

INSIDE
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2020 Survey of

College and University Student Affairs Officers

A STUDY BY *INSIDE HIGHER ED* AND GALLUP

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THE 2020 *INSIDE HIGHER ED* SURVEY OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICERS

A study by Gallup and *Inside Higher Ed*



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FOREWORD

Inside Higher Ed's first-ever Survey of College and University Student Affairs Officers seeks to discover how these leaders respond to key issues and challenges that college students face today.

The study addresses the following questions:

- What issues command student affairs officers' time?
- How do student affairs officers evaluate the state of student mental health on their campus?
- How well are colleges able to meet the need for student mental health services?
- How do student affairs leaders assess race relations at their college and at institutions nationwide?
- To what extent have colleges promoted diversity and inclusion efforts on campus, and how much authority do student affairs officers have to implement such efforts?
- Are homelessness and food insecurity significant problems on college campuses?
- What assistance do colleges provide to their students who are homeless or food insecure?
- Do student affairs officers regard their college as a place where students can express their ideas and opinions freely?
- What steps should colleges take when students are not respecting free speech rights?
- Do student affairs officers believe their college responds to sexual assault allegations appropriately?
- What do student affairs officers see as the biggest issues with fraternities and sororities?
- How have colleges responded to problems related to fraternities and sororities?
- How do student affairs officers evaluate their college's athletics programs?

SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS

Some specific findings from *Inside Higher Ed's* 2020 Survey of College and University Student Affairs Officers include:

- Nearly all student affairs officers say they spent significant time in the past year responding to matters related to student mental health (94 percent) and student well-being (91 percent). Fifty-five percent of all student affairs officers, including 73 percent of those at public colleges, spent considerable time addressing student hunger and homelessness. Half of student affairs officers report they spent time addressing race relations on campus.
- Student affairs officers were less likely to say they spent a lot of time on substance abuse, interpersonal violence, free expression on campus, and Greek life, but majorities of those working at public doctoral colleges indicate they spent a lot of time on the last three of those issues.
- By 49 percent to 25 percent, student affairs officers agree rather than disagree that the needs of residential students dominate their agenda. The level of agreement is much higher among those at colleges with a high proportion of undergraduates living on campus.
- Fifty-eight percent of student affairs officers agree their college's president is familiar enough with student affairs issues that when he or she makes a decision on such matters, it is the right one.
- Student affairs officers are divided as to whether they are or are not spending more time on students' academic issues than they did in the past.
- Half of student affairs officers say they worry "a great deal" about student mental health on their campus, while 48 percent worry "a moderate amount." Just 35 percent evaluate the state of student mental health on their campus positively.
- Seventy-eight percent of student affairs officers say the number of student visits to campus mental health professionals has "increased a lot" in the past five years, and 63 percent say the same about the number of students receiving prescription medicine for mental health issues.
- Student affairs officers at public doctoral universities are less likely than their peers at other institutions to rate student mental health on their campus positively and to say they are satisfied with their institution's capacity to meet student mental health needs. They are most likely to say their institution has limits on the number of times a student can see a campus mental health professional.
- A slim majority of student affairs officers evaluate race relations on their campus as either "excellent" (6 percent) or "good" (48 percent). The recent *Inside Higher Ed* survey of college presidents found presidents much more positive about race relations on their campus, with 77 percent rating them positively.
- Among 14 different student groups, student affairs officers are most likely to say white students are treated well by other students on their campus (97 percent) and least likely to say black students are (57 percent).
- Eight in 10 student affairs officers say they have "a great deal" or "a fair amount" of authority to initiate diversity and inclusion efforts at their institution. Seven in 10 who have such authority indicate those programs have helped create a more positive culture on campus around diversity and inclusion.
- About one-third of student affairs officers say their college measures the percentage of students at their college who are homeless, and almost half measure the percentage of students who are food insecure.

SNAPSHOT OF FINDINGS (CONT.)

- On average, student affairs officers estimate that 5 percent of their students are homeless and 17 percent are food insecure. Community college student affairs officers' estimates of homelessness and food insecurity at their college are significantly higher than those at other institutions, especially private colleges.
- The most common types of assistance that student affairs officers say their college offers homeless and food insecure students are food donations (85 percent) and assistance in finding part-time work (79 percent).
- Seventy-eight percent of student affairs officers rate their college as being an "excellent" (22 percent) or "good" (56 percent) place where students can express their ideas and opinions freely. Those at public colleges are more likely to say this than those at private colleges.
- Sixty-eight percent of student affairs officers agree that students on their campus generally respect free speech rights. Seventy percent believe the same is true of faculty members at their college.
- More student affairs leaders say liberal speakers (83 percent) than conservative speakers (68 percent) are treated with respect when they visit their campus.
- By 54 percent to 20 percent, student affairs officers agree rather than disagree that those who disrupt speakers represent a threat to academic freedom. But student affairs officers are divided in their views of whether students who disrupt speakers should be punished and whether colleges should interfere with invitations to outside speakers extended by student groups or faculty members.
- While student affairs officers widely agree that higher education institutions must improve the way they respond to sexual assault allegations, they largely believe their institution appropriately handles sexual assault allegations.
- Student affairs officers are much more likely to disagree (50 percent) than to agree (27 percent) that sexual assault allegations are best investigated by local law enforcement rather than by colleges and universities.
- Student affairs officers tend to be positive about the role of social fraternities and sororities on their campus. Twenty-five percent say they are glad their college has a Greek system and say it is operating well, 64 percent are glad their college has a Greek system but would like it to improve, and 11 percent wish their college did not have a Greek system.
- Approximately three-quarters of student affairs officers say their Greek system has promoted leadership and social development among members. One-third or less see it as disproportionately responsible for the number of incidents of alcohol abuse and sexual abuse on campus.
- Most student affairs officers at colleges with a Greek system say their college has required anti-hazing (87 percent), sexual assault prevention (79 percent) and alcohol abuse prevention (70 percent) programs. Two-thirds or more say these programs have been at least somewhat effective in achieving their goals.
- More than two-thirds of student affairs leaders (68 percent) agree their institution operates intercollegiate athletics at the appropriate scope and scale. This includes 57 percent of those whose colleges participate in Division I athletics and 72 percent of those whose institutions do not.
- A majority of student affairs officers disagree that their institution should redirect resources and attention away from intercollegiate athletics to intramural sports and wellness activities.

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METHODOLOGY

This report presents findings from a quantitative survey research study that Gallup conducted on behalf of *Inside Higher Ed*. The objective of the study was to learn the practices and perceptions of college and university student affairs officers.

To achieve this objective, Gallup sent invitations via email to 5,628 student affairs officers, with regular reminders sent throughout the Jan. 16-Feb. 12, 2020, field period. Gallup collected 506 fully or partially completed web surveys, yielding a 9 percent response rate. Respondents represented 248 public institutions, 254 private institutions and four institutions from the for-profit sector.

