare or stop conversation as I walk by. Also, some move to other sides of the streets. U1/Freshman – Black – Male

Never: I am typical Protestant, White, Male. That's why. U2/Sophomore – White – Male

Never: I'm half Hispanic and half White, but I look White so nobody cares. U1/Freshman – Hispanic – Male

At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your gender? (Classification, gender)



At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your gender? Please feel free to explain:

Weekly: As a male and a darker skinned male, the two are not independent when it comes to discomfort. U4/Senior – Black - Male

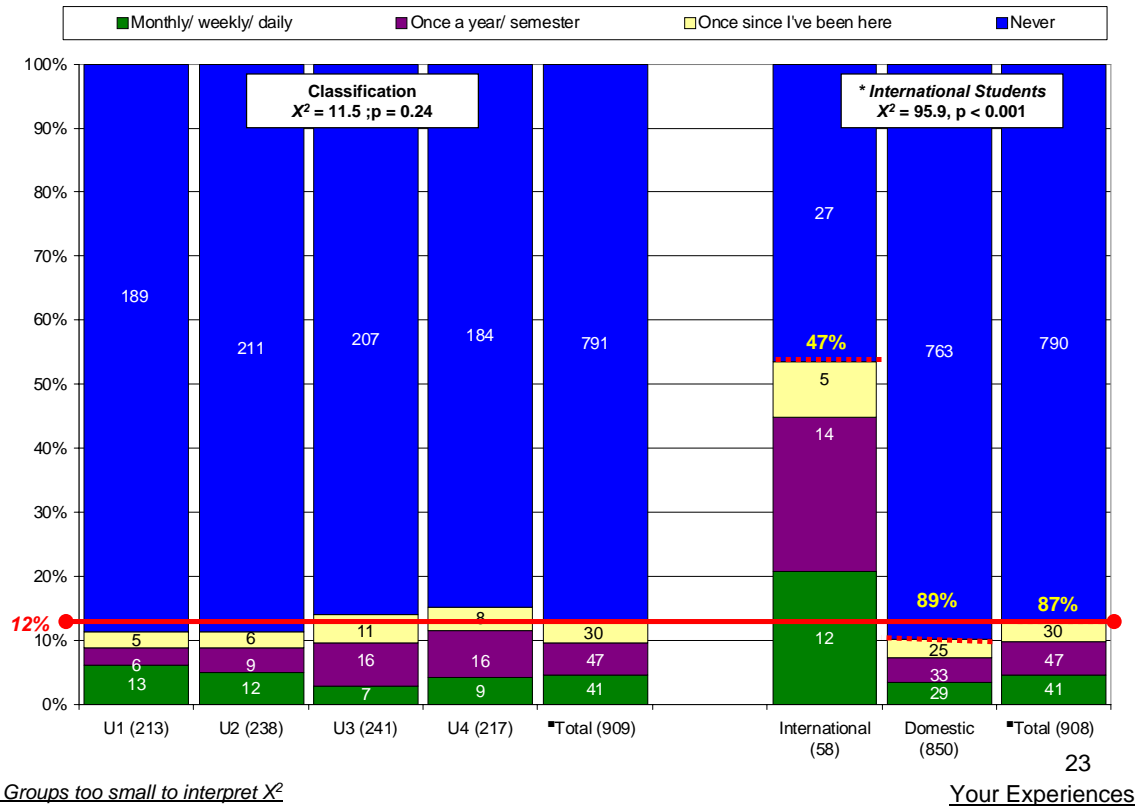
Once since I've been here: Some outfits in the corps still strongly dislike women being in the corps. U2/Sophomore - White – Female

Once since I've been here: As the only girl in math classes, it can sometimes be uncomfortable because of the way guys talk and behave. U4/Senior – White - Female

Once a semester: Certain discriminatory, degrading statements have been made about the intelligence of women in engineering by VERY few individuals. U4/Senior – White – Female

Never: I'm male. people generally respect us for no reason around here. U2/Sophomore – Hispanic – Male

At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your nationality/citizenship? (Classification, international students)



At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your nationality/citizenship? Please feel free to explain:

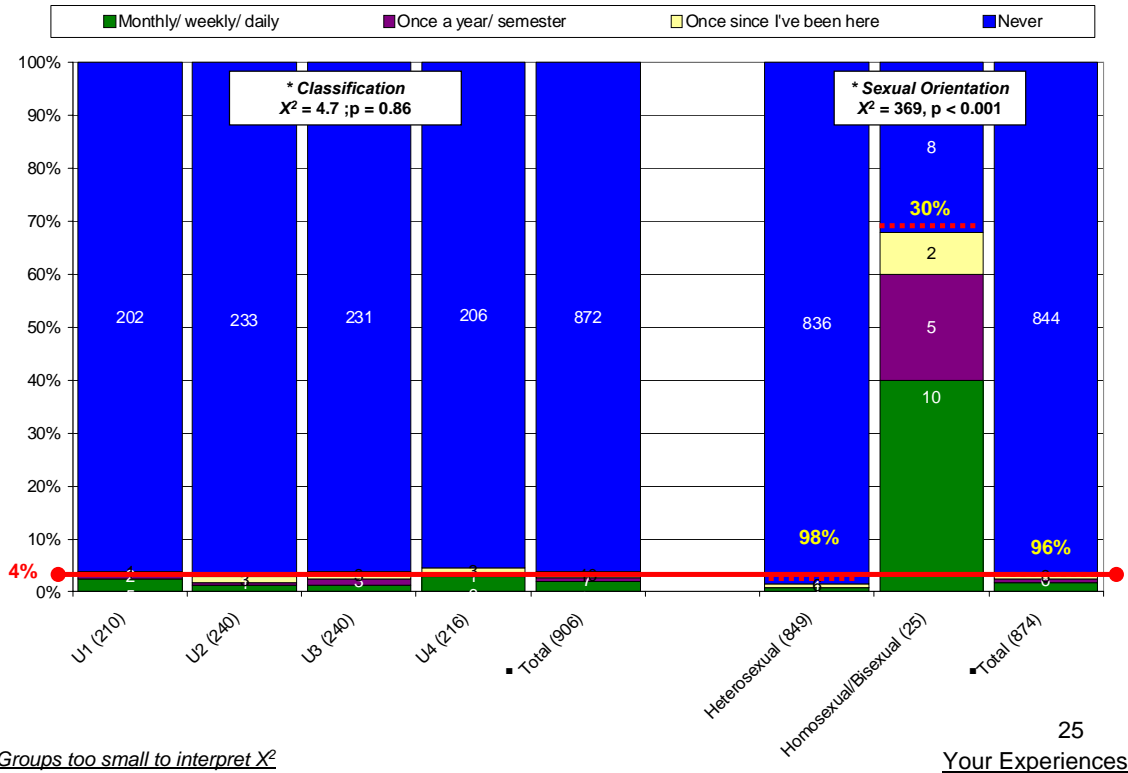
Weekly: The shock on their face when you tell them you are from the middle-east. U3/Junior – International – Male

Weekly: As I walk sidewalks, and enter classrooms full of White students, I feel like I am stared at more that others and I am given mean looks very rarely. U1/Freshman – International – Male

Once a year: One can notice it if one is really open minded, and reasonably intuitive, to notice people's behavior in public places like the dining places, buses, and sometimes in the class room, among other places. U1/Freshman – International - Male

Never: I'm an American so this hasn't been directed towards me but I have heard people say ignorant things on countless occasions concerning other nationalities. U4/Senior – White - Female

At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your sexual orientation? (Classification, Sexual orientation)



Sexual orientation - At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your sexual orientation? Please feel free to explain:

Daily: My orientation is a problem for some people. They don't understand and that is because they are uneducated. U3/Junior – Hispanic - Female

