UAB Climate Survey

Survey results: 2019/2020
Survey overview

• First Student Climate Survey at UAB administered to all students
• Survey focused on student perceptions of overall campus climate, campus diversity and sexual misconduct or harassment
• Survey developed by the Division of Student Affairs, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; the Center for Educational Accountability, the Student Climate Survey Committee, and student representatives
• Piloted with graduating students spring and summer 2019
• Survey distributed in laptop and cellular/tablet options during October 2019
Sample

- A total of 3154 students opened the survey. The CEA examined data for the 2733 surveys which were at least partially completed.
- The overall response rate to the survey was about 12.5%.
- Approximately one-third of students did not complete demographic questions.
  - Statistical analyses of results indicate that results for students who answered demographic questions was almost always consistent with students who did not answer such questions.
  - Nevertheless, the incomplete information about demographics limits confidence in the accuracy of comparisons between groups.
Demographics Highlights
Gender, Race, Ethnicity

• Overrepresentation of:
  • Students under 22 (51% of respondents and 39% of the population)
  • White students (65% of respondents and 58% of the population)
  • Asian students (10% of respondents and 6% of the population)

• Underrepresentation of:
  • Black/African American students (16% of respondents and 21% of the population)
Demographics Highlights

UAB Affiliations

• 31% of respondents were underclassmen, 37% upperclassmen, and 30% were graduate students
• 40% of student respondents reported being in the College of Arts and Sciences
• 23% of respondents indicated they were transfer students
• 21% live on-campus; 34% live off-campus within 10 miles; 19% live off-campus more than 10 miles away
• 45% of respondents said they spend 20+ hours per week on campus; 21% spend fewer than 5
• 26% of respondents reported being enrolled in online programs
• 8% of the students indicated they were part of a fraternity or sorority
Demographics Highlights

Other characteristics

- 51% of the sample were under the age of 22
- 58% of respondents identified as Christian
- 16% said they have no religious affiliation
- 6% of students who responded indicated they were international students
- 11% of respondents identified as having a disability
- 79.5% of respondents said they were heterosexual
- 4.5% of the sample reported having moved more than 2 times in past 3 months
Six Findings

1. Overall climate is good, but there is room to grow especially in perceptions of safety and with historically disadvantaged groups.

2. The majority of students report a campus climate that is committed to diversity and respectful of diverse groups. Students in some minority or historically disadvantaged groups rated treatment of their group as less respectful than student in majority groups.

3. Approximately one in four students reported having recently witnessed or experienced hostile, harassing or intimidating behavior. Some groups were more likely to have witnessed or experienced such behavior. One-quarter of the violators were UAB employees.
Findings (Continued)

4. Strong agreement that sexual assault is not tolerated on campus and that students would intervene in cases of assault. Challenges remain regarding attitudes and behaviors relating to sexual conduct.

5. Almost one-half of responding students indicated that they had not received training about sexual misconduct. One-third of students indicate gaps in their understanding about policies, procedures and resources regarding sexual assault.

6. Many students are experiencing food or shelter insecurity.