Total Participation, by Sector

	All Institutions, by Sector				Public			Private Nonprofit		
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	For Profit*	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Associate	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.	Associate*
Total N	506	248	254	4	57	76	109	136	85	13

*Data not reported for these groups due to small sample size

Note: System offices and specialized institutions are categorized by sector but not by highest degree offering. Consequently, in some tables, percentages for subgroups (e.g., private doctoral/master's and private baccalaureate) may appear inconsistent with the total for the entire group (e.g., all private institutions).

Some sectors do not have data reported due to low sample sizes. Sector groupings are determined based on the 2018 Carnegie Classification for the institution.

Gallup education consultants developed the questionnaire in collaboration with Scott Jaschik and Doug Lederman from *Inside Higher Ed*. Specialty colleges – namely, Bible colleges and seminaries with a Carnegie Classification of 24 – and institutions with an enrollment of fewer than 500 students were excluded from the sample.

The survey is an attempted census of all student affairs officers using the most comprehensive sample information available. Gallup statistically weighted data to correct for nonresponse, matching the obtained sample to targets for all U.S. colleges and universities from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) database. Gallup weighted the sample based on institutional control (public or private nonprofit), four-year or two-year degree offerings, student enrollment and geographic region. Therefore, the weighted sample results can be considered representative of the views of student affairs officials at colleges nationwide.

The following sections present the findings of the survey. In some cases, reported frequencies may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. "Don't know" and "Refused" responses are excluded from the results unless otherwise indicated.

DETAILED FINDINGS

THE JOB OF THE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICER

To learn which issues student affairs officers commonly need to address, the survey asked respondents to indicate which of eight specific issues they have paid a significant amount of attention to in the past year. By far, the most commonly chosen issues are student mental health (94 percent) and well-being (91 percent). More than 9 in 10 student affairs officers at all types of colleges paid considerable attention to these matters, with the exception of 83 percent of community college student affairs officers who say this about student well-being.

More than half of student affairs officers, 55 percent, report devoting significant attention to hunger and homelessness. These issues demanded more time from public college student affairs officers (73 percent) than those working at private colleges (31 percent), with 78 percent of those at community colleges spending a lot of time addressing hunger and homelessness among their students.

Hunger and homelessness were also much more common issues for student affairs officers at colleges with a higher proportion of students living off campus. Sixty-eight percent of student affairs officers who indicate that less than half of their undergraduates live on campus say they spent a lot of time on hunger and homelessness, compared with 33 percent of those at colleges where at least half of undergraduates live on campus.

Fifty percent of student affairs officers devoted substantial time to race relations, including 46 percent of those at public colleges and 57 percent of those at private colleges. Community college student affairs officers (39 percent) were somewhat less likely to have spent a lot of time on matters of race relations, while public doctoral (63 percent) and private baccalaureate college student affairs officers (64 percent) were more likely to have done so.

Student affairs officers are much less likely to focus a lot of time on substance abuse (39 percent), interpersonal violence (34 percent), free expression on campus (31 percent) and Greek life (20 percent). Public doctoral university student affairs officers were much more likely than those at other types of colleges to spend considerable time on free expression (67 percent), Greek life (63 percent) and interpersonal violence (50 percent).

Please indicate which of the following issues you have paid a significant amount of attention to in the past year. Select all that apply.								
	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
% Student mental health issues	94	93	96	96	94	91	97	92
% Student wellbeing	91	89	94	95	97	83	96	90
% Hunger and homelessness	55	73	31	58	69	78	35	28
% Race relations	50	46	57	63	52	39	58	64
% Substance abuse	39	40	38	40	35	43	37	37
% Interpersonal violence	34	32	36	50	35	27	38	41
% Free expression on campus	31	33	28	67	41	22	31	30
% Greek life	20	19	21	63	37	<1	22	29
% None of these	<1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3

THE JOB OF THE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICER (cont.)

Slightly under half of student affairs officers, 49 percent, strongly agree or agree that the needs of residential students dominate their agenda. This includes 59 percent of those at private colleges and 38 percent of those at public colleges. Only about 3 in 10 student affairs officers at public doctoral colleges (27 percent) or public associate colleges (31 percent) agree with the statement. As would be expected, student affairs officers at colleges where a greater proportion of students live on campus are more likely to say the needs of residential students dominate their agenda – 65 percent of those at colleges where at least half of undergraduates live on campus agree, compared with 35 percent of those at colleges where fewer than half of undergraduates live on campus.

Student affairs officers divide about equally as to whether they are focusing more of their time on students' academic issues than they were three years ago. Thirty-six percent agree this is occurring, 32 percent disagree and 31 percent are neutral. Private college student affairs officers – particularly those at private baccalaureate colleges – agree they are spending more time than they used to on academic issues.

By 51 percent to 16 percent, student affairs officers disagree rather than agree that students' career services expectations have become unreasonable. Fifty-five percent of public and 45 percent of private college student affairs officers disagree. Disagreement is highest among those working at community colleges (61 percent).

Fifty-eight percent of student affairs officers agree their president has enough knowledge of student affairs issues that he or she makes the right decision on such matters; just 18 percent disagree.

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
The needs of residential students dominate my agenda.								
%5 Strongly agree	16	5	25	2	8	6	18	37
%4	33	33	34	25	46	25	35	30
%3	26	28	24	38	23	27	28	23
%2	15	19	11	22	18	21	17	3
%1 Strongly disagree	10	15	6	13	5	21	3	6
Compared with three years ago, I am focusing more of my time on students' academic issues.								
%5 Strongly agree	8	7	9	3	6	9	8	13
%4	28	25	34	18	27	24	29	37
%3	31	31	32	38	28	31	33	26
%2	21	22	19	29	27	19	23	19
%1 Strongly disagree	11	14	7	12	11	16	7	6
Students' career services expectations have become unreasonable.								
%5 Strongly agree	3	2	5	0	3	2	1	6
%4	13	8	19	8	11	6	18	19
%3	33	33	31	40	38	31	32	31
%2	32	34	30	30	40	34	35	26
%1 Strongly disagree	19	21	15	21	9	27	14	18

THE JOB OF THE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICER (cont.)

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
My president has enough knowledge of student affairs issues that when he or she makes a decision, it is the right one.								
%5 Strongly agree	21	23	18	15	17	30	16	24
%4	37	36	41	34	38	34	44	32
%3	23	25	19	35	26	23	18	23
%2	11	10	13	14	13	7	13	13
%1 Strongly disagree	7	5	9	1	7	6	9	8

Colleges may take proactive steps to attempt to address issues before they become problems. Given the struggles that first-generation college students can face in adjusting to collegiate life, 54 percent of student affairs officers say their college has a support group for first-generation students. This includes 76 percent of public doctoral university student affairs leaders.

Also, 14 percent of student affairs officials report that their college monitors student social media accounts. More private (17 percent) than public (11 percent) college student affairs officers indicate their college does this.

