



**H I G H E R
E D U C A T I O N
R E S E A R C H
I N S T I T U T E**

College Student Survey (CSS)

2005-2006

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

THE 2005–2006 COLLEGE STUDENT SURVEY

The Higher Education Research Institute

at UCLA invites you to participate in

the 2005–2006 College Student Survey

(CSS). The CSS offers valuable

feedback on your students' academic

and campus life experiences—

information that can be used for student

assessment activities, accreditation and

self-study reports, campus planning, and

policy analysis. For more information,

please visit the CSS web site at:

www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/css.

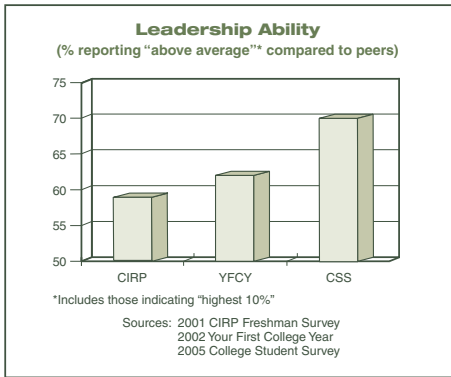
Program Overview

Developed by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI), the College Student Survey (CSS) is administered through the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP), which has conducted national surveys of college students and faculty since 1966. When used in conjunction with the CIRP Freshman Survey or the Your First College Year (YFCY) Survey, the CSS generates valuable longitudinal data on students' cognitive and affective growth during college. The CSS has been used by institutional researchers to study the impact of service-learning, leadership development, and faculty mentoring, and to assess a wide variety of instructional practices.

The Survey Instrument

The CSS is typically administered to senior students or used as an "exit" survey. It covers a broad range of outcomes, including:

- academic achievement and engagement
- satisfaction with the college experience
- student involvement
- cognitive and affective development
- student values, attitudes, and goals
- degree aspirations and career plans
- Internet and other technology use



The CSS can be used as a “stand-alone” instrument or to follow-up another CIRP survey. The CSS post-tests many items on the CIRP Freshman Survey and the YFCY survey. The CSS also includes space for up to 30 institution specific questions.

Administration Options

The CSS is conducted from November–June to facilitate surveying both December and June graduates. Results of a Fall 2005 administration can be available as early as February 2006. Results of Winter and Spring 2006 administrations will be available in August 2006. The CSS is offered as both a paper survey and a web survey. Institutions can decide to use *either* method or *both* methods depending on their needs and resources.

Paper Survey—The paper survey is designed for administration in the classroom or as a mail-out survey. The participating institution selects the delivery date and the number of forms needed. The CSS administration guidelines are immediately transmitted

to the institution, along with useful information on selecting the sample, increasing response rates, etc. HERI will provide an electronic file of names and SSNs of students who completed the CIRP, if the institution intends to follow-up a particular cohort of students.

Web Survey—The on-line CSS survey offers 24 hour access and administrative ease. HERI provides directions to the secure web site, a standard cover letter, and an electronic file of unique log-in codes. The institution decides on the date and timing of email transmissions to students. To encourage an immediate response, the “link” to the on-line CSS survey and the unique log-in code are embedded in the institution’s email. However, the respondent can stop, and later return to the survey by reentering his or her unique code. Throughout the administration, HERI provides regular updates of the number of web surveys submitted. HERI also provides a list of respondents’ names to assist the institution in personalizing email reminders.

Paper & Web Survey—Combining methods permits the participating institution to enhance its response rate by increasing response options. The institution receives all the web survey components (see above) *and* paper survey forms. Students can complete either version.

How Colleges Use the CSS

To evaluate student satisfaction

Students rate their overall satisfaction with 28 different aspects of their college experience.

To collect information on student involvement

The CSS collects information on the academic and extracurricular experiences of college students.

To assess students' academic engagement

The survey includes several different measures of academic achievement and several items related to academic engagement and disengagement.

To measure retention

The CSS provides information on whether students take a leave of absence, withdraw or transfer, as well as their plans for the following year.

To understand students' values, attitudes, and goals

The CSS assesses the importance students place on a rich array of personal goals and values.

