

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)

Overview of 2019 Survey Results For Polk State College

Introduction

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), a product and service of the Center for Community College Student Engagement, provides information about effective educational practice in community colleges. The Center's goal is to provide member colleges with results that can be used to inform decision making and target institutional improvements. *Student engagement*, or the amount of time and energy students invest in meaningful educational practices, is the underlying foundation for the Center's work. The CCSSE survey instrument is designed to capture student engagement as a measure of institutional quality.

CCSSE Member Colleges

The 2019 CCSSE Cohort includes 616 community and technical colleges from 48 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and two Canadian provinces. CCSSE uses a cohort of participating colleges in all core survey analyses. The 2019 cohort consists of the colleges that participated in CCSSE 2017, 2018, and 2019.

CCSSE Sampling

In CCSSE sampling procedures, students are sampled at the classroom level. The survey was administered in classes randomly selected from among all face-to-face and hybrid courses offered by the institution during the spring academic term. Certain course types are not eligible for inclusion in the CCSSE administration. These include non-credit, dual enrollment, distance learning, most ESL courses, individual instruction, and individual study or self-paced classes.

Of those students sampled at our institution, 696 respondents submitted useable surveys. The number of completed surveys produced an overall "percent of target" rate of 70%. The percent of target rate is the ratio of the adjusted number of completed surveys (surveys that were filled out properly and did not fall into any of the exclusionary categories) to the target sample size.

Excluded Respondents

Excluding certain respondents from institutional and cohort-level reports ensures that results are comparable across institutions. Respondents are excluded from institutional reports for the following reasons:

- The respondent did not indicate whether he or she was enrolled full-time or part-time at the institution.
- The survey is invalid. A survey is invalid if a student does not answer any of the 19 sub-items in item 4, answers *very often* to all 19 sub-items, or answers *never* to all 19 sub-items.
- The student reported his or her age as under 18.
- The student indicated that he or she had taken the survey in a previous class or did not respond to item 3.
- Oversample respondents are not included because they are selected outside of CCSSE's primary sampling procedures.

2019 Student Respondent Profile

Please note that percentages may not total 100% in each category due to missing data and/or rounding.

Enrollment Status

35% of surveyed students report being part-time college students, compared to 29% of the 2019 CCSSE Cohort colleges' student respondents. 65% of the student respondents at our college report attending college full-time, while 71% of the 2019 CCSSE Cohort colleges' student respondents attended full-time.

Population data¹ indicate that 66% of students attend our college part-time and 34% attend full-time. The inverse representation of part-time and full-time students in our respondent and actual student populations is the result of random sampling and the in-class administration process. For this reason, survey results are either weighted or disaggregated on the full-time/part-time variable so that reports will accurately reflect the underlying student population.

Age

Student respondents at our college range in age from 18 to 65+ years old - 78% of the of them are between 18 and 24 years old. Note that the actual Polk State Student population includes only 53% of students in this age group so the respondents are younger than the actual student population. However, the actual student population at Polk State is similar to the populations of the large college comparison group (57% between 18 and 24) and the total CCSSE population (53% between 18 and 24). Also must note that Polk State College has a 17% student population of less than 18 years.

Gender Identity

38% of student respondents are male and 55% female, while 8% preferred not to respond. While our percentage of female respondents mirrors the population of Large Colleges population and respondents (56% and 52%) as well as the CCSSE Cohort population and respondents (58% and 53%) it does not reflect the Polk State population of 63% female. Also, the percentage of male students at Polk State is 37% while those of the Large College comparison and CCSSE comparison group have a 44% and 42% male population. Since population number are taken from IPEDS which does include students who do not report gender, it is difficult to determine if the inclusion of this value in the CCSSE has skewed the data. The table below looks at the values for Population and Respondents for the three groups.

¹ Population data are those reported for the most recent IPEDS enrollment report.