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Does your college have a support group for first-generation college students?								
% Yes	54	55	55	76	62	48	57	56
% No	46	45	45	24	38	52	43	44
Does your college monitor students' social media accounts?								
% Yes	14	11	17	11	23	7	18	15
% No	86	89	83	89	77	93	82	85

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

Given that 94 percent of student affairs officers report spending significant time on mental health issues, it is not surprising that the vast majority worries about student mental health on campus and most do not rate the mental health of students on campus positively.

Half of student affairs officers worry “a great deal” about student mental health on campus, and nearly all of the rest worry “a moderate amount.” Student affairs officers at public doctoral (68 percent) and private baccalaureate (66 percent) institutions are most likely to say they worry a great deal about student mental health, while those at community colleges (36 percent) are least likely to do so.

Asked to rate the mental health of students on their campus, 1 percent of student affairs officers say it is “excellent,” 34 percent “good,” 58 percent “fair” percent and 8 percent “poor.” Consistent with their greater worry about student mental health, public doctoral (25 percent) and private baccalaureate (30 percent) student affairs officers are less likely than their counterparts to rate student mental health on their campus positively.

Student affairs officers say the demand for mental health services at their campus has increased greatly in recent years. Seventy-eight percent say student visits to see campus mental health professionals have “increased a lot” in the past five years, and 21 percent say visits have “increased a little.” Sixty-three percent say that the total number of students receiving prescription medications for mental health issues has increased a lot in the past five years, and 36 percent say the number has increased a little.

While reports of increased numbers of students receiving prescription medicine for mental health issues is similar by college type, student affairs officers at public doctoral (89 percent) and private doctoral or master’s (84 percent) colleges are more likely than their peers to report significant increases in student mental health visits.

Sixty-seven percent of student affairs officers are satisfied with their institution’s capacity to address student mental health, but most of these are “somewhat” (52 percent) rather than “very” (15 percent) satisfied. Thirty-three percent are dissatisfied, including 8 percent who are very dissatisfied. Satisfaction levels are fairly similar by institution type, with the exception of public doctoral colleges — 54 percent of public doctoral college student affairs officers are satisfied and 45 percent dissatisfied with their institution’s capacity to meet demand for students’ mental health needs.

Amid the increasing demand for mental health services, 48 percent of student affairs officers say their college limits the number of times a student can see a campus mental health professional. Such limits are most common at public doctoral universities — 63 percent of student affairs officers at those types of colleges say their institution has such limits.

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Generally speaking, would you say the mental health of students on your campus is:								
% Excellent	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	0
% Good	34	36	31	24	38	36	33	30
% Fair	58	58	58	64	52	59	55	57
% Poor	8	6	10	10	8	4	10	13

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH (CONT.)

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
How much do you worry about the issue of student mental health on your campus?								
% A great deal	50	47	55	68	56	36	51	66
% A moderate amount	48	51	44	32	44	60	49	33
% Not much	1	1	<1	0	0	3	0	1
% Not at all	<1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your college's capacity to address student mental health?								
% Very satisfied	15	14	18	13	15	12	21	11
% Somewhat satisfied	52	52	51	41	52	54	51	55
% Somewhat dissatisfied	25	27	24	40	28	24	24	24
% Very dissatisfied	8	8	7	5	4	10	4	11
In the past five years, has the total volume of student visits to see mental health professionals on your campus:								
% Increased a lot	78	76	81	89	77	75	84	78
% Increased a little	21	22	18	11	23	22	16	20
% Not increased	1	2	<1	0	0	4	0	1
Does your college have limits on the number of times a student can see a mental health professional on your campus?								
% Yes	48	50	46	63	43	51	51	38
% No	52	50	54	37	57	49	49	62
In the past five years, has the total number of students on your campus receiving prescription medication for mental health issues:								
% Increased a lot	63	63	62	64	62	65	62	64
% Increased a little	36	35	38	33	38	31	38	36
% Not increased	1	2	0	3	0	3	0	0

The toll that efforts to help students with their mental health challenges can take on providers was brought into sharp focus last fall when the executive director of counseling and psychological services at the University of Pennsylvania committed suicide. More than 8 in 10 student affairs officers are either very (37 percent) or somewhat (45 percent) concerned about the impact that student mental health issues are having on the mental health professionals who treat those students. Public doctoral university student affairs officials are most likely to express concern, with 55 percent saying they are very concerned.

One way colleges can meet demand for student mental health needs is to hire outside service providers. About half of student affairs officers, 47 percent, indicate their college uses outside providers for mental health services, including 69 percent of those at community colleges. Student affairs officials at colleges employing outside mental health providers are generally satisfied with their performance – 91 percent are satisfied, including 30 percent who are very satisfied.

Faculty members can serve as an additional source of help for students needing mental health assistance. Three-quarters of student affairs officers say their college provides faculty members with training on what they can do to help students with mental health issues. Such training is likely to be voluntary, as only 8 percent of student affairs officers whose institution provides such training say it is mandatory for faculty members.

The vast majority (92 percent) of student affairs officers who indicate their college does not provide mental health training for faculty members believe it should do so.

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH (CONT.)

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
How concerned are you about the impact student mental health issues at your campus are having on the mental health professionals who treat those students?								
% Very concerned	37	38	35	55	36	35	30	39
% Somewhat concerned	45	47	42	40	53	45	51	39
% Not too concerned	16	12	21	5	9	17	16	20
% Not concerned at all	2	2	2	0	2	3	3	2
Does your college use outside providers for mental health services?								
% Yes	47	51	39	31	26	69	31	43
% No	53	49	61	69	74	31	69	57
How satisfied are you with the performance of the outside mental health provider(s) that treat your students?*								
% Very satisfied	30	28	33	N/a	N/a	30	29	41
% Somewhat satisfied	61	62	59	N/a	N/a	59	63	54
% Somewhat dissatisfied	6	7	4	N/a	N/a	8	5	6
% Very dissatisfied	3	3	4	N/a	N/a	3	2	0
Does your college provide faculty members training on what they can do to help students with mental health issues?								
% Yes	75	75	75	81	83	69	78	71
% No	25	25	25	19	17	31	22	29
Is training for faculty members on what they can do to help students with mental health issues:**								
% Mandatory for all faculty members	8	6	9	2	4	9	8	12
% Voluntary for any faculty member who wants the training	92	94	91	98	96	91	92	88
Do you think your college should provide faculty members training on how to help students with mental health issues?***								
% Yes	92	95	89	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
% No	8	5	11	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a

*Asked of student affairs officers whose college uses outside providers for mental health services (n=187)

**Asked of student affairs officers whose college provides faculty members with training (n=358)

***Asked of student affairs officers whose college does not provide faculty members with training (n=115)

n/a=Not reported due to small sample size

RACE RELATIONS AND DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS

A slim majority of student affairs officers, 54 percent, evaluate race relations on their campus positively, with 6 percent describing them as “excellent” and 48 percent as “good.” Seven percent believe race relations on their campus are “poor.” Public college student affairs officers (58 percent) are more likely than those at private colleges (46 percent) to say race relations on their campus are excellent or good. However, student affairs officers at public doctoral institutions are less positive than those at other types of colleges, with 38 percent rating race relations at their college positively.

