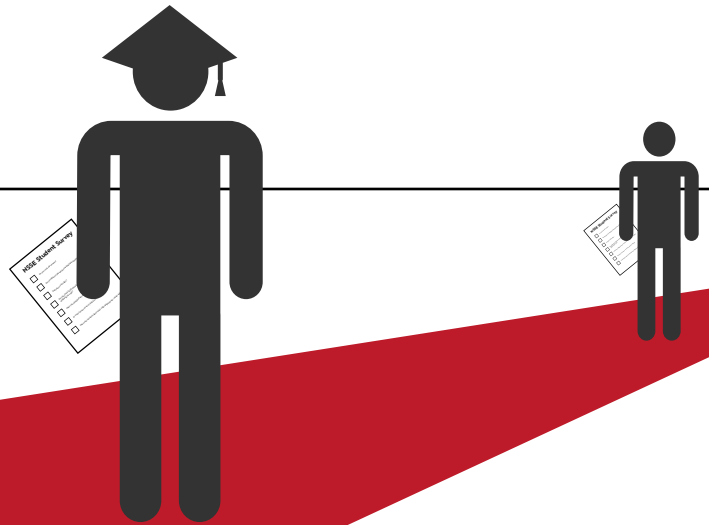


INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

Student Engagement at CSUN: Seniors in Spring 2015

Every other Spring semester, we invite CSUN freshmen and seniors to participate in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE; <http://nsse.indiana.edu/>). This national survey began in 1998 as a way to assess college students' engagement in behaviors that are associated with positive student outcomes. In this brief report, we focus on the seniors' responses to the 2015 survey. Data on seniors in particular help us to better understand what students' experiences at CSUN have been and how they have spent their time.



In the Spring semester of 2015,

1,673

seniors participated in the NSSE

response rate:
25%
of invited
seniors

*In nearly every comparison, respondents were similar to the general student population. The one exception was gender: women represented a larger proportion of respondents than in the general student population.

Who are our students?

CSUN seniors compared to seniors from other campuses.*

First-generation college student

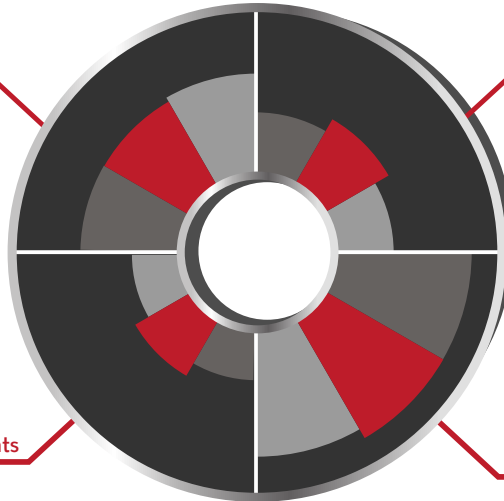
The percentage of CSUN's seniors who are first-generation college students is similar to other CSU campuses and to those at Carnegie peer institutions.

- CSUN 58.4%
- Other CSUs 58.7%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 61.2%

Started college career at same campus

CSUN seniors were more likely to have started their college careers at the same institution as compared with students at other CSUs and at Carnegie peer institutions

- CSUN 44.9%
- Other CSUs 36.5%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 35.3%



Traditionally underserved students

CSUN has a substantially higher proportion of students from traditionally underserved racial and ethnic groups.

- CSUN 36.2%
- Other CSUs 27.4%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 26.7%

Full-time students

A larger proportion of seniors at CSUN and at other CSUs are attending the university full-time as compared with seniors at Carnegie peer Institutions

- CSUN 82.7%
- Other CSUs 82.5%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 76.4%

Commute to Campus

CSUN seniors are quite similar to seniors at other CSUs in the the distance they live from campus and their commute time. However, they are more likely than their peers at Carnegie institutions to live within walking distance of campus, and to commute 6-10 hours a week. They are just as likely as the seniors at Carnegie peer institutions to live within driving distance to campus.



Live within walking distance to campus

- CSUN 19.6%
- Other CSUs 17.3%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 13.2%

Live within driving distance to campus

- CSUN 72.3%
- Other CSUs 73.9%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 74%

6-10 hour commute each week



CSUN 26.6%



Other CSUs 24.8%



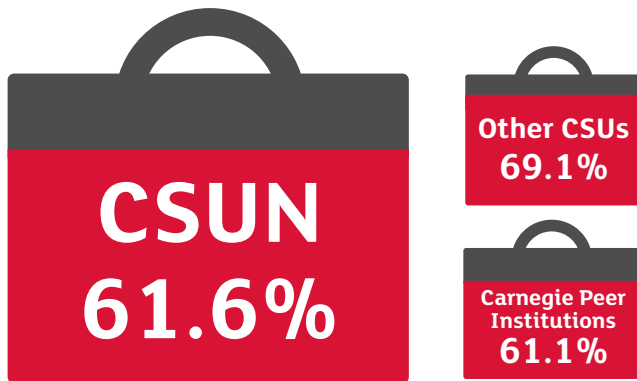
Carnegie Peer institutions 21.7%

*Other CSUs: Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Chico, Dominguez Hills, East Bay, Fresno, Fullerton, Los Angeles, Maritime Academy, Monterey Bay, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, San Marcos, Sonoma and Stanislaus. (Comparison Schools continues on to next page.)

