

De Anza College - Civic Engagement Survey Spring 2015

In spring 2015, all students enrolled at De Anza College were provided the opportunity to participate in the Civic Engagement Survey administered by The Democracy Commitment (TDC). The survey was administered via an online link and sent to 20,048 students enrolled at the end of the spring quarter. This resulted in 1,666 valid student responses for a response rate of 8%.

A similar survey was administered in spring 2014: http://deanza.edu/ir/deanza-research-projects/Civic_Engagement_Survey_CA_Pilot.pdf

Spring 2013: http://deanza.edu/ir/deanza-research-projects/2013-14/Community%20Engagement%20Survey_Spring2013.pdf

Spring 2012: http://deanza.edu/ir/deanza-research-projects/Community%20Engagement%20Survey_Spring%202012.pdf

Comparisons between years:

- The percentage of students politically involved by voting in local, state, and federal elections since entering college has increased from 41% in 2012 to 66% in 2015.
- The percentage of students volunteering to serve others in the community has seen a consistently positive trend; 39% in 2012 and 2013, 52% in 2014, and 62% in 2015.
- The percentage of students that agree or strongly agree they have increased their knowledge of global issues since entering college consistently measures between 60% - 72%.
- There has been a significant increase in the percentage of students who engage in community service as part of a class requirement with 27% in 2012 and 54% in 2015.
- The percentage of students who see themselves as part of the De Anza community has decreased from 69% in 2012 to 45% in 2015.
- Despite fluctuation in 2013 and 2014, the percentage of student who regularly obtain news (through Internet, television, newspaper, radio, etc.) has seen a slight decrease from 75% in 2012 to 72% in 2015.

Below are highlights from the spring 2015 results:

Civic Behaviors

Participation in activities prior to college and after entering this college:

- 73% of respondents stated they obtained news daily/weekly prior to entering this college while 72% stated the same after they entered this college.
- 40% of respondents stated they discussed politics, social, or community issues daily/weekly prior to entering this college while 44% stated the same after they entered this college.
- 22% of respondents stated they expressed their opinions on issues or politics via social media or the internet daily/weekly prior to entering this college while 24% stated the same after they entered this college.
- 4% of respondents stated they persuaded others to vote for a particular issue, party, or candidate daily/weekly prior to entering this college while 5% stated the same after they entered this college.

Participation in voting activities prior to college and after entering this college:

- 58% of respondents stated they registered to vote prior to entering this college while 57% stated the same after they entered this college.
- 58% of respondents stated they voted in a student election prior to entering this college while 75% stated the same after they entered this college.
- 67% of respondents stated they voted in a local, state or federal election prior to entering this college while 66% stated the same after they entered this college.

Activities after leaving this college:

- 37% of respondents stated that after leaving this college they plan to frequently/almost always work with others to promote social or political change.
- 69% of respondents stated that after leaving this college they plan to frequently/almost always help others who may not be as well off as themselves.

Civic Agency

- 62% of respondents stated that their experience at this college somewhat/to a great extent contributed to their ability to have a civil conversation about controversial issues with someone whose background or views are different than their own.
- 59% of respondents stated that their experience at this college somewhat/to a great extent contributed to their ability to have their views challenged by others.

- 49% of respondents stated that their experience at this college somewhat/to a great extent contributed to their ability to work with others to make a difference on campus or in their community.
- 48% of respondents stated that their experience at this college somewhat/to a great extent contributed to their ability to voice their opinion on campus, at work, or in their community.
- 60% of respondents stated they agree/strongly agree they have the tools to seek out information in order to develop an informed position on a social or political issue.
- 69% of respondents stated they agree/strongly agree they have the tools necessary to communicate with someone whose views are different than their own.
- 45% of respondents stated they agree/strongly agree that they see themselves as part of the campus community.
- 52% of respondents stated they agree/strongly agree that they see themselves as an individual who can have an impact on what happens in this country.

Civic Knowledge

- 13% of respondents stated their experience at this college to a great extent increased their knowledge of global issues, and another 65% stated their experience increased their knowledge of both national issues and issues facing their communities.
- 55% of respondents correctly identified the Supreme Court as the group of individuals that has the responsibility to make the final decision on whether a law is constitutional or not.
- 59% of respondents correctly identified that 2/3 or 67% of a majority is required in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to override a presidential veto.