As is typical for surveys of college officials, student affairs officers view race relations at colleges throughout the country as worse than on their own campus. Fifteen percent assess the state of race relations at U.S. colleges positively – about the same percentage who says they are “poor” (19 percent). The majority, 67 percent, describes race relations as “fair.”

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Generally speaking, would you say the state of race relations on your campus is excellent, good, fair or poor?								
% Excellent	6	6	3	5	2	9	2	4
% Good	48	52	43	33	56	55	42	40
% Fair	39	34	46	51	38	28	50	47
% Poor	7	7	7	11	4	8	5	9
Generally speaking, would you say the state of race relations on college and university campuses in this country is excellent, good, fair or poor?								
% Excellent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Good	15	16	13	11	9	20	14	9
% Fair	67	67	66	74	71	64	62	75
% Poor	19	17	21	14	20	16	25	16

As is typical for surveys of college officials, student affairs officers view race relations at colleges throughout the country as worse than on their own campus. Fifteen percent assess the state of race relations at U.S. colleges positively – about the same percentage who says they are “poor” (19 percent). The majority, 67 percent, describes race relations as “fair.”

The same questions about race relations were posed to college presidents earlier this year, and presidents are much more positive about race relations at their college than student affairs officers are. Whereas 54 percent of student affairs officers believe race relations at their institution are either excellent or good, 77 percent of presidents do. Presidents' evaluations of race relations at U.S. colleges, more generally, are similar to those of student affairs officers.

College Officials' Opinions About Race Relations		
	Student Affairs Officers	Presidents
Generally speaking, would you say the state of race relations on your campus is excellent, good, fair or poor?		
% Excellent	6	14
% Good	48	63
% Fair	39	21
% Poor	7	2

RACE RELATIONS AND DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS (cont.)

College Officials' Opinions About Race Relations		
	Student Affairs Officers	Presidents
Generally speaking, would you say the state of race relations on college and university campuses in this country is excellent, good, fair or poor?		
% Excellent	0	1
% Good	15	18
% Fair	67	66
% Poor	19	15

It is unclear why presidents view race relations as better on their campus than student affairs officers do. Perhaps student affairs officers have more exposure to problems with race relations than presidents do. Also, 15 percent of student affairs officers acknowledge they feel pressure from other college administrators to say race relations are better than they are, while 85 percent do not feel pressure. Reports of such pressure are more common among student affairs officers at private (19 percent) than at public colleges (12 percent).

Thirty-one percent of student affairs officers say their institution has done "a lot" to support diversity and inclusion efforts on campus, while 48 percent say it has done "some" and 22 percent "just a little." Four in 10 public doctoral university student affairs officers say their institution has done a lot to support diversity and inclusion efforts.

When asked about their role in promoting diversity and inclusion, 30 percent of student affairs officers say they have "a great deal" of authority to initiate such efforts at their college, while 54 percent say they have "a fair amount" of authority. Seven in 10 say efforts they personally have helped "a great deal" (19 percent) or "a moderate amount" (52 percent) in creating a more positive culture around diversity and inclusion.

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Would you say your institution has done a lot, some or just a little to support diversity and inclusion efforts on campus?								
% A lot	31	30	32	40	28	29	33	32
% Some	48	49	45	51	54	45	41	52
% Just a little	22	21	23	9	18	25	26	16
How much authority do you have in your role to initiate diversity and inclusion efforts at your college?								
% A great deal	30	29	30	32	29	28	33	29
% A fair amount	54	55	53	54	48	57	52	61
% Not much	15	15	14	13	22	13	14	9
% None at all	2	1	2	0	0	2	1	1
How much have the efforts you, personally, have taken to create a more positive campus culture around diversity and inclusion helped?*								
% A great deal	19	19	18	20	13	21	17	20
% A moderate amount	52	53	50	52	57	51	52	51
% Not much	29	28	31	28	30	27	30	28
% Not at all	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0

*Asked of student affairs officers who have some authority to initiate diversity and inclusion efforts (n=486)

RACE RELATIONS AND DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS (cont.)

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Do you face any pressures from other college and university leaders on your campus to say that race relations are better than they are?								
% Yes	15	12	19	12	12	13	20	18
% No	85	88	81	88	88	87	80	82

*Asked of student affairs officers who have some authority to initiate diversity and inclusion efforts (n=486)

Majorities of student affairs officers believe that students from all types of backgrounds are treated well on campus by other students, although there is wide variation. At least 9 in 10 student affairs officers believe white (97 percent), male (93 percent) and Christian (90 percent) students are treated well, and more than 8 in 10 say the same about liberal (87 percent), female (86 percent) and Asian American (82 percent) students.

Three-quarters of student affairs officers say Jewish (76 percent) and Latinx (76 percent) students are treated well, and 71 percent believe international students are.

Student affairs officers are less inclined to believe Native American (68 percent), conservative (64 percent), LGBTQ (61 percent), Muslim (61 percent) and black (57 percent) students are treated well at their college.

Assessments of how well student groups are treated are similar among public and private college student affairs officers. One exception concerns conservative students – 71 percent of those at public institutions versus 57 percent of those at private institutions say conservative students are treated well at their college.

Also, public doctoral university student affairs officers are more negative than others in their assessment of how minority groups including black, Muslim, LGBTQ and Native American students are treated at their institution.

How well are each of the following groups of students treated by other students on your campus?								
	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
White students								
% Very well	44	42	46	60	44	36	49	44
% Well	53	55	51	34	55	62	51	50
% Just okay	3	2	3	6	1	2	1	6
% Poorly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Very poorly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male students								
% Very well	29	28	30	46	32	20	31	24
% Well	64	67	59	47	64	75	62	56
% Just okay	7	5	9	7	3	5	7	17
% Poorly	<1	<1	1	0	1	0	1	1
% Very poorly	<1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2

RACE RELATIONS AND DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS (cont.)

How well are each of the following groups of students treated by other students on your campus?								
	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Christian students								
% Very well	34	30	40	44	24	28	48	37
% Well	56	61	48	43	69	63	43	46
% Just okay	9	7	11	13	7	6	9	13
% Poorly	1	2	<1	0	0	3	0	1
% Very poorly	<1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Liberal students								
% Very well	23	20	28	22	15	20	27	27
% Well	64	70	57	66	77	69	56	58
% Just okay	10	9	13	10	8	9	14	13
% Poorly	2	1	2	2	0	2	3	0
% Very poorly	<1	<1	<1	2	0	0	0	1
Female students								
% Very well	22	20	25	23	18	20	27	17
% Well	64	66	60	65	74	63	59	67
% Just okay	13	13	13	13	8	17	13	16
% Poorly	1	<1	1	0	0	1	1	0
% Very poorly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian American students								
% Very well	13	15	11	12	8	18	14	6
% Well	69	66	72	51	79	66	71	74
% Just okay	16	17	15	37	13	14	12	19
% Poorly	2	<1	2	0	0	1	2	1
% Very poorly	<1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jewish students								
% Very well	16	15	18	12	8	18	21	12
% Well	60	59	59	50	66	60	59	62
% Just okay	22	25	20	37	26	21	17	25
% Poorly	1	<1	2	2	0	0	3	2
% Very poorly	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Latinx students								
% Very well	15	17	12	16	8	21	16	6
% Well	61	61	62	51	64	63	60	67
% Just okay	22	21	25	28	26	14	23	28
% Poorly	2	2	1	5	2	2	1	0
% Very poorly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

RACE RELATIONS AND DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS (cont.)

