

National Civic Engagement Survey
Spring 2015
Descriptive Statistics

In spring 2015, nine community colleges from across the state were provided a small stipend to participate in the Civic Engagement Survey administered by The Democracy Commitment (TDC). The colleges were asked to administer the survey via an online link to all students enrolled at the end of the spring quarter. This resulted in 4,735 valid student responses. Below are highlights from the results.

Civic Behaviors

- Participation in activities prior to college and after entering this college:

- 76% of respondents stated they obtained news daily/weekly prior to entering this college while 76% stated the same after they entered this college.
- 45% of respondents stated they discussed politics, social, or community issues daily/weekly prior to entering this college while 46% stated the same after they entered this college.
- 24% of respondents stated they expressed their opinions on issues or politics via social media or the internet prior to entering this college while 28% stated the same after they entered this college.
- 4% of respondents stated they persuaded others to vote for a particular issue, party, or candidate daily/weekly prior to entering this college while 6% stated the same after they entered this college.

- Participation in voting activities prior to college and after entering this college:

- 45% of respondents stated they registered to vote prior to entering this college while 48% stated the same after they entered this college.
- 59% of respondents stated they voted in a student election prior to entering this college while 74% stated the same after they entered this college.
- 57% of respondents stated they voted in a local, state or federal election prior to entering this college while 56% stated the same after they entered this college.

- Activities after leaving this college:

- 41% of respondents stated that after leaving this college they plan to frequently/almost always work with others to promote social or political change.
- 86% of respondents stated that after leaving this college they plan to frequently/almost always help others who may not be as well off as themselves.

Civic Agency

- 65% of respondents stated that their experience at this college somewhat/to a great extent contributed to their ability to have a civil conversation about controversial issues with someone whose background or views are different than their own.
- 63% of respondents stated that their experience at this college somewhat/to a great extent contributed to their ability to have their views challenged by others.
- 53% of respondents stated that their experience at this college somewhat/to a great extent contributed to their ability to work with others to make a difference on campus or in their community.
- 56% of respondents stated that their experience at this college somewhat/to a great extent contributed to their ability to voice their opinion on campus, at work, or in their community.
- 67% of respondents stated they agree/strongly agree they have the tools to seek out information in order to develop an informed position on a social or political issue.
- 76% of respondents stated they agree/strongly agree they have the tools necessary to communicate with someone whose views are different than their own.
- 49% of respondents stated they agree/strongly agree that they see themselves as part of the campus community.
- 58% of respondents stated they agree/strongly agree that they see themselves as an individual who can have an impact on what happens in this country.

Civic Knowledge

- 25% of respondents stated their experience at this college to a great extent increased their knowledge of global issues, and another 26% stated their experience increased their knowledge of both national issues and issues facing their communities.
- 46% of respondents correctly identified the Supreme Court as the group of individuals that has the responsibility to make the final decision on whether a law is constitutional or not.
- 53% of respondents correctly identified that 2/3 or 67% of a majority is required in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to override a presidential veto.

1. Prior to entering this college, how frequently did you participate in the following activities ?

	Never		Annually		Semi-Annually		Monthly		Weekly		Daily		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
1a. Participate in a group or organization	1,448	30%	575	12%	583	12%	625	13%	1,015	21%	506	11%	4,752	100%
1b. Perform a leadership role in an organization or club	2,367	50%	422	9%	432	9%	433	9%	632	13%	437	9%	4,723	100%
1c. Make a speech or presentation	1,530	32%	657	14%	1,063	23%	901	19%	434	9%	124	3%	4,709	100%
1d. Obtain news (through the Internet, television, newspaper, radio, etc.)	324	7%	174	4%	249	5%	368	8%	874	18%	2,742	58%	4,731	100%
1e. Discuss politics, social, or community issues	862	18%	380	8%	510	11%	853	18%	1,179	25%	937	20%	4,722	100%
1f. Volunteer in your community	1,205	25%	827	17%	904	19%	874	18%	709	15%	210	4%	4,729	100%
1g. Engage in service learning as part of a class	2,319	50%	611	13%	630	13%	492	11%	382	8%	244	5%	4,678	100%
1h. Express your opinions on issues or policies via social media or the Internet	1,773	37%	477	10%	579	12%	722	15%	682	14%	496	10%	4,729	100%
1i. Recruit others to participate in a community or civic activity	2,443	52%	659	14%	655	14%	525	11%	273	6%	160	3%	4,715	100%
1j. Sign an online or paper petition	2,128	45%	985	21%	820	17%	512	11%	179	4%	101	2%	4,725	100%
1k. Raise awareness about an issue, campaign, party, or group	2,253	48%	768	16%	700	15%	521	11%	282	6%	171	4%	4,695	100%
1l. Raise money for an issue, campaign, party, or group	2,529	54%	852	18%	711	15%	378	8%	148	3%	85	2%	4,703	100%
1m. Participate in a local, state, or national campaign	3,420	73%	622	13%	342	7%	167	4%	80	2%	61	1%	4,692	100%
1n. Persuade others to vote for a particular issue, candidate, or party	3,130	67%	701	15%	440	9%	217	5%	103	2%	103	2%	4,694	100%