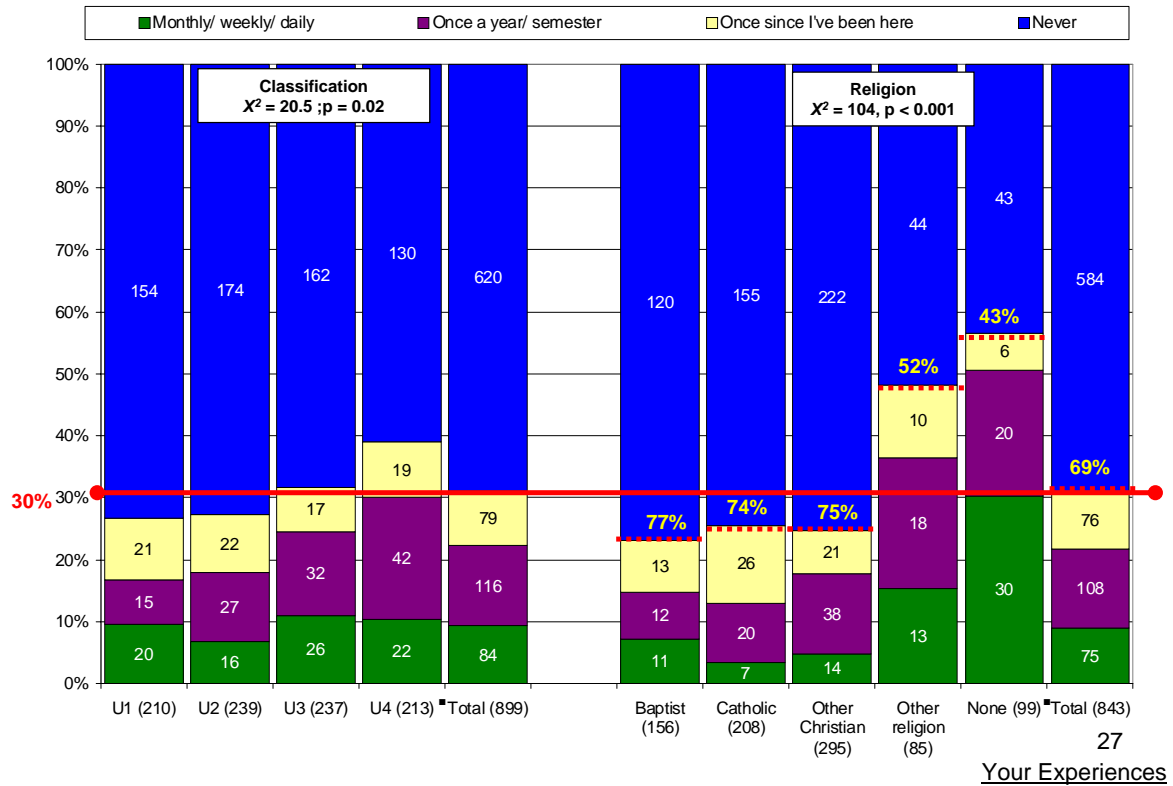
Monthly: Having grown up with mostly women and being a male, I have picked up a few effeminate mannerisms which prompts some males to depict me as "gay" or "fruity", which is not the case. U4/Senior – Hispanic – Male

Never: But I have seen it first hand when I was with my homosexual friend. U3/Junior – White - Female

Never: I'm still in the closet, but I'm sure it's obvious how openly gay people are treated, especially remarks made behind their backs. U4/Senior – Hispanic – Male

Never: If I were gay I would not feel safe unless I hid that fact on campus. U4/Senior – White - Female

At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your religious/spiritual beliefs? (Classification, religion)



At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your religious/spiritual beliefs? Please feel free to explain:

Daily: I am Agnostic and feel like I am pressured to be something other than I am around everyone. U1/Freshman – White - Female