How well are each of the following groups of students treated by other students on your campus?								
	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
International students								
% Very well	18	18	18	10	16	19	16	19
% Well	53	54	52	44	58	57	56	51
% Just okay	25	25	25	42	23	21	24	27
% Poorly	3	2	4	4	3	1	4	3
% Very poorly	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
Native American students								
% Very well	15	17	11	11	15	16	13	12
% Well	53	52	54	39	47	58	50	55
% Just okay	28	26	30	43	30	21	34	25
% Poorly	5	5	4	7	8	4	2	8
% Very poorly	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
Conservative students								
% Very well	13	15	12	9	11	17	19	4
% Well	51	56	45	44	60	57	46	44
% Just okay	28	25	31	34	24	24	28	32
% Poorly	6	4	9	11	5	2	6	15
% Very poorly	1	<1	3	2	0	0	1	4
LGBTQ students								
% Very well	14	14	15	6	13	16	9	16
% Well	47	51	43	43	47	54	41	43
% Just okay	32	30	35	44	33	26	37	37
% Poorly	5	4	7	5	7	2	11	3
% Very poorly	1	1	1	2	0	2	2	0
Muslim students								
% Very well	11	11	10	6	7	13	11	6
% Well	50	51	47	36	57	52	44	50
% Just okay	34	32	38	41	33	29	40	39
% Poorly	5	6	4	14	3	5	5	4
% Very poorly	<1	<1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Black students								
% Very well	11	14	7	11	12	14	9	2
% Well	46	45	48	39	47	48	43	52
% Just okay	37	36	38	38	38	33	40	42
% Poorly	4	3	6	9	3	2	7	4
% Very poorly	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	0

HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS ON CAMPUS

Increasing attention has been paid to the problems of homelessness and food insecurity among college students. Student affairs officers were asked their opinions about the accuracy of estimates by advocacy organizations that 10 percent to 20 percent of college students deal with housing insecurity and 40 percent to 50 percent with food insecurity. Most student affairs officers (66 percent) believe those figures are accurate. Twenty-nine percent of student affairs officers think the figures are too high, while 5 percent believe they are too low.

Many colleges, but less than a majority, take steps to gauge how widespread homelessness or food insecurity is on their campus. Thirty-four percent of student affairs officers say their college measures the number of students at their college who are homeless, and 47 percent say they measure the number who are food insecure. Those at public institutions, particularly public doctoral universities and community colleges, are much more likely than those at private institutions to measure these statistics.

Student affairs officers estimate that an average of 5 percent of their students are homeless and 17 percent are food insecure. The estimates are much higher among those at public institutions (7 percent and 22 percent, respectively) than among those at private institutions (3 percent and 11 percent). Community college student affairs officers give the highest figures, estimating that 9 percent of their students are homeless and 25 percent are food insecure.

Notably, student affairs officers who say their college measures homelessness and food insecurity provide higher estimates of the incidence of each than those whose college doesn't measure them. The average estimate of homelessness is 7 percent among those who say their college measures the number of students who are homeless versus 4 percent among those who say their college does not measure it. In terms of food insecurity, those who measure the number of food insecure students at their college say that 20 percent of their students are food insecure, compared with 16 percent among those whose institution does not measure food insecurity.

Also notable is the fact that the average estimates from colleges measuring homelessness and food insecurity are well below those estimated by the advocacy organizations – even though two-thirds of student affairs officers regard the advocacy estimates as likely being accurate. Even so, student affairs officers whose college measures food insecurity or homelessness are more likely than those whose college does not to believe the advocacy groups' figures are accurate.

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Does your college measure the number of students on your campus who:								
% Are homeless	34	44	19	45	36	48	20	18
% Are food insecure	47	59	31	63	51	63	34	23
Just your best guess, about what percentage of students at your college are homeless?								
% Less than 5%	56	42	76	51	52	34	80	76
% 5% To less than 10%	26	32	17	40	28	33	12	19
% 10% To less than 15%	9	12	4	6	13	14	5	3
% 15% To less than 20%	4	6	2	2	5	7	2	2
% 20% Or more	5	8	<1	0	2	12	1	0
Mean percentage	5	7	3	4	5	9	3	3

HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS ON CAMPUS (cont.)

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Just your best guess, about what percentage of students at your college are food insecure?								
% Less than 5%	16	9	26	13	8	8	29	25
% 5% To less than 10%	22	15	31	18	21	12	29	32
% 10% To less than 15%	14	12	17	16	19	7	15	19
% 15% To less than 20%	8	8	7	13	6	7	5	10
% 20% Or more	41	57	19	40	46	65	22	14
Mean percentage	17	22	11	16	18	25	11	11
Some advocacy organizations have estimated that four in 10 students at four-year colleges, and nearly half of community college students are food insecure, and that between 10% and 20% of college students deal with housing insecurity. Which comes closest to your view?								
% These figures are likely too high	29	25	34	37	31	20	39	31
% These figures are likely accurate	66	68	62	55	66	72	57	65
% These figures are likely too low	5	7	4	8	3	8	4	4

Many colleges provide assistance to students who are homeless or food insecure. The most common types of assistance given are food donations, something 85 percent of student affairs officers indicate their college provides. Seventy-nine percent say their college provides assistance in finding part-time jobs. Half or slightly fewer say their college offers meal plan assistance (50 percent), medical care (48 percent) and transportation (48 percent). Colleges are less likely to offer a place to live (35 percent) or child care (14 percent) to those who are food insecure or homeless.

Public institutions are more likely than private colleges to offer food donations, assistance in finding part-time work, transportation and child care, while private colleges are more likely than public colleges to offer meal plan assistance, medical care and a place to live. Those public-private differences are largely driven by the extent to which community colleges offer that type of assistance.

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Does your college provide students who are homeless or food insecure with any of the following?								
% Food donations	85	95	70	98	95	94	71	70
% Assistance in finding part-time work	79	82	75	80	81	85	78	76
% Meal plan assistance	50	44	58	70	54	34	60	60
% Medical care	48	42	57	64	61	30	54	62
% Transportation	48	54	38	39	47	61	36	44
% A place to live	35	24	53	40	38	15	46	70
% Child care	14	21	3	17	17	23	4	1

FREE SPEECH

Seventy-eight percent of student affairs officers believe their campus is an “excellent” (22 percent) or “good” (56 percent) place for students to express their ideas and opinions freely. This includes 84 percent of those at public colleges and 72 percent at private colleges. Student affairs officers at public doctoral institutions are most likely to say their college is “excellent” in this regard.