I. Prior to entering this college, how frequently did you participate in the following activities?

	Never		Annually		Semi-Annually		Monthly		Weekly		Daily		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Ia. Participate in a group or organization	529	32%	214	13%	205	12%	221	13%	355	21%	147	9%	1,671	100%
Ib. Perform a leadership role in an organization or club	894	54%	154	9%	144	9%	149	9%	203	12%	119	7%	1,663	100%
Ic. Make a speech or presentation	504	30%	211	13%	380	23%	355	21%	163	10%	41	2%	1,654	100%
Id. Obtain news (through the Internet, television, newspaper, radio, etc.)	125	8%	58	3%	106	6%	150	9%	302	18%	920	55%	1,661	100%
Ie. Discuss politics, social, or community issues	325	20%	148	9%	204	12%	318	19%	397	24%	271	16%	1,663	100%
If. Volunteer in your community	455	27%	308	19%	316	19%	286	17%	242	15%	52	3%	1,659	100%
Ig. Engage in service learning as part of a class	783	48%	225	14%	227	14%	202	12%	128	8%	76	5%	1,641	100%
Ih. Express your opinions on issues or policies via social media or the Internet	647	39%	197	12%	210	13%	242	15%	214	13%	147	9%	1,657	100%
Ii. Recruit others to participate in a community or civic activity	907	55%	248	15%	220	13%	160	10%	77	5%	42	3%	1,654	100%
Ij. Sign an online or paper petition	711	43%	352	21%	326	20%	187	11%	52	3%	30	2%	1,658	100%
Ik. Raise awareness about an issue, campaign, party, or group	811	49%	273	17%	258	16%	168	10%	87	5%	52	3%	1,649	100%
Il. Raise money for an issue, campaign, party, or group	960	58%	273	17%	226	14%	122	7%	47	3%	22	1%	1,650	100%
Im. Participate in a local, state, or national campaign	1,203	73%	211	13%	131	8%	61	4%	24	1%	17	1%	1,647	100%
In. Persuade others to vote for a particular issue, candidate, or party	1,127	69%	244	15%	149	9%	69	4%	30	2%	25	2%	1,644	100%

2. Prior to entering this college, have you participated in any of the following activities?

	Yes		No		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2a. Registered to vote	963	58%	703	42%	1,666	100%
2b. Voted in a student election	959	58%	701	42%	1,660	100%
2c. Voted in a local, state, or federal election	1,119	67%	541	33%	1,660	100%

3. Since entering this college, how frequently did you participate in the following activities ?

	Never		Annually		Semi-Annually		Monthly		Weekly		Daily		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
3a. Participate in a group or organization	542	37%	136	9%	181	12%	171	12%	314	21%	119	8%	1,463	100%
3b. Perform a leadership role in an organization or club	856	59%	120	8%	120	8%	134	9%	156	11%	71	5%	1,457	100%
3c. Make a speech or presentation	378	26%	161	11%	318	22%	358	25%	185	13%	58	4%	1,458	100%
3d. Obtain news (through the Internet, television, newspaper, radio, etc.)	151	10%	47	3%	85	6%	119	8%	239	16%	814	56%	1,455	100%
3e. Discuss politics, social, or community issues	337	23%	103	7%	135	9%	237	16%	355	25%	280	19%	1,447	100%
3f. Volunteer in your community	549	38%	234	16%	214	15%	210	14%	192	13%	52	4%	1,451	100%
3g. Engage in service learning as part of a class	660	46%	189	13%	200	14%	165	11%	134	9%	90	6%	1,438	100%
3h. Express your opinions on issues or policies via social media or the Internet	591	41%	147	10%	166	11%	199	14%	187	13%	159	11%	1,449	100%
3i. Recruit others to participate in a community or civic activity	864	60%	148	10%	165	11%	148	10%	80	6%	35	2%	1,440	100%
3j. Sign an online or paper petition	622	43%	260	18%	265	18%	190	13%	76	5%	36	2%	1,449	100%
3k. Raise awareness about an issue, campaign, party, or group	751	52%	193	13%	178	12%	171	12%	97	7%	54	4%	1,444	100%
3l. Raise money for an issue, campaign, party, or group	985	68%	165	11%	129	9%	96	7%	48	3%	18	1%	1,441	100%
3m. Participate in a local, state, or national campaign	1040	72%	170	12%	112	8%	69	5%	34	2%	20	1%	1,445	100%
3n. Persuade others to vote for a particular issue, candidate, or party	986	68%	168	12%	137	9%	88	6%	39	3%	27	2%	1,445	100%
3o. Acted as a tutor, mentor, or coach for other students	595	41%	154	11%	182	13%	180	12%	225	16%	109	8%	1,445	100%
3p. Interacted with a professor outside of class	520	36%	144	10%	204	14%	281	19%	229	16%	72	5%	1,450	100%
3q. Studied or prepared for class	134	9%	37	3%	52	4%	111	8%	367	25%	746	52%	1,447	100%
3r. Attended a religious service	728	50%	152	10%	136	9%	141	10%	236	16%	58	4%	1,451	100%
3s. Participated in a racial/ethnic organization	943	65%	119	8%	143	10%	102	7%	92	6%	43	3%	1,442	100%

