

CU-Boulder Undergraduate Student Social Climate Survey, fall 2014 Method, population and response rates

Background

24,898 undergraduate students invited
4,445 responded
18% response rate

CU-Boulder's Office of Planning, Budget and Analysis has conducted a Student Social Climate Survey about every four years since 1994. The survey's findings are used primarily to evaluate, revise and develop programs and policies that promote student success by helping all students feel like valued members of the university community.

In this report we describe the fall 2014 undergraduate survey questionnaire, data collection, and survey population and respondents, and we provide data on overall response rate and response rates by college/school/program, by Arts & Sciences (A&S) division and by department.

Survey Questionnaire

The web-based questionnaire was developed by staff in the Office of Planning, Budget & Analysis in collaboration with an advisory board of university administrators, faculty, staff and students. Members of the advisory board are listed in Appendix A.

The 2014 survey was substantially different from those carried out at CU-Boulder in previous years. In addition to a general assessment of the campus social climate, the 2014 survey questionnaire included particular assessment of students' experiences in and perceptions of the classroom and residence hall contexts. Unlike previous surveys, the 2014 survey included questions about role models and mentors and questions about uncomfortable experiences attributable to others' assumptions based on stereotyping.

Data Collection

We invited all enrolled, degree-seeking undergraduate students who had an email address and who had not requested that their personal directory information be kept private (N = 24,898) to take part in the survey. On November 7, 2014, students were sent an e-mail from the chancellor explaining the purpose of the Student Social Climate Survey and inviting them to participate by accessing the web-based questionnaire. We sent reminder emails on November 19 and December 2 to those who had not yet responded to the survey. We also sent an email reminder on December 7 to students who had started but not yet completed the survey questionnaire. Data collection ended December 8, 2014.

We offered a financial incentive to encourage students to submit a survey. Students who completed a questionnaire were eligible to win one of four \$500 awards.

Population and Response Rates

Of the 24,898 undergraduate students invited to participate in the survey, 4,445 (18%) responded, completing all or part of the questionnaire. Undergraduate response rates in earlier Student Social Climate Surveys were 25% in 2010, 26% in 2006, and 48% in 2001. Response rates by gender, class level (freshman, sophomore, etc.), race/ethnicity, and college/school/program are available in Appendix B.

Although the response rate was low, respondents were generally similar to the overall student body with respect to race/ethnicity, class level, and college/school/program.

Asian Americans students were slightly overrepresented among the respondents. As is typical in many of our other surveys, women were more likely to submit a survey than were men (55% F and 45% M respondents; 43% F and 57% M in the pop). Response rates by class level (freshman, sophomore, etc.) were comparable to proportions in the pop.

Gender	Survey response rate	Degree-seeking population
Female	55%	45%
Male	45%	55%

Classification	Survey response rate	Degree-seeking population
BAMA	<1%	<1%
Freshman	31%	30%
Sophomore	21%	22%
Junior	21%	22%
Senior	28%	26%

Race/Ethnicity	Survey response rate	Degree-seeking population
Asian	8%	7%
Black/African American	2%	2%
Hispanic	11%	10%
International	6%	5%
Native American	1%	1%
Pacific Islander	1%	1%
Unknown	1%	1%
White	70%	72%

School/College/Program	Survey response rate	Degree-seeking population
Arts & Sciences	64%	66%
Arts & Humanities	9%	9%
Natural Sciences	32%	31%
Social Sciences	14%	16%
Distributed Studies/Open Option	8%	10%
Business	10%	12%
Education	1%	<1%
Engineering & Applied Science	19%	16%
Journalism	2%	3%
Music	1%	1%
Program in Environmental Studies	2%	2%

APPENDIX A
CU-Boulder 2014 Undergraduate Student Social Climate Survey:
Advisory Board

Name	Title*
Robert Bosley	Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement
Alphonse Kasley	Assistant Vice Chancellor for Campus Climate and Community Engagement
Mike Grant	Vice Provost and Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education
Christina Gonzales	Dean of Students
Kaye Orten	International Student Programs Coordinator
Jim Davis-Rosenthal	Director of Orientation and Assessment
Julie Volckens	Research and Data Analysis Coordinator for Community Health
Randy McCrillis	Director, Center for Multicultural Affairs
John Fox	Associate Director, Residence Life
Regina Tirella	Assistant Director, Residence Life - Kittredge, Central, Southeast areas
Juedon Kebede	Student Government, President of Student Affairs
William (Billy) Cox	Residence Hall Association (student-run university residence hall governing body), Executive Director
Other consultants	
Glenda Russell	Clinical psychologist at CU-Boulder's Counseling & Psychological Services and adjunct psychology professor
Scarlet Bowen	Director of GLBTQ Resource Center
PBA	
Robert Stubbs	Director, Institutional Research
Frances Costa	Senior Researcher, Institutional Research
Cathy Kerry	Researcher, Institutional Research

*Professional role when the board was formed in summer 2014

APPENDIX B
Undergraduate Student Social Climate Survey, Fall 2014: Response rates

	Number in Population	Number Responded	Percent Responded
TOTAL	24,898	4,445	18%

	Number in Population	Number Responded	Percent Responded
Female	10,982	2,440	22%
Male	13,916	2,005	14%

	Number in Population	Number Responded	Percent Responded
BA/MA concurrent degree program	96	21	22%
Freshman	7,407	1,356	18%
Sophomore	5,460	927	17%
Junior	5,366	913	17%
Senior	6,569	1,228	19%

	Number in Population	Number Responded	Percent Responded
Asian	1,832	355	19%
Black/African American	570	101	18%
Hispanic	2,492	483	19%
International	1,232	257	21%
Native American	342	61	18%
Pacific Islander	129	23	18%
Unknown	270	57	21%
White	18,031	3,108	17%

	Number in Population	Number Responded	Percent Responded
Arts & Sciences	16,283	2,850	18%
Arts & Humanities	2,218	399	18%
Natural Sciences	7,614	1,444	19%
Social Sciences	3,979	631	16%
Distributed Studies/Open Option	2,472	376	15%
Business	3,108	466	15%
Education	92	28	30%
Engineering & Applied Science	3,961	863	22%
Journalism	727	111	15%
Music	267	58	22%
Program in Environmental Studies	460	69	15%