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Generally speaking, how would you rate your campus as a place where students can express their ideas and opinions freely?								
% Excellent	22	25	19	32	21	23	16	21
% Good	56	59	53	53	63	59	59	49
% Fair	19	15	24	15	15	16	22	26
% Poor	2	1	4	0	1	2	4	4

Student affairs officers are about as likely to agree that students (68 percent) and faculty members (70 percent) on their campus respect free speech rights. Those at public doctoral universities and private baccalaureate colleges are somewhat less likely than their counterparts at other institutions to say this about both students and faculty members.

By 41 percent to 27 percent, student affairs officers agree rather than disagree that their campus hosts speakers representing a range of political viewpoints, while 32 percent are neutral. Seventy-one percent of public doctoral university student affairs officers agree their institution hosts speakers with a range of political viewpoints, compared with no more than 42 percent of those at other types of colleges.

Majorities of student affairs officers believe that both conservative and liberal speakers are treated with respect when they visit their campus, but more say this applies to liberal speakers (83 percent) than to conservative (68 percent) ones. Just half of private baccalaureate student affairs officers agree that conservative speakers are treated with respect when they visit their campus.

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.								
	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Students on my campus generally respect free speech rights.								
%5 Strongly agree	15	18	9	15	17	19	10	4
%4	53	50	56	44	49	52	61	55
%3	25	26	24	38	27	24	22	26
%2	6	4	9	3	6	4	7	10
%1 Strongly disagree	1	1	2	0	2	1	1	4

FREE SPEECH (cont.)

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.								
	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Faculty members on my campus generally respect free speech rights.								
%5 Strongly agree	20	21	17	19	17	22	13	22
%4	50	50	49	41	54	51	60	39
%3	23	21	25	32	20	20	20	29
%2	6	6	6	7	6	6	4	9
%1 Strongly disagree	2	2	3	1	3	1	3	1
My campus hosts speakers representing a range of political viewpoints.								
%5 Strongly agree	14	16	12	18	12	18	10	13
%4	27	28	25	53	30	19	25	26
%3	32	35	28	20	36	39	25	34
%2	16	12	22	9	19	8	24	21
%1 Strongly disagree	11	9	13	0	3	15	16	7
Conservative academics and public figures are treated with respect when they visit my campus.								
%5 Strongly agree	22	24	20	15	17	29	24	18
%4	46	51	39	49	46	54	41	32
%3	23	19	29	25	29	11	24	37
%2	7	6	10	8	7	4	10	7
%1 Strongly disagree	2	1	3	3	0	1	1	6
Liberal academics and public figures are treated with respect when they visit my campus.								
%5 Strongly agree	35	33	38	24	30	35	31	45
%4	48	52	43	66	55	48	45	42
%3	14	14	14	10	14	15	16	12
%2	2	<1	3	0	0	1	5	1
%1 Strongly disagree	1	1	2	0	0	1	3	0

These same items were asked of college and university provosts in 2017. At that time, provosts were more positive about campus free speech matters than student affairs officers are today. Specifically, 81 percent of provosts said students on their campus respected free speech rights, and 86 percent said the same about faculty members. And 89 percent said liberal and 78 percent said conservative speakers were treated with respect on their campus.

Regarding their views on free speech more generally, student affairs officers are divided as to whether students understand why free speech is important in academe -- 29 percent agree that students understand, 34 percent disagree and 37 percent are neutral. Just 21 percent of public doctoral student affairs officers agree, while 48 percent disagree.

FREE SPEECH (cont.)

A slim majority of student affairs officers, 54 percent, agree and 20 percent disagree that those who interrupt, shout down or attempt to disrupt campus speakers represent a threat to academic freedom. Half agree that colleges should remove those who disrupt campus speakers from the speaking venue. This includes the majority of student affairs officials at private colleges. Eighteen percent disagree that those who disrupt speakers should be removed from the speaking venue.

Student affairs officers are reluctant to support punishment for those who disrupt campus speakers -- 27 percent agree they should be punished, 33 percent disagree and 41 percent are neutral.

Student affairs officers also have mixed feelings as to whether colleges should refrain from interfering with invitations to speakers extended by student groups or faculty members – 37 percent agree that colleges should not interfere, 32 percent disagree, and 32 percent neither agree nor disagree. Public doctoral university student affairs leaders are most likely to believe colleges should not interfere with such invitations. The 59 percent who agree is more than double the percentage of private college student affairs officers who hold the same view (28 percent).

When asked whether student groups having differential resources is a problem when it comes to promoting free expression on campus, student affairs officers divide evenly, with 36 percent agreeing and 36 percent disagreeing.

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.								
	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Students understand why free speech is important in academia.								
%5 Strongly agree	6	6	7	2	9	3	6	5
%4	23	25	20	19	31	23	21	16
%3	37	36	39	30	33	38	38	45
%2	26	26	26	36	21	28	26	26
%1 Strongly disagree	8	8	9	12	6	7	9	8
Those who interrupt, shout down or otherwise attempt to disrupt campus speakers represent a threat to academic freedom.								
%5 Strongly agree	18	17	18	16	21	17	16	23
%4	36	34	39	45	36	30	36	44
%3	25	25	26	21	25	26	28	23
%2	12	13	12	11	12	15	13	7
%1 Strongly disagree	8	10	6	6	6	12	7	3
Colleges should remove those who disrupt campus speakers from the speaking venue.								
%5 Strongly agree	14	12	17	8	13	13	17	18
%4	36	36	37	36	35	35	39	35
%3	33	34	30	31	29	37	29	32
%2	11	10	11	16	11	9	11	10
%1 Strongly disagree	7	8	5	9	12	6	4	5

FREE SPEECH (cont.)

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.								
	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Colleges should punish those who disrupt campus speakers.								
%5 Strongly agree	6	7	4	4	6	8	7	2
%4	21	19	23	18	18	20	26	22
%3	41	40	43	44	38	41	36	50
%2	22	20	24	17	24	18	23	21
%1 Strongly disagree	11	14	6	17	14	13	8	4
Colleges should not interfere with invitations to outside speakers extended by student groups or faculty members.								
%5 Strongly agree	12	15	8	24	16	11	8	10
%4	25	28	20	35	29	26	21	17
%3	32	29	35	22	29	29	28	44
%2	23	21	26	19	16	25	31	20
%1 Strongly disagree	9	8	11	0	10	9	11	9
One problem in promoting free expression on campus is that some student groups have far more money or other resources than other groups.								
%5 Strongly agree	11	12	10	11	15	8	10	11
%4	25	24	26	34	29	20	27	30
%3	28	26	32	23	30	26	27	38
%2	18	18	18	18	16	17	18	13
%1 Strongly disagree	18	21	14	14	11	30	18	8

Like student affairs officers today, provosts in 2017 were divided as to whether colleges should punish those who disrupt campus speakers (31 percent agreed, and 31 percent disagreed). But provosts were more likely to sanction colleges interfering with invitations to outside speakers extended by student groups or faculty members — 29 percent agreed colleges should not interfere, while 41 percent disagreed.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Colleges continue to grapple with sexual assault on campus. Most student affairs officers believe their institution handles sexual assault allegations appropriately, but they think higher education institutions, in general, need to improve how they respond to sexual assault allegations.