How do CSUN seniors spend their time?

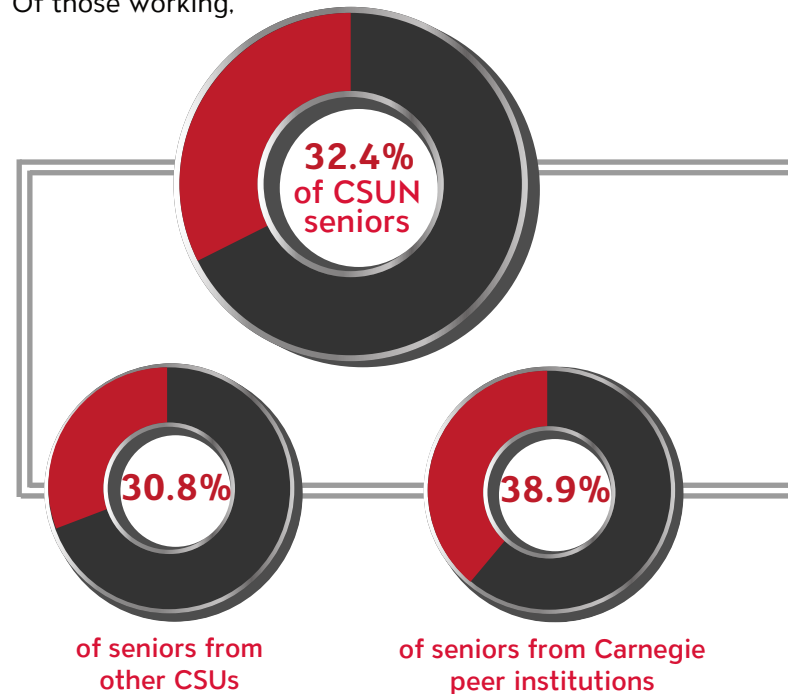
Time spent on selected activities

Working off campus



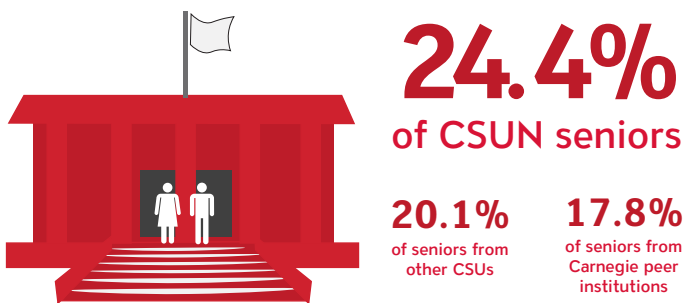
Hours of work

Of those working,



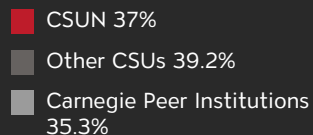
work more than 20 hours per week

Working on campus



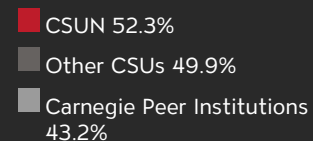
Relaxing and Socializing

Similar to their peers, CSUN's seniors are busy; only about a third could devote more than 11 hours per week relaxing and socializing.



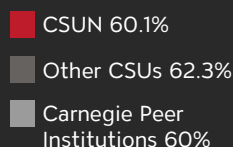
Co-Curricular Activity

Seniors at CSUN and at other CSUs are more likely to participate in co-curricular activities than their peers at Carnegie comparison institutions.



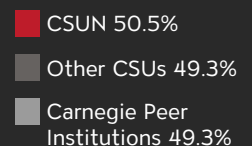
Studying

The proportion of CSUN seniors who spent at least 11 hours per week studying and preparing for class is consistent with students at other CSU campuses and at Carnegie peer institutions.



Community Service

Again similar to their peers, half of CSUN's seniors spent at least 5 hours per week doing community service or volunteer work.



How do students engage with each other?



Working with other students

49% of CSUN seniors were willing to **ask other students for help to understand course material**. This is similar to the 47% of seniors who felt the same from other CSU campuses, and substantially higher than the 38% at Carnegie peer institutions.

Seniors from CSUN and other CSUs were **more likely to have worked with other students on projects in class**. 75% of CSUN seniors had worked with other students on projects in class, compared to 71% at other CSU campuses and 64% from Carnegie peer institutions.

CSUN seniors were more likely to **prepare for exams with other students (55%)**. 50% of other CSU seniors and 42% of seniors at Carnegie peer institutions did the same.

About 65% of seniors at CSUN had **spent time explaining course material to other students**