

Civic Engagement Survey – California Pilot - Spring 2014

The Civic Engagement survey was conducted in the spring quarter of 2014. The survey was sent to students at De Anza College, Canada College, San Diego Community College District (Honors Program), and Shasta College. The survey was administered at the end of the quarter in order to capture activities students participated in throughout the academic year. Students must have had a valid, personal email address, with the exception of students at Shasta College who could complete a paper-based survey. Thus, the survey was sent to 34,587 students, this resulted in 1,757 usable surveys for a response rate of 5%.

Highlights include:

Prior to entering De Anza College, have you participated in the following activities?

- 80% of respondents obtained news regularly (through internet, television, newspaper, radio, etc.).
- 69% of respondents worked without pay in their community to help others.
- 61% of respondents joined a group or organization.
- 21% of respondents persuaded others to vote for a particular candidate or party.
- 12% of respondents worked on a local, state, or national campaign.

Since entering De Anza College, have you participated in the following activities?

- 81% of respondents obtained news regularly (through internet, television, newspaper, radio, etc.).
- 56% of respondents signed a petition.
- 52% of respondents worked without pay in their community to help others.
- 19% of respondents persuaded others to vote for a particular candidate or party.
- 9% of respondents worked on a local, state, or national campaign.

Since entering De Anza College, I have increased my ability to:

- 73% of respondents stated they strongly agree or agree that they increased their ability to understand people from other cultures, races, or ethnicities.
- 59% of respondents stated they strongly agree or agree that they increased their ability to converse productively about controversial issues with someone whose background or views are different from their own.
- 52% of respondents stated they strongly agree or agree that they increased their ability to voice their opinions on campus, at work, or in their community.

Since entering De Anza College, I believe more now than I did before that:

- 72% of respondents strongly agree or agree that they believe more than they did before that they have the tools to communicate with someone whose views are different from their own.
- 70% of respondents strongly agree or agree that they believe more than they did before that they can be part of something bigger than themselves to effect change.
- 17% of respondents strongly agree or agree that they believe more than they did before that they are just one person and their actions cannot change our government or social system.

I see myself:

- 89% of respondents strongly agree or agree with the statement that they see themselves as someone who values helping others.
- 82% of respondents strongly agree or agree with the statement that they see themselves as someone who has something to offer the world.
- 45% of respondents strongly agree or agree with the statement that they see themselves as part of the campus community.
- 32% of respondents strongly agree or agree with the statement that they see themselves as an individual with limited impact on what happens in this country.

I believe that after leaving this college, I will:

- 84% of respondents strongly agree or agree that they believe they will help others who may not be as well off as themselves.
- 77% of respondents strongly agree or agree that they believe they will be an integral part of society.
- 56% of respondents strongly agree or agree that they believe they will work with others to promote social or political change.

Since entering De Anza College, I have increased my knowledge of:

- 61% of respondents stated they strongly agree or agree that their knowledge has increased in regards to national issues.
- 60% of respondents stated they strongly agree or agree that their knowledge has increased in regards to global issues.

Political Knowledge

- 63% of respondents identified that the Supreme Court has the responsibility to make the final decision on whether a law is constitutional or not.
- 60% of respondents identified that Tuesday is the day of the week that local, state, and federal elections are held.
- 81% of respondents identified that the city council functions the most like the legislative branch in local government.

I. PRIOR TO entering this college, had you participated in any of the following activities?

	Yes		No		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Ia. Joined a group or organization	1074	61%	674	39%	1748	100%
Ib. Held a leadership role in an organization or club	692	40%	1054	60%	1746	100%
Ic. Obtained news regularly (through Internet, television, newspaper, radio, etc.)	1409	80%	337	20%	1746	100%
Id. Discussed politics regularly	726	42%	1017	58%	1743	100%
Ie. Worked without pay in your community to help others	1197	69%	545	31%	1742	100%
If. Worked without pay in your community to help others <u>as part of a class requirement</u>	571	29%	1175	71%	1746	100%
Ig. Worked on a local, state, or national campaign	219	12%	1526	88%	1745	100%
Ih. Attended a march, rally, protest, or boycott	447	25%	1297	75%	1744	100%
Ii. Signed a petition	1080	63%	666	37%	1746	100%
Ij. Raised awareness about an issue, campaign, party, or group	686	40%	1057	60%	1743	100%
Ik. Raised money for a campaign, party, or group	562	31%	1176	69%	1738	100%
Il. Persuaded others to vote for a particular candidate or party	363	21%	1378	79%	1741	100%
Im. Contacted public officials or the media (through Facebook, Twitter, email, phone, letter, etc.)	439	25%	1306	75%	1745	100%
In. Registered to vote	1037	62%	707	38%	1744	100%
Io. Voted in a student election	692	36%	1047	64%	1739	100%
Ip. Voted in a local, state or federal election	885	54%	855	46%	1740	100%

