



Graduate and Professional Student Experience in the Research University 2021 Campus Climate: Hearing Negative or Stereotypical Views

The Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) is a consortium of research institutions in the Association of American Universities that administer a common survey to generate knowledge and help further the goals of higher education in general and at the member institutions specifically. The SERU/Your Voice survey is a comprehensive survey of all graduate and professional students at Texas A&M University (TAMU) intended to give faculty, students, and administration in-depth insights into the student experience. SERU was most recently administered to TAMU graduate and professional students at all locations in spring 2021. A total of 4,080 respondents completed at least part of the survey, representing 29% of the overall graduate and professional population. This report addresses the College Station campus, over 3,200 students. Respondents were asked, "During this academic year, I have heard <group> express negative or stereotypical views about <demographic>." The scale was never, rarely, occasionally, somewhat often, often, and very often.

Figure 1 indicates graduate and professional students who responded to the survey rarely heard **teaching faculty or instructors** making negative or stereotypical remarks about various demographic groups. About 73% of Black students and 75% of Indigenous students never heard faculty make negative remarks about races or ethnicities, while 87% of White students and 100% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students never did. Men and women were somewhat similar, with 84% of women and 88% of men not hearing negative remarks about gender from faculty. About 92% of heterosexual students and 81% of non-heterosexual students have not heard negative statements about sexual orientation. When examining political opinion comments, 77% of moderate or middle-of-the-road students, 72% of conservative students, and 67% of liberal students never heard negative remarks about political views. Religiously, Jewish students heard more negative statements (68% never) about religions, while 87% of Muslim students, 89% of Christian students, and 93% of Hindu students stated they did not hear negative remarks. For students with disabilities, 90% reported not hearing stereotypical remarks about physical disabilities, while 83% reported not hearing negative remarks about learning disabilities.

Figure 1: During this academic year, I have **NEVER** heard teaching **faculty or instructors** express negative or stereotypical views about:

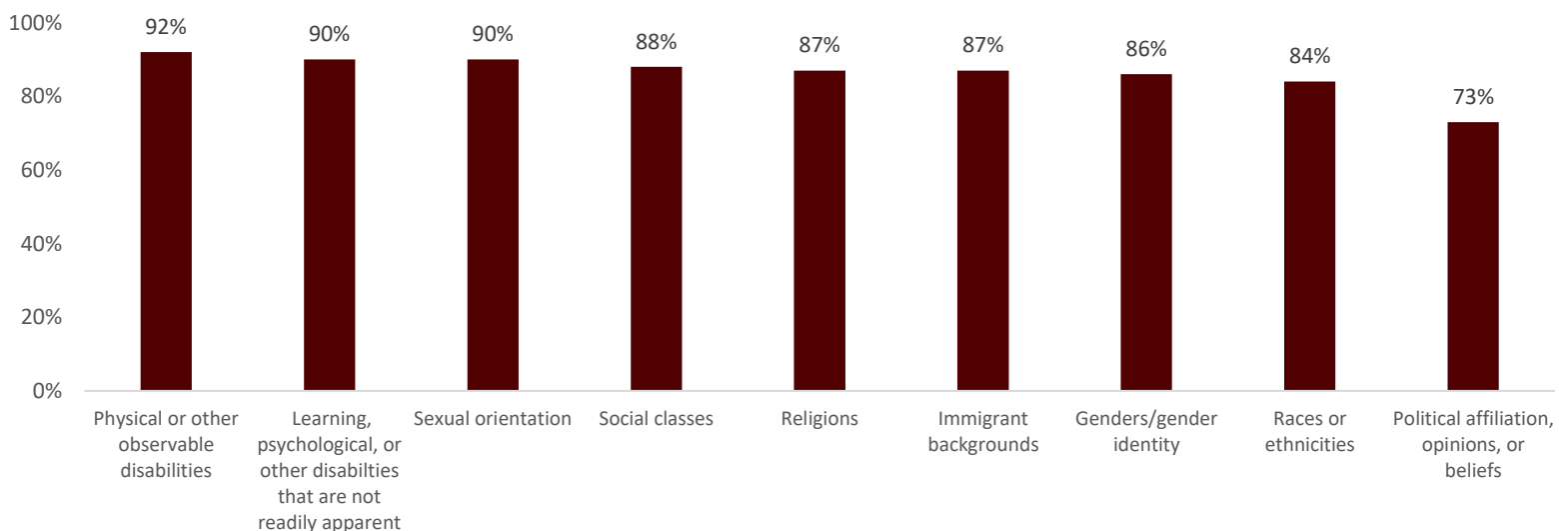
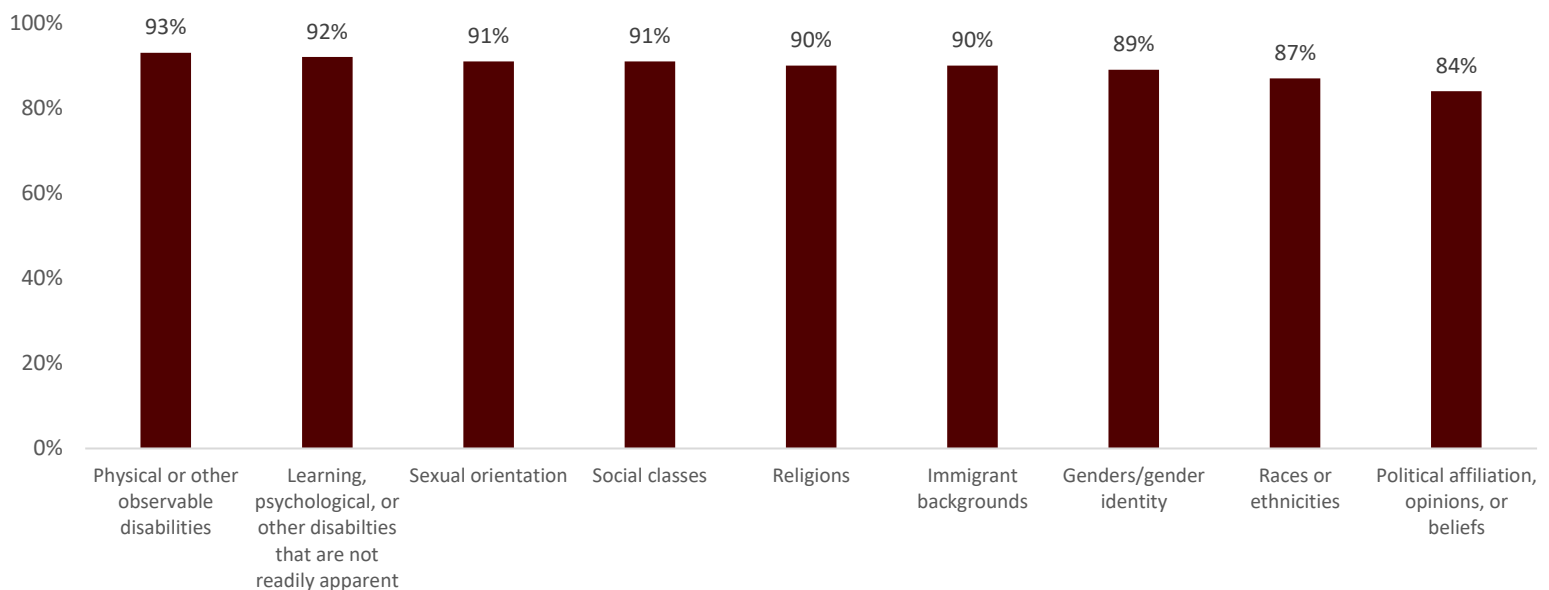




Figure 2 illustrates that professional and graduate student survey respondents seldom heard **non-teaching staff or administrators** make negative or stereotypical statements about a variety of demographic categories. In terms of race/ethnicity, 81% of Asian students reported not hearing stereotypical remarks from staff races or ethnicities, while 100% of Indigenous and 100% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students did not hear negative statements. Men and women were similar, with 88% of women and 90% of men reporting not hearing negative comments about gender. In terms of sexual orientation, 92% of heterosexual students and 83% of non-heterosexual students have not heard staff make stereotypical statements. Along political beliefs, 86% of conservative students, 86% of moderate students, and 80% of liberal students reported not hearing negative statements about political views. Hindu and Christian students (both 92%) did not hear negative remarks about religion, compared to 82% Jewish students and 81% Buddhist students. For students with disabilities, 91% did not hear staff make stereotypical comments about physical disabilities, and 89% had not heard negative remarks about learning disabilities.