Eighty-eight percent of student affairs officers strongly agree (47 percent) or agree (41 percent) that their institution handles sexual assault allegations appropriately. Although no fewer than 84 percent of student affairs officers at any institution type believe their college handles such cases appropriately, those at public doctoral colleges are much less likely to strongly agree (33 percent).

Seventy-four percent of student affairs officers strongly agree (36 percent) or agree (38 percent) that higher education institutions must improve the way they respond to allegations of sexual assault. The level of agreement with this statement is higher among those at public (76 percent) than at private (69 percent) institutions.

Student affairs officers are inclined to believe sexual assault investigations should happen in-house rather than be turned over to law enforcement. Fifty percent strongly disagree or disagree and 27 percent strongly agree or agree that allegations of sexual assault are best investigated by local law enforcement rather than by colleges and universities. At 68 percent, public doctoral university student affairs officers are most likely to disagree that local law enforcement should take the lead in sexual assault investigations, while community college student affairs officers, at 37 percent, are least likely to disagree.

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.								
	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Higher education institutions must improve the way they respond to allegations of sexual assault on campus.								
%5 Strongly agree	36	39	30	29	40	40	27	35
%4	38	37	39	43	37	38	41	32
%3	19	16	22	19	16	15	24	22
%2	5	4	7	6	4	4	7	8
%1 Strongly disagree	3	4	2	3	4	4	1	2
My institution handles sexual assault allegations appropriately.								
%5 Strongly agree	47	46	48	33	42	50	47	51
%4	41	39	43	54	44	34	42	42
%3	9	11	7	8	12	10	10	3
%2	2	3	1	3	1	4	0	3
%1 Strongly disagree	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1
Allegations of sexual assault are best investigated by local law enforcement rather than by colleges and universities.								
%5 Strongly agree	11	12	10	4	14	14	12	7
%4	16	16	16	9	12	20	15	17
%3	23	25	20	19	17	29	20	22
%2	24	23	25	35	22	19	23	23
%1 Strongly disagree	26	24	28	33	34	18	31	29

GREEK LIFE

Four in 10 student affairs officers report that their college has social fraternities and sororities, also known as a Greek system. Fraternities and sororities are common at public four-year colleges but rare at community colleges. About half of private four-year college student affairs officers report having a Greek system.

On average, about one in six undergraduates are members of Greek systems at their college, according to estimates of student affairs leaders. A higher proportion of private than public college students at four-year institutions are involved in Greek life.

Student affairs directors are generally positive about having a Greek system on campus. One in four student affairs officers working at colleges that have Greek systems say they are glad their campus has a Greek system and believe it is operating well. More, 64 percent, endorse the idea of a Greek system but would like to see it improve on their campus. Just 11 percent of those with Greek systems say they wish their college did not have one.

More specifically, 77 percent of student affairs directors believe that social fraternity and sorority membership promotes leadership skills for members, and 74 percent say it promotes members' social development. Slightly under half, 47 percent, say fraternities and sororities are responsible for most student-run philanthropy on their campus.

Smaller percentages of student affairs officers acknowledge that possible downsides to Greek life are issues on their campus – 33 percent say fraternities and sororities are disproportionately responsible for incidents of alcohol abuse on campus, and 16 percent say the same about incidents of sexual abuse.

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Does your college have social fraternities and sororities (a Greek system)?								
% Yes	40	35	48	95	72	4	48	55
% No	60	65	52	5	28	96	52	45
About what percentage of undergraduate students at your college are involved in the Greek system?*								
% Less than 10%	35	46	24	36	54	N/a	33	14
% 10% To less than 20%	28	36	21	39	36	N/a	23	18
% 20% Or more	36	18	55	25	10	N/a	43	68
Mean percentage	16	11	20	14	9	N/a	18	23
Which comes closer to your view about the Greek system on your campus:*								
% I am glad my campus has a Greek system, and it is operating well	25	25	24	23	27	N/a	28	20
% I am glad my campus has a Greek system, but would like to see it improve	64	69	59	71	67	N/a	60	58
% I wish my campus did not have a Greek system	11	5	17	6	6	N/a	12	22

GREEK LIFE (Cont.)

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Which of the following reflect your views on social fraternity and sorority membership on your campus? Select all that apply.*								
% It promotes leadership skills for students who are members	77	81	73	91	77	N/a	74	73
% It promotes the social development of students who are members	74	78	71	83	76	N/a	68	79
% It is responsible for most of the student-run philanthropic activity on campus	47	48	46	66	39	N/a	51	45
% It is disproportionately responsible for the number of incidents of alcohol abuse on campus	33	32	34	47	18	N/a	31	34
% It is disproportionately responsible for the number of sexual assaults on campus	16	16	16	17	11	N/a	11	22
% None of these	8	6	9	1	7	N/a	12	4

*Asked of student affairs officers whose college has a Greek system (n=241)
n/a=Not reported due to small sample size

Colleges with Greek systems are taking proactive steps to address potential problems related to fraternity and sorority life. Eighty-seven percent say their college has required anti-hazing programs, 79 percent have required sexual assault prevention programs and 70 percent have required alcohol abuse prevention programs. About half, 46 percent, impose limits or bans on alcohol at fraternities, and 38 percent say they have resorted to frequently suspending fraternities or sororities that violate campus rules.

Most student affairs officers whose college has each of these programs indicate they have been either very or somewhat effective, ranging from 69 percent for required alcohol abuse prevention programs to 88 percent for required sexual assault prevention programs.

GREEK LIFE (Cont.)