4. Since entering this college, had you participated in any of the following activities ?

	Yes		No		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
4a. Registered to vote	828	57%	634	43%	1,462	100%
4b. Voted in a student election	1,100	75%	362	25%	1,462	100%
4c. Voted in a local, state, or federal election	966	66%	490	34%	1,456	100%
4d. Taken a political science or government course	969	66%	493	34%	1,462	100%
4e. Taken a course that deals with social, political, or economic inequality	717	49%	749	51%	1,466	100%

5. My experiences at this college have contributed to my ability to :

	Not at all		Very Little		Somewhat		To a great extent		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
5a. Have a civil conversation about controversial issues with someone whose background or views are different than my own	285	21%	244	18%	560	41%	293	21%	1,382	100%
5b. Have my views challenged by others	244	18%	328	24%	536	39%	272	20%	1,380	100%
5c. Understand people from other culture, races, or ethnicities	124	9%	124	9%	467	34%	659	48%	1,374	100%
5d. Work with others to make a difference on campus or in the community	378	28%	325	24%	366	27%	303	22%	1,372	100%
5e. Voice my opinions on campus, at work, or in my community	388	28%	324	23%	401	29%	268	19%	1,381	100%

6. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements :

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
6a. Involvement in community or campus causes is important to me	100	7%	108	8%	533	38%	431	31%	217	16%	1,389	100%
6b. I have the tools to seek out information in order to develop an informed position on a social or political issue	75	5%	104	8%	366	27%	528	38%	305	22%	1,378	100%
6c. I have the tools necessary to communicate with someone whose views are different than my own	52	4%	72	5%	297	21%	613	44%	351	25%	1,385	100%
6d. I can be a part of something bigger than myself to effect change	44	3%	63	5%	309	22%	519	38%	449	32%	1,384	100%

7. I see myself

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
7a. As part of the campus community	122	9%	196	14%	451	32%	445	32%	184	13%	1,398	100%
7b. As part of a community outside this college	85	6%	125	9%	391	28%	554	40%	238	17%	1,393	100%
7c. As an individual who can have an impact on what happens in this country	94	7%	153	11%	425	30%	488	35%	234	17%	1,394	100%
7d. As someone who has something to offer the world	54	4%	87	6%	320	23%	557	40%	374	27%	1,392	100%
7e. As someone who can speak out for themselves and others	43	3%	67	5%	318	23%	562	40%	399	29%	1,389	100%

8. After leaving this college, how frequently do you plan to do the following ?

	Hardly Ever		Occasionally		Frequently		Almost Always		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
8a. Work with others to promote social or political change	340	24%	537	39%	339	24%	174	13%	1,390	100%
8b. Demonstrate leadership in my community or workplace	187	13%	401	29%	492	35%	308	22%	1,388	100%
8c. Help others who may not be as well off as myself	69	5%	351	25%	505	36%	463	33%	1,388	100%

9. Since entering this college, I have increased my knowledge of the following

	Not at All		Very Little		Somewhat		To a Great Extent		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
9a. Global Issues	340	24%	537	39%	339	24%	174	13%	1,390	100%
9b. National Issues	187	13%	401	29%	492	35%	308	22%	1,388	100%
9c. Issues facing my community	69	5%	351	25%	505	36%	463	33%	1,388	100%

10. What individual or group of individuals has the responsibility to make the final decision on whether a law is constitutional or not?