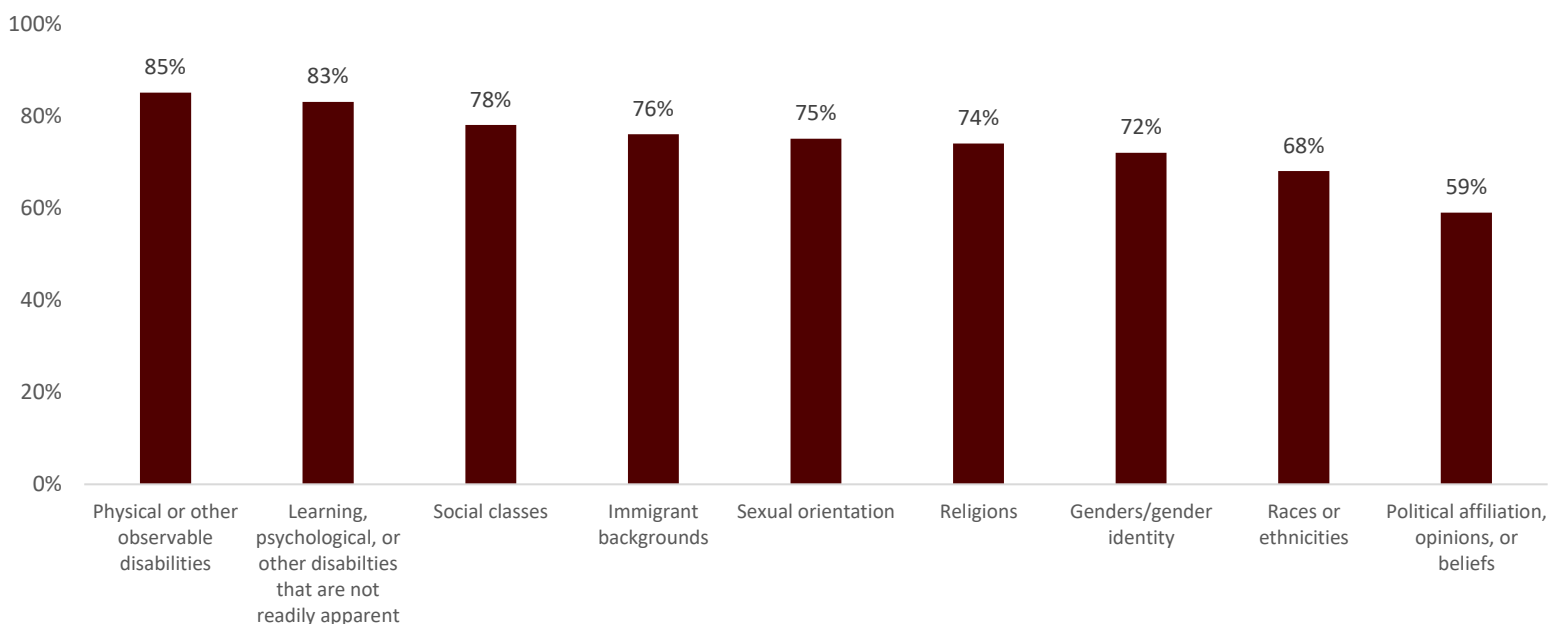
Figure 2: During this academic year, I have **NEVER** heard **non-teaching staff or administrators** express negative or stereotypical views about:





As seen in Figure 3, graduate and professional students heard stereotypical or negative remarks from other **students** on a slightly more frequent basis. When looking at race/ethnicity comments, “never” responses ranged from 55% for Black students and 60% of multi-racial students to 69% for White students and 75% for Indigenous students. About 67% of women and 77% of men reported never hearing stereotypical gender remarks from other students. In terms of sexual orientation remarks, 78% of heterosexual students never heard negative comments, while 58% of non-heterosexual students never did. For political opinions comments, 65% of conservative students, 63% of moderate students, and 45% of liberal students did not hear other students making negative statements. In terms of students making stereotypical statements about religion, half of Jewish students have not heard negative remarks, while 77% of Christian students and 78% of Hindu students have not. About 78% of students with disabilities did not hear negative comments about physical disabilities, and 72% did not hear negative statements about students with learning disabilities.

Figure 3: During this academic year, I have **NEVER** heard **students** express negative or stereotypical views about:



Conclusion

Most graduate and professional students did not hear faculty, staff, or students express negative or stereotypical views in the past year about specific demographics, although it is a little more common to hear those statements from other students. Students who belong to minoritized populations may hear more comments about their own identities. Negative comments about political beliefs seemed to be more common than negative comments about other demographic characteristics.



FOR MORE INFORMATION



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