2. SINCE ENTERING this college, have you participated in the following activities?

	Yes		No		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2a. Joined a group or organization	756	44%	985	56%	1741	100%
2b. Held a leadership role in an organization or club	387	24%	1347	76%	1734	100%
2c. Obtained news regularly (through Internet, television, newspaper, radio, etc.)	1399	81%	339	19%	1738	100%
2d. Discussed politics regularly	860	51%	882	49%	1742	100%
2e. Worked without pay in your community to help others	903	52%	840	48%	1743	100%
2f. Worked without pay in your community to help others <u>as part of a class requirement</u>	519	28%	1228	72%	1747	100%
2g. Worked on a local, state, or national campaign	178	9%	1560	91%	1738	100%
2h. Attended a march, rally, protest, or boycott	289	16%	1451	84%	1740	100%
2i. Signed a petition	999	56%	737	44%	1736	100%
2j. Raised awareness about an issue, campaign, party, or group	634	36%	1105	64%	1739	100%
2k. Raised money for a campaign, party, or group	349	20%	1386	80%	1735	100%
2l. Persuaded others to vote for a particular candidate or party	322	19%	1415	81%	1737	100%
2m. Contacted public officials or the media (through Facebook, Twitter, email, phone, letter, etc.)	422	24%	1317	76%	1739	100%
2n. Registered to vote	810	47%	929	53%	1739	100%
2o. Voted in a student election	341	17%	1392	83%	1733	100%
2p. Voted in a local, state or federal election	769	47%	961	53%	1730	100%

3. Since entering this college I have increased my ability to:

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree or Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
3a. Converse productively about controversial issues with someone whose background or views are different than my own	321	19%	715	40%	520	30%	125	7%	63	4%	1744	100%
3b. Have my views challenged by others	308	18%	692	39%	493	29%	173	9%	77	5%	1743	100%
3c. Understand people from other cultures, races, or ethnicities	598	34%	678	39%	333	20%	75	4%	43	3%	1727	100%
3d. Work with others to make a difference in our community	329	19%	507	29%	611	36%	205	11%	82	5%	1734	100%
3e. Voice my opinions on campus, at work, or in my community	314	19%	564	33%	556	32%	214	11%	89	5%	1737	100%

4. Since entering this college, I believe more now than I did before that:

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree or Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
4a. I can learn a lot through my involvement in community or campus causes	372	21%	657	38%	534	31%	116	6%	55	3%	1734	100%
4b. I am just one person and my actions cannot change our government or social system	83	4%	219	13%	532	30%	536	31%	368	23%	1738	100%
4c. I have the tools to seek out information about social or political events to develop an informed position on the issue	378	22%	715	40%	509	30%	86	5%	42	2%	1730	100%
4d. I have the tools to communicate with someone whose views are different than my own	413	25%	804	47%	403	23%	69	4%	38	2%	1727	100%
4e. I can be a part of something bigger than myself to effect change	493	29%	708	41%	423	25%	66	4%	43	2%	1733	100%

5. I see myself:

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree or Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
5a. As part of the campus community	249	14%	558	31%	539	32%	273	16%	124	7%	1743	100%
5b. As part of a community outside this college	350	21%	780	44%	408	23%	147	9%	57	3%	1742	100%
5c. As someone who values helping others	781	46%	759	43%	144	8%	20	1%	21	1%	1725	100%
5d. As an individual with limited impact on what happens in this country	145	8%	439	24%	563	33%	393	24%	195	12%	1735	100%
5e. As someone who has something to offer the world	661	40%	752	42%	259	14%	42	3%	27	1%	1741	100%
5f. As someone who has a voice	585	35%	766	43%	298	17%	57	3%	36	2%	1742	100%

6. I believe that after leaving this college, I will:

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree or Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6a. Work with others to promote social or political change	392	23%	572	33%	537	30%	177	10%	62	4%	1740	100%
6b. Become a leader in my place of work	556	33%	632	36%	432	24%	80	5%	38	2%	1738	100%
6c. Help others who may not be as well off as myself	703	41%	747	43%	234	13%	30	2%	18	1%	1732	100%
6d. Be an integral part of society	576	34%	746	43%	337	19%	46	3%	28	1%	1733	100%

7. Since entering this college, I have increased my knowledge of:

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree or Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
7a. Global issues	407	23%	664	37%	461	28%	140	8%	61	4%	1733	100%
7b. National issues	409	23%	673	38%	456	28%	135	8%	57	4%	1730	100%
7c. Issues facing my community	431	24%	620	35%	454	28%	162	9%	62	4%	1729	100%

8. What individual or group of individuals has the responsibility to make the final decision on whether a law is constitutional or not?

	Respondents	
	N	%
The President of the United States	157	8%
The Supreme Court	1085	63%
Congress	383	22%
I don't know	119	6%
Total	1745	100%

9. What day of the week are local, state, and federal elections held?

	Respondents	
	N	%
Monday	72	4%
Tuesday	1029	60%
Thursday	93	5%
Saturday	25	1%
I don't know	525	30%
Total	1744	100%

10. Which organization functions the most like the legislative branch in local governments?

	Respondents	
	N	%
The city council	1407	81%
The mayor	2	0%
The police	41	3%
I don't know	216	12%
Total	1745	100%