2. Prior to entering this college, had you participated in any of the following activities ?

	Yes		No		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
2a. Registered to vote	2,148	45%	2,600	55%	4,748	100%
2b. Voted in a student election	2,786	59%	1,949	41%	4,735	100%
2c. Voted in a local, state or federal election	2,707	57%	2,027	43%	4,734	100%

3. Since entering this college, how frequently did you participate in the following activities ?

	Never		Annually		Semi-Annually		Monthly		Weekly		Daily		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
3a. Participate in a group or organization	1,425	33%	467	11%	473	11%	578	13%	910	21%	444	10%	4,297	100%
3b. Perform a leadership role in an organization or club	2,283	53%	367	9%	368	9%	444	10%	502	12%	311	7%	4,275	100%
3c. Make a speech or presentation	999	23%	542	13%	984	23%	1,052	25%	533	12%	161	4%	4,271	100%
3d. Obtain news (through the Internet, television, newspaper, radio, etc.)	369	9%	153	4%	218	5%	317	7%	707	17%	2,512	59%	4,276	100%
3e. Discuss politics, social, or community issues	883	21%	297	7%	398	9%	700	16%	1,073	25%	911	21%	4,262	100%
3f. Volunteer in your community	1,402	33%	663	16%	743	17%	680	16%	581	14%	200	5%	4,269	100%
3g. Engage in service learning as part of a class	1,896	45%	516	12%	601	14%	477	11%	470	11%	263	6%	4,223	100%
3h. Express your opinions on issues or policies via social media or the Internet	1,604	38%	395	9%	464	11%	623	15%	642	15%	537	13%	4,265	100%
3i. Recruit others to participate in a community or civic activity	2,355	56%	472	11%	502	12%	474	11%	291	7%	149	4%	4,243	100%
3j. Sign an online or paper petition	1,898	45%	742	17%	737	17%	527	12%	230	5%	125	3%	4,259	100%
3k. Raise awareness about an issue, campaign, party, or group	2,065	49%	591	14%	549	13%	531	12%	316	7%	199	5%	4,251	100%
3l. Raise money for an issue, campaign, party, or group	2,625	62%	561	13%	509	12%	316	7%	159	4%	78	2%	4,248	100%
3m. Participate in a local, state, or national campaign	2,960	70%	566	13%	341	8%	196	5%	109	3%	68	2%	4,240	100%
3n. Persuade others to vote for a particular issue, candidate, or party	2,797	66%	517	12%	410	10%	266	6%	161	4%	97	2%	4,248	100%
3o. Acted as a tutor, mentor, or coach for other students	1,700	40%	403	9%	523	12%	592	14%	676	16%	363	9%	4,257	100%
3p. Interacted with a professor outside of class	1,375	32%	406	10%	565	13%	844	20%	784	18%	285	7%	4,259	100%
3q. Studied or prepared for class	283	7%	111	3%	151	4%	253	6%	1,004	24%	2,449	58%	4,251	100%
3r. Attended a religious service	1,739	41%	424	10%	435	10%	406	10%	1,047	25%	211	5%	4,262	100%
3s. Participated in a racial/ethnic organization	2,930	69%	308	7%	333	8%	297	7%	238	6%	126	3%	4,232	100%

4. Since entering this college, had you participated in any of the following activities ?

	Yes		No		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
4a. Registered to vote	2,073	48%	2,224	52%	4,297	100%
4b. Voted in a student election	3,154	74%	1,134	26%	4,288	100%
4c. Voted in a local, state or federal election	2,417	56%	1,865	44%	4,282	100%
4d. Taken a political science or government course	2,637	61%	1,660	39%	4,297	100%
4e. Taken a course that deals with social, political, or economic inequality	2,009	47%	2,287	53%	4,296	100%

5. My experiences at this college have contributed to my ability to :

	Not at all		Very Little		Somewhat		To a great extent		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
5a. Have a civil conversation about controversial issues with someone whose background or views are different than my own	718	17%	711	17%	1,696	41%	1,004	24%	4,129	100%
5b. Have my views challenged by others	639	16%	866	21%	1,689	41%	921	22%	4,115	100%
5c. Understand people from other cultures, races, or ethnicities	330	8%	362	9%	1,453	35%	1,955	48%	4,100	100%
5d. Work with others to make a difference on campus or in the community	1,041	25%	897	22%	1,149	28%	1,012	25%	4,099	100%
5e. Voice my opinions on campus, at work, or in my community	933	23%	874	21%	1,318	32%	990	24%	4,115	100%

6. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements :

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
6a. Involvement in community or campus causes is important to me	244	6%	296	7%	1,410	34%	1,402	34%	774	19%	4,126	100%
6b. I have the tools to seek out information in order to develop an informed position on a social or political issue	162	4%	249	6%	920	22%	1,654	40%	1,123	27%	4,108	100%
6c. I have the tools necessary to communicate with someone whose views are different than my own	110	3%	158	4%	707	17%	1,867	45%	1,273	31%	4,115	100%
6d. I can be a part of something bigger than myself to effect change	107	3%	135	3%	715	17%	1,595	39%	1,553	38%	4,105	100%

