

De Anza College Office of Institutional Research and Planning

To: Cynthia Kaufman, VIDA Director

From: Mallory Newell, Office of Research and Planning

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Subject: Assessment of Civic Capacity for Community and Social Change Metric, Spring 2022

The Civic Capacity, Belonging, Basic Needs and Mental Health Survey was designed to assess a variety of factors that could influence a student's ability to stay enrolled and successfully meet their educational goals. Those include a sense of belonging on campus, developing a sense of civic capacity to help others and an assessment of basic needs including food and housing insecurities and mental health as barriers to success. The survey was sent to all De Anza students enrolled during spring 2022 quarter. The survey was administered via email and remained open for two weeks. A total of 486 responses were collected.

The following is an analysis of the questions pertaining to a students' sense of civic capacity used to create an index to measure a student's belief that they are able to make a positive change for others. The results of the survey will be used to evaluate the Educational Master Plan goal for Civic Capacity for Community and Social Change.

Goal 9: Civic Capacity for Community and Social Change

Metric: The rate at which students report they are able to make a positive difference for others will be no more than 5 percentage points different for Black, Filipinx, Foster Youth, Latinx, LGBTQ+, Native American and Pacific Islander students, compared with all other students.

Summary of Findings

Overall, 89% of survey respondents indicated they had the civic capacity to make a positive change for others.

Filipinx and white students are least likely to report a sense of civic capacity of all ethnic groups while Black and Latinx students are most likely to report a sense of civic capacity.

Among gender groups, male students are least likely to report a sense of civic capacity while female students are most likely to exhibit civic capacity.

Younger students (20 and below) are least likely to report a sense of civic capacity, whereas those ages 31 and over are the most likely.

A focus on building civic capacity for foster youth, who exhibited the lowest rate of of the measure, should be a main focus, followed by students with a disability.

Table 1. Civic Capacity Index by Demographics, Spring 2022

	Connection	
	#	%
Ethnicity		
Asian	173	91%
Black	21	95%
Filipinx	11	85%
Latinx	68	91%
Native American	2	100%
Pacific Islander	6	100%
White	81	84%
Decline to State	64	79%
Gender		
Female	239	91%
Male	130	84%
Other Gender Identity	20	87%
Age		
Age: 20 and under	135	83%
Age: 21 - 30	107	88%
Age: 31+	147	95%
Other Groups		
Foster Youth	7	78%
PELL	73	95%
Disability	62	89%
Non-US Citizen	79	90%
Veteran	15	94%

To create an index for civic capacity, in order to measure the rate at which students feel they can make a positive difference for others in their community, students were asked to respond to five questions that focused connect with others and their community to influence change. If a respondent selected either 'great extent' or 'some extent' on three or more of the five questions, they were included within the civic capacity index.

The overall rate for the index was 88%, as displayed in Table 1 above, when disaggregating the civic capacity index, the lowest rate displayed was 78% for foster youth students.

Survey Questions

Table 2. Questions Measuring Civic Capacity for Community and Social Change, Spring 2022

	See yourself as a person whose voice and opinions matter		Voice your opinions on campus, at work, or in your community		See yourself as a person who can work with others to make a positive difference on campus or in your community		Understand issues in the world around you		Develop solutions to real-world problems	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Great extent	204	42%	170	35%	219	45%	230	47%	183	38%
Some extent	204	42%	219	45%	194	40%	211	43%	230	47%
No extent	73	15%	91	19%	67	14%	39	8%	66	14%
Unreported	5	1%	6	1%	6	1%	6	1%	7	1%
Total	486	100%	486	100%	486	100%	486	100%	486	100%

- Respondents selected ‘great extent’ at the highest rate for: understand issues in the world around you (47%) and see yourself as a person who can work with others to make a positive difference on campus or in your community (45%).
- The lowest rated response was at 35% reporting ‘great extent’ for: voice your opinions on campus, at work, or in your community.