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Which of the following strategies are you using to address potential problems related to the Greek system on your campus? Select all that apply.*								
% Required anti-hazing programs	87	89	85	96	88	N/a	88	82
% Required sexual assault prevention programs	79	77	82	87	71	N/a	86	77
% Required alcohol abuse prevention programs	70	70	71	81	63	N/a	72	68
% Limits or bans on alcohol at fraternities	46	45	47	63	35	N/a	50	43
% Frequent suspensions of fraternities or sororities that violate campus rules	38	43	32	64	28	N/a	33	31
% None of these	7	6	8	0	6	n/a	7	11
Do you think required anti-hazing programs on your campus have been:**								
% Very effective	17	16	19	12	20	N/a	13	26
% Somewhat effective	62	63	61	63	65	N/a	67	56
% Not too effective	19	20	18	24	14	N/a	19	16
% Not effective at all	2	2	1	2	2	N/a	1	2
Do you think required sexual assault prevention programs on your campus have been:***								
% Very effective	11	11	12	6	17	N/a	3	20
% Somewhat effective	77	77	77	76	76	N/a	85	68
% Not too effective	10	9	11	16	3	N/a	12	12
% Not effective at all	2	3	-	2	4	N/a	-	-
Do you think required alcohol abuse prevention programs on your campus have been:^								
% Very effective	5	4	6	-	9	N/a	4	9
% Somewhat effective	64	69	59	75	64	N/a	68	45
% Not too effective	24	21	28	21	19	N/a	20	41
% Not effective at all	7	6	8	4	8	N/a	8	5

*Asked of student affairs officers whose college has a Greek system (n=241)

**Asked of student affairs officers whose college has required anti-hazing programs (n=206)

***Asked of student affairs officers whose college has required sexual assault prevention programs (n=190)

^Asked of student affairs officers whose college has required alcohol abuse prevention programs (n=171)

Asked of student affairs officers whose college has limits or bans on alcohol at fraternities (n=114)

†Asked of student affairs officers whose college has frequently suspended fraternities or sororities for violations (n=96)

n/a=Not reported due to small sample size

GREEK LIFE (Cont.)

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
Do you think limits or bans on alcohol at fraternities on your campus have been:								
% Very effective	12	9	16	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
% Somewhat effective	64	63	65	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
% Not too effective	20	25	15	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
% Not effective at all	4	3	4	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Do you think suspensions of fraternities or sororities for violating rules on your campus have been:†								
% Very effective	13	9	20	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
% Somewhat effective	68	69	66	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
% Not too effective	16	19	12	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
% Not effective at all	3	3	2	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a

*Asked of student affairs officers whose college has a Greek system (n=241)

**Asked of student affairs officers whose college has required anti-hazing programs (n=206)

***Asked of student affairs officers whose college has required sexual assault prevention programs (n=190)

^Asked of student affairs officers whose college has required alcohol abuse prevention programs (n=171)

Asked of student affairs officers whose college has limits or bans on alcohol at fraternities (n=114)

†Asked of student affairs officers whose college has frequently suspended fraternities or sororities for violations (n=96)

n/a=Not reported due to small sample size

Many colleges engage directly with national fraternity and sorority organizations that have chapters on their campus in an effort to promote healthy and safe Greek life cultures. Sixty-nine percent of student affairs officers at colleges with Greek systems say their institution has “a great deal” (19 percent) or “a fair amount” (50 percent) of involvement with national Greek organizations, including 78 percent of those at public institutions. Three-quarters of student affairs officers regard that involvement as being at least somewhat helpful in creating a healthier fraternity and sorority culture on their campus.

Sixty-eight percent of those whose college does not have involvement with national Greek organizations believe that such involvement would be very or somewhat helpful in promoting a healthier Greek system culture on their campus.

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
How much involvement does your college have with national organizations for fraternities and sororities that have chapters on your campus?*								
% A great deal	19	22	15	22	22	N/a	14	15
% A fair amount	50	56	42	65	51	N/a	45	38
% Hardly any	25	20	31	13	25	N/a	24	41
% None at all	7	1	12	0	2	N/a	17	7

*Asked of student affairs officers whose college has a Greek system (n=241)

GREEK LIFE (Cont.)

	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
How helpful has your involvement with national fraternity and sorority organizations been in creating a healthier fraternity/sorority culture on your campus?*								
% Very helpful	17	14	21	12	15	N/a	10	34
% Somewhat helpful	58	58	57	55	60	N/a	71	39
% Not too helpful	22	24	18	25	25	N/a	16	23
% Not helpful at all	4	4	3	9	0	N/a	3	4
How helpful do you think more involvement with national fraternity and sorority organizations would be in creating a healthier fraternity/sorority culture on your campus?***								
% Very helpful	14	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
% Somewhat helpful	54	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
% Not too helpful	21	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
% Not helpful at all	11	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a

*Asked of student affairs officers whose college has a Greek system (n=241)

**Asked of student affairs officers whose college is involved a great deal or a fair amount with national fraternity and sorority organizations (n=155)

***Asked of student affairs officers whose college is hardly or not at all involved with national fraternity and sorority organizations (n=62)

n/a=Not reported due to small sample size

ATHLETICS

For the most part, student affairs officers are comfortable with their college's intercollegiate athletics programs. Sixty-eight percent strongly agree or agree that their institution operates intercollegiate athletics at the appropriate scope and scale; just 13 percent disagree. Sixty-five percent of those at public institutions and 71 percent of those at private institutions agree.

While a majority of student affairs officers participating in Division I athletics (57 percent) agree their college operates their program at the appropriate scope and scale, they are less inclined to agree than those at institutions that do not participate in Division I athletics (72 percent).

By 52 percent to 23 percent, student affairs officers disagree rather than agree with the idea that their college should redirect resources devoted to intercollegiate athletics toward intramural sports or wellness programs. Private college student affairs officers (27 percent) are somewhat more likely to agree with this proposal than are those at public colleges (19 percent).

Agreement levels are essentially the same between those at Division I (21 percent) and non-Division I (23 percent) colleges.

Using a five-point scale, where 5 means strongly agree and 1 means strongly disagree, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.								
	All Institutions, by Sector			Public			Private Nonprofit	
	All	Public	Private Nonprofit	Doctoral	Master's/ Bacc.	Assoc.	Doctoral/ Master's	Bacc.
My institution operates intercollegiate athletics at the appropriate scope and scale.								
%5 Strongly agree	29	29	29	25	25	34	27	26
%4	39	36	42	42	37	33	43	43
%3	19	21	18	23	27	17	18	15
%2	10	12	8	8	11	14	8	12
%1 Strongly disagree	3	2	3	2	0	3	3	4
My institution should redirect resources and attention from intercollegiate athletics to intramural athletics and wellness activities.								
%5 Strongly agree	6	6	6	0	3	11	6	8
%4	17	13	21	17	17	10	22	21
%3	24	25	24	37	23	21	26	23
%2	29	34	24	21	40	32	23	25
%1 Strongly disagree	23	22	24	25	17	26	23	24

INSTITUTION AND PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

What is your age?	Overall %
% Younger than 30	<1
% 30 to 39	14
% 40 to 49	30
% 50 to 59	38
% 60 to 69	18
% 70 and older	1

What is your gender?	Overall %
Male	45
Female	55

With which race or ethnicity do you primarily identify?	Overall
% White	74
% Black or african american	15
% Hispanic	7
% Asian	2
% Hawaiian or pacific islander	<1
% Native american or american indian	1
% Other	2

What percentage of undergraduate students at your college live on campus?	Overall %
% Less than 15%	38
% 15% to less than 30%	9
% 30% to less than 50%	16
% 50% to less than 75%	17
% 75% or more	19
Mean percentage	35
Median percentage	30

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