

NASPA CONSORTIUM: Diversity and Multiculturalism, 2009

Key Findings:

- This survey was administered to a sample of undergraduate students during spring 2009. Due to the administration of the NSSE during that same time period, the sample was selected from students who did not participate in the NSSE. A total of 571 students responded to the survey (26% response rate).
- The majority of students (84%) believe the University of Utah campus is diverse.
- The majority of students feel that the U encourages free and open discussions about difficult topics (68%). Most students also agree that the U is supportive of international students (84%), people with different ethnic backgrounds (83%), and people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (65%). However, only 13% strongly agree that the curriculum and course offerings at the U reflect the lives, perceptions, and contributions of people from diverse backgrounds.
- The majority of students (57%) have become more open-minded about diversity-related issues since starting college. Specifically, 61% have learned more about or become more aware of race, ethnicity and culture issues, 51% about political views and sexual orientation, and between 40% and 50% about religion/spirituality, life experiences, socio-economic status/class, and gender.
- Only 16% have witnessed discriminatory behavior on campus within the last 12 months, and even fewer (11%) have experienced it.

Actions Taken:

This survey will be reviewed as part of the Student Affairs Action Coalition “Student Programming” Committee. Practice recommendations will be generated for the Division of Student Affairs and disseminated to the Student Affairs Leadership Team, Directors and departments upon request and to the larger campus community as appropriate. Timeline: Fall 2009.