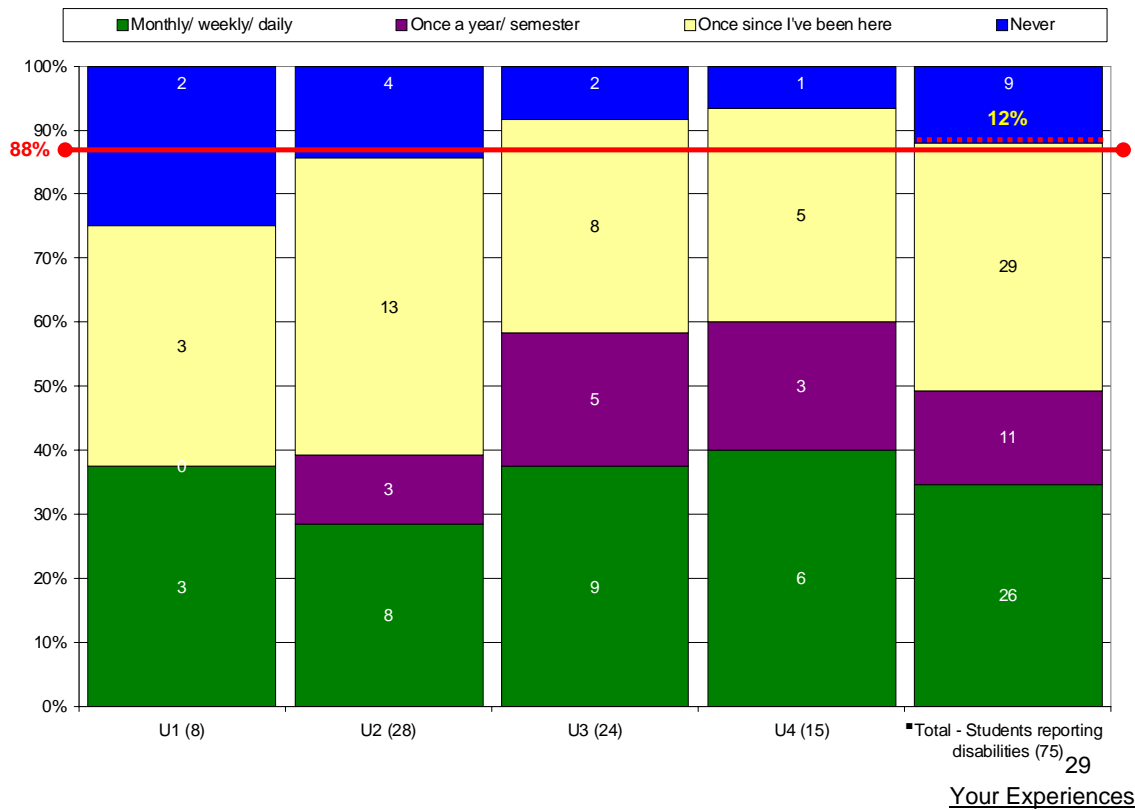
Monthly: Discrimination against people of faith in the classroom is a given at nearly all universities, especially in the field of science. People of faith have their beliefs ridiculed by the majority of professors. U4/Senior – White - Male

Monthly: I'm Catholic so not the traditional Christian/non-Denominational sects. Some people want me to defend my faith to them and I don't feel like I have to prove anything to anyone. U4/Senior – White – Female

Once a semester: The strong conservative Christianity which dominates the University can react unfavorably to opposing religious beliefs. U4/Senior – Hispanic – Male

Never: If you are a Christian, I think it is very easy to be open about your beliefs. U4/Senior – Hispanic – Female

At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your disability? (Classification



Disabilities - At Texas A&M, how often have you felt uncomfortable because of someone's reaction to your disability? Please feel free to explain:

Daily: I'm always being stared at when I walk or being asked if I'm ok. I mean I'm glad everyone cares but it mostly effects my relationships with the opposite sex. Its a barrier. U3/Junior – Hispanic – Male

Monthly: its not that big a deal. Just some people are really nosy and can't understand why I take my tests in a different location or why I get to register early. Its frustrating. U3/Junior – White – Female

Monthly: during/after tests when people ask why I wasn't there. U1/Freshman – White - Female

Once a semester: it is usually do to a professor not being willing to accommodate, or feeling put out because they have to accommodate. U4/Senior – White – Female

Once a year: it is VERY helpful that every professor has to put the ADA on their syllabus...it lowers my anxiety when talking to them that they have put that down on paper and addressed it in class. U4/Senior – White – Female

Learning Outcome (3): Understanding of campus climate to practice

Link understanding of student perceptions of campus climate to practice in the Division of Student Affairs.

Panelists

Two-Minute Reflection

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For more information about the Student Life Studies campus climate research, please go to:
<http://studentlifestudies.tamu.edu/results>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Student Life Studies would like to extend special thanks to the Office of Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity for being so generous with the time and efforts of its staff.

Furthermore, staff from the Department of Multicultural Services were integral to survey development and data analysis. This project would not have been possible with the expertise of these individuals.

For questions, comments, or concerns about the presentation, please feel free to contact:

Jennifer Reyes, Data Analyst
862-5624
jlreyes@sls.tamu.edu

Dr. Sandi Osters, Director
862-5624
sandio@tamu.edu

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