To study specific campus issues

Each participating campus may include up to 30 locally designed questions to collect information on topics important to individual campuses.

Reports & Special Services

CSS reports are distributed at the conclusion of survey administration in mid-summer. In addition to the standard CSS profile, institutions receive linked longitudinal reports for students with CIRP and YFCY data.

CSS Campus Profile—The results for all students broken out by gender and compared to similar institutions' results presented in two reports: "all respondents" and "all senior respondents."

CSS Follow-up Report—Students' CSS responses are compared to their earlier responses on the CIRP Freshman Survey.

Three Time-points Report*—Data on over 50 items from the CIRP Freshman Survey, YFCY, and the CSS are linked, yielding a richer view of student growth and change during college.

In addition to the standard CSS reports, HERI can provide a number of special services, including:

Institutional Data File(s)—Containing individual item responses to the CSS. When available, the CIRP Freshman Survey and YFCY data are linked to CSS data.

Data Merges—HERI can merge CSS data with other institutional data (e.g., registrar's data or student health data).

Special Breakout Reports—Compare up to 190 subsets of students.

Peer Group Reports—Compare your institution's data to those of five or more institutions.

*For those institutions who participated in the 2002 CIRP Freshman Survey and the 2003 YFCY.

THE 2005-2006 COLLEGE STUDENT SURVEY

Please check the appropriate box:

Yes, we wish to participate in the 2005-2006

CSS (check one)

- Paper only administration
 Web only administration
 Paper and web administration

INSTITUTION NAME

CONTACT PERSON

TITLE

MAILING ADDRESS (PHYSICAL ADDRESS ONLY)

()

PHONE

()

FAX

E-MAIL

ALTERNATE CONTACT

ALTERNATE'S E-MAIL

NUMBER OF CSS SURVEYS

DELIVER ON (DATE)

PURCHASE ORDER #

Surveys will be available in October, 2005.

If you are following-up students who took the Freshman Survey, indicate the year(s) they completed the survey: _____

HERI will provide these names [and SSNs or other identifiers] prior to your administration of the CSS.

SIGNATURE OF CONTACT PERSON

By signing I agree to follow survey procedures and pay fees for participation when billed.

NOTE: There may be fees for cancelling. Please check the HERI website for details.

Participation Fees

Basic costs include an institutional participation fee of \$475 plus \$2.00 for each returned survey. These fees cover all costs for the data collection, data processing, and preparation of campus reports (i.e., Campus Profile Report, etc.). Additional data services (e.g., data files, etc.) are available for an extra charge.

Registration Information

To register your campus for the 2005-2006 CSS, please complete the attached registration form and return it to the HERI office.

Mail to:

UCLA

Higher Education Research Institute

3005 Moore Hall, Box 951521

Los Angeles, CA 90095-1521

ATTN: 2005-2006 College Student Survey

or fax to: 310-206-2228



Real Information or Just Data?

One advantage of participating in any CIRP survey is that the information you receive is “benchmarked” against similar schools’ results. This provides context and perspective to any reports you create based on these data. Because the surveys are regularly offered, you may create “trends” reports showing changes over time.

HERI maintains extensive databases of all surveys: the CIRP Freshman Survey, Your First College Year (YFCY), the College Student Survey, and the Faculty Survey. HERI provides a number of reports and special services to permit you to view your survey results in different ways, or to develop special needs analyses.

The Higher Education Research Institute (HERI)

Director: Sylvia Hurtado, Ph.D.

HERI is housed in the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. The Institute serves as an interdisciplinary center for research, evaluation, information, policy studies, and research training in postsecondary education, leadership development, faculty performance, federal and state policy, and educational equity. Visiting scholars, faculty, and graduate students have made use of HERI facilities and research resources since its affiliation with UCLA in 1973.

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP)

Associate Director: Jennifer A. Lindholm, Ph.D.

CIRP is a national longitudinal study of the American higher education system. Established in 1966 at the American Council on Education, the CIRP is now the nation’s largest and oldest empirical study of higher education, involving data on some 1,900 institutions and over 12 million students. The CIRP has been administered by the Higher Education Research Institute since 1973.



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