	Polk State College		Large Colleges		CCSSE Cohort	
	Respondents	Population	Respondents	Population	Respondents	Population
Man/Male	38%	37%	43%	44%	42%	42%
Woman / Female	55%	63%	52%	56%	53%	58%
No Response	8%	N/A	5%	N/A	5%	N/A

Racial/Ethnic Identification

80% of our student respondents identify with a single racial/ethnic identity: 41% White, 22% Hispanic or Latino, 14% Black or African American, 3% Asian, 0% American Indian or Alaska Native, and 0% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. 8% identified with more than one race/ethnic category. 8% identified as race or ethnicity unknown. When compared to the actual student population Whites are underrepresented compared to respondents (41% Polk State Student respondents – 52% Polk State Student population). Blacks are also slightly underrepresented (14% Polk State Student respondents – 16% Polk State Student population). Students identified with more than one race/ethnic category, those not responding, and International students have higher proportions in the respondents compared to the overall population. This is a trend that is also found in the comparison groups.

	Polk State College		Large Colleges		CCSSE Cohort	
	Respondents	Population	Respondents	Population	Respondents	Population
Am. Ind or Alaskan Native	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	4%
Asian	3%	2%	5%	6%	4%	4%
Black	14%	16%	10%	13%	10%	12%
Hispanic	22%	22%	18%	24%	15%	17%
Pac. Isl.	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
White	41%	52%	44%	48%	49%	54%
Two or More	8%	3%	9%	4%	8%	4%
Unknown	8%	3%	8%	4%	7%	4%
International Non Resident	4%	1%	5%	2%	5%	1%

International Students

4% of our students responded yes to the question, “Are you an international student or non-resident alien?” But student population has only 1%. As illustrated above, the percentage of International respondents is higher than the percentage of International students in the population of the three comparison groups above.

First-Generation Status

19.1% of student respondents indicate that neither parent has attended at least some college; accordingly, these students are considered "first-generation." This is a higher percentage than the Large College Comparison Group (15.7%) as well as the CCSSE group as a whole (15.6%).

51.5% of respondents indicate their mothers and 39.6% of their fathers, have at least some college experience. While the PSC maternal education levels are similar to the Large College comparison and CCSSE comparison (51.4% and 52.4%) the paternal educational levels for Polk State respondents are slightly lower than the comparison groups (Large College = 42.8% and CCSSE = 41.6%).

Non-Native English Speaking Students

At our college, 22.2% of CCSSE respondents are non-native English speakers. While this proportion is similar to the Large College comparison group (22.7%) it is higher than the total CCSSE comparison group (19.2%).

College-Sponsored Activities

75.6% of student respondents do not participate in any college-sponsored activities (including organizations, campus publications, student government, intramural sports, etc. This percentage of non-participation is actually lower than the Large College comparison (81.2%) and the CCSSE Cohort (78.5%). That Polk State College respondents are more active than their comparison group is also indicated by the fact that Polk State College respondents participating 1 to 5 a week in these activities is 15.1% compared to the Large College Comparison (12.9%) and CCSSE Cohort (14.7%).

Total Credit Hours Earned

Polk State College had a lower percentage of respondents that reported having completed less than 30 hours (61.4% PSC, 64.7% Large College, 65.2% CCSSE Cohort). However, a greater percentage of Polk State College respondents report having 60 hours or more (11.2% PSC, 8.6% Large College, 8.8% CCSSE).

External Commitments

The table below compares Polk State values for External Commitments to Large Colleges and CCSSE comparison groups. Polk State respondents were closer in work related issues to the CCSSE Cohort than the Large Colleges where fewer students reported no work commitment and higher percentage of students that work more than 20 hours per week.

Time caring for dependents was similar among the three comparison groups.

	Polk State College	Large Colleges	CCSSE Cohort
Work Hours per Week			
None	23.5%	20.7%	22.6%
20 Hours or more	47.3%	50.2%	47.8%
Care for Dependents			
None	48.8%	49.1%	48.3%
20 Hours or more	18.9%	19.0%	20.9%

Goals

The table below examines academic goals among the three comparison groups. It is interesting to note that 'Obtaining an Associate Degree' was a much more important goal for Polk State College respondents compared to that answer for Large Colleges and the relative proportion of other goals.

	Polk State College	Large Colleges	CCSSE Cohort
Transfer to 4-year college	64.8%	71.8%	66.5%
Obtain an associate degree	86.7%	76.8%	77.9%
Complete a certificate program	35.7%	40.3%	43.3%
Career Change	24.0%	31.8%	32.9%