	Answers	
	No.	%
10a. The president	163	12%
10b. The Supreme Court	759	55%
10c. Congress	315	23%
10d. I don't know	150	11%
Total	1,387	100%

11. How much of a majority is required in the U.S. Senate and House of Representative to override a presidential veto?

	Answers	
	No.	%
11a. 4/5 or 80 percent	123	9%
11b. 2/3 or 67 percent	813	59%
11c. 3/5 or 60 percent	151	11%
11d. 1/2 or 50 percent	28	2%
11e. I don't know	268	19%
Total	1,383	100%

12. What is your current enrollment status ?

	Answers	
	No.	%
12a. Part-time (less than 12 units)	497	37%
12b. Full-time (12 units or more)	848	63%
Total	1345	100%

13. Approximately how many credits have you completed at this college?

	Answers	
	No.	%
13a. 0-12	227	17%
13b. 13-24	216	16%
13c. 25-59	399	30%
13d. 60-89	258	19%
13e. 90 units or more	242	18%
Total	1,342	100%

I4. What is your ethnicity ?		
	Answers	
	No.	%
I4a. American Indian or Alaska Native	13	1%
I4b. Asian	615	46%
I4c. Black or African American	28	2%
I4d. Hispanic/Latino(a)	213	16%
I4e. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	26	2%
I4f. White	297	22%
I4g. Two or more races	105	8%
I4h. Race/ethnicity unknown	8	1%
I4i. Nonresident alien	33	2%
Total	1,338	100%

I5. What is your gender ?		
	Answers	
	No.	%
I5a. Male	539	41%
I5b. Female	782	59%
Total	1,321	100%

16. What is your age ?		
	Answers	
	No.	%
16a. 19 or younger	426	32%
16b. 20-24	473	35%
16c. 25-29	157	12%
16d. 30-34	81	6%
16e. 35-49	123	9%
16f. 50 or older	80	6%
Total	1,340	100%

17. Please provide an estimate of what you perceive to be the income of your parents/guardians while you were in high school.

	Answers	
	No.	%
17a. Less than \$19,999 (Low Income)	277	21%
17b. \$20,000-\$59,000 (Lower Middle Income)	334	25%
17c. \$60,000-\$99,999 (Middle Income)	251	19%
17d. \$100,000-\$149,000 (Upper Middle Income)	167	13%
17e. \$150,000 or more (High Income)	69	5%
17f. I don't know	229	17%
Total	1,327	100%

18. How many hours per week do you work for pay ?														
	None		1-10 Hours		11-20 Hours		21-30 Hours		31-40 Hours		More than 40		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18a. On-campus	1,042	87%	58	5%	65	5%	21	2%	9	1%	9	1%	1,204	100%
18b. Off-campus	660	52%	120	9%	154	12%	127	10%	126	10%	85	7%	1,272	100%

19. Is English the primary language you speak at home ?		
	Answers	
	No.	%
19a. No	610	46%
19b. Yes	723	54%
Total	1,333	100%

20. What is the highest education level of ANY of your primary parents/guardians?		
	Answers	
	No.	%
20a. Grade 9 or less	99	7%
20b. Some high school, did not graduate	77	6%
20c. High school graduate (diploma, GED, or equivalent)	205	15%
20d. Some college, no degree	225	17%
20e. Associate degree (AA, AS)	110	8%
20f. Bachelor's degree (BA, BS)	319	24%
20g. Graduate degree (master's PHD, or professional degree beyond bachelor's)	252	19%
20h. Unknown	55	4%
Total	1,342	100%