



Student Experience in the Research University 2017 Community Service Topics

The Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) is a consortium of research institutions in the Association of American Universities who administer a common survey in an effort to generate knowledge and help further the goals of higher education in general and at the member institutions specifically. The SERU survey is a comprehensive survey of all undergraduate students at Texas A&M University (TAMU) intended to give faculty, students and administration in-depth insights into the undergraduate experience. SERU was most recently administered at TAMU in the spring, 2017. A total of 6,655 undergraduates completed the survey, representing 14% of the overall undergraduate population. Students were asked a variety of questions about community service and volunteerism.

Figure 1: Hours Per Week Volunteering

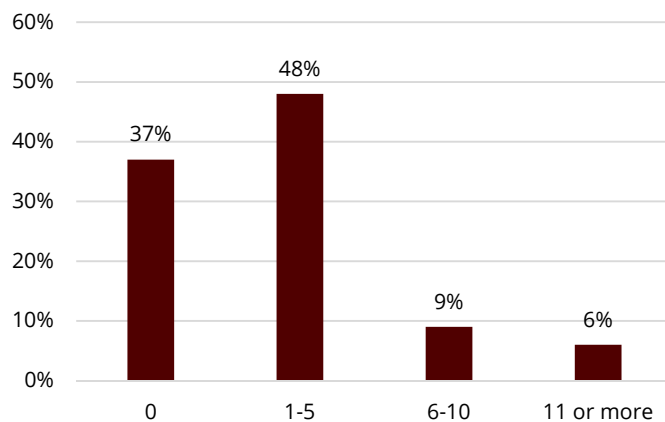
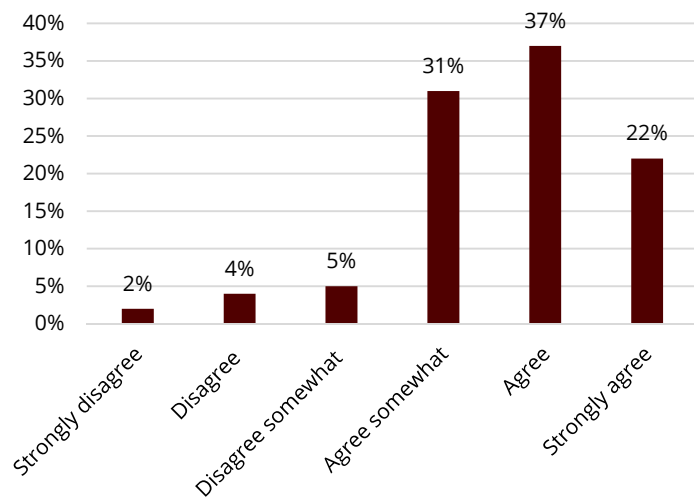


Figure 1 indicates that nearly two-thirds of students volunteer at least one hour per week on average.

Figure 2: Opportunities to engage in community service at Texas A&M are important to me



As shown in Figure 2, the vast majority of students think engaging in service is important while at Texas A&M.





When asked if they had participated in community service this academic year, 49% had participated on campus, while 72% had done it off campus. Of those who had participated, nearly half (44%) completed 1-10 hours in 2016-2017, while 26% completed 11-20 hours, and 19% did 21-50 hours. The remaining 10% volunteered 51 or more hours.

Of students who participated in service in the academic year, many of them were internally motivated but also influenced by their others (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Significant Reasons for Service Involvement

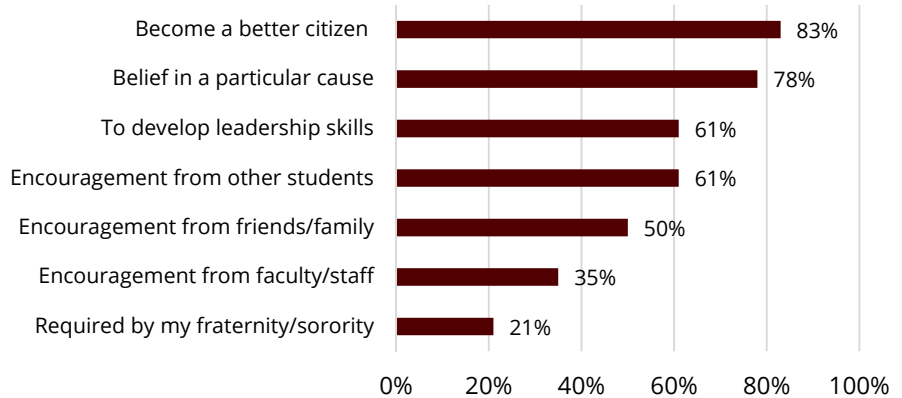
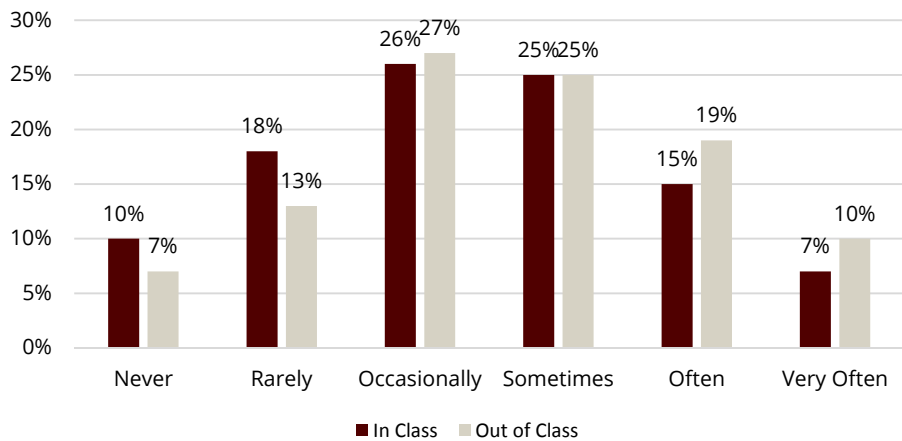


Figure 4 indicates that students are slightly more likely to be asked to reflect on their individual responsibility outside of the classroom than in the classroom.

Figure 4: Frequency of being asked to reflect on individual responsibility for community or social issue



Conclusion

One of Texas A&M's Core Values is Selfless Service. Texas A&M undergraduates are interested and engage in community service and volunteerism related to issues they find important. Faculty and staff can continue to provide opportunities for students to reflect on the meaning of their participation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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