7. I see myself:

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
7a. As part of the campus community	311	7%	526	13%	1,255	30%	1,415	34%	643	15%	4,150	100%
7b. As part of a community outside this college	184	4%	329	8%	1,004	24%	1,757	42%	863	21%	4,137	100%
7c. As an individual who can have an impact on what happens in this country	232	6%	374	9%	1,128	27%	1,534	37%	871	21%	4,139	100%
7d. As someone who has something to offer the world	119	3%	158	4%	695	17%	1,761	43%	1,401	34%	4,134	100%
7e. As someone who can speak out for themselves and others	96	2%	142	3%	640	15%	1,730	42%	1,522	37%	4,130	100%

8. After leaving this college, how frequently do you plan to do the following?

	Hardly Ever		Occasionally		Frequently		Almost Always		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
8a. Work with others to promote social or political change	922	22%	1,543	37%	1,057	26%	613	15%	4,135	100%
8b. Demonstrate leadership in my community or workplace	425	10%	974	24%	1,502	36%	1,235	30%	4,136	100%
8c. Help others who may not be as well off as myself	169	4%	828	20%	1,448	35%	1,679	41%	4,124	100%

9. To what extent have your experiences at this college increased your knowledge of:

	Not at All		Very little		Somewhat		To a Great Extent		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
9a. Global issues	621	15%	781	19%	1,715	41%	1,031	25%	4,148	100%
9b. National issues	577	14%	702	17%	1,765	43%	1,096	26%	4,140	100%
9c. Issues facing my community	617	15%	847	20%	1,578	38%	1,092	26%	4,134	100%

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

	Count	%
10a. The president	1,927	46%
10b. The Supreme Court	2,197	46%
10c. Congress	0	0%
10d. I don't know	664	14%
Total	4,788	100%

11. How much of a majority is required in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to override a presidential veto:

	Count	%
11a. 65 or 80 percent	1,927	47%
11b. 2/3 or 67 percent	2,197	53%
11c. 3/5 or 60 percent	0	0%
11d. 1/2 or 50 percent	0	0%
11e. I don't know	0	0%
Total	4,124	100%

12. What is your current enrollment status ?

	Count	%
12a. Part-time (less than 12 units)	1,601	40%
12b. Full-time (12 units or more)	2,412	60%
Total	4,013	100%

13. Approximately how many credits have you completed at this college ?

	Count	%
13a. 0-12	710	18%
13b. 13-24	807	20%
13c. 25-59	1,360	34%
13d. 60-89	751	19%
13e. 90 units or more	405	10%
Total	4,033	100%

14. What is your ethnicity ?

	Count	%
14a. American Indian or Alaska Native	26	1%
14b. Asian	751	19%
14c. Black or African American	348	9%
14d. Hispanic/Latino(a)	540	14%
14e. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	35	1%
14f. White	1,964	49%
14g. Two or more races	259	6%
14h. Race/ethnicity unknown	30	1%
14i. Nonresident alien	42	1%
Total	3,995	100%

15. What is your gender ?

	Count	%
15a. Male	1,330	34%
15b. Female	2,638	66%
Total	3,968	100%

16. What is your age ?

	Count	%
16a. 19 or younger	1,058	26%
16b. 20-24	1,352	34%
16c. 25-29	455	11%
16d. 30-34	319	8%
16e. 35-49	565	14%
16f. 50 or older	263	7%
Total	4,012	100%

17. Please provide an estimate of what you perceive to be the income of your parents/guardians while you were in high school.

	Count	%
17a. Less than \$19,999 (Low Income)	824	24%
17b. \$20,000-\$39,000 (Lower Middle Income)	1,264	37%
17c. \$40,000-\$99,999 (Middle Income)	804	24%
17d. \$100,000-\$149,000 (Upper Middle Income)	344	10%
17e. \$150,000 or more (High Income)	146	4%
17f. I don't know	0	0%
Total	3,382	100%

18. How many hours per week do you work for pay?

	None		1-10 Hours		11-20 Hours		21-30 Hours		31-40 Hours		More than 40 Hours		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
18a. On-campus	2,950	84%	179	5%	201	6%	92	3%	63	2%	32	1%	3,517	100%
18b. Off-campus	1,488	40%	313	8%	491	13%	578	15%	533	14%	348	9%	3,751	100%

19. Is English the primary language you speak at home?

	Count	%
19a. No	1,011	25%
19b. Yes	2,981	75%
Total	3,992	100%

20. What is the highest education level of ANY of your primary parents/guardians ?

	Count	%
20a. Grade 9 or less	227	6%
20b. Some high school, did not graduate	199	5%
20c. High school graduate (diploma, GED, or equivalent	849	22%
20d. Some college, no degree	744	19%
20e. Associate degree (AA, AS)	451	12%
20f. Bachelor's degree (BA, BS)	809	21%
20g. Graduate degree (master's PHD, or professional degree beyond bachelor's)	586	15%
20h. Unknown	0	0%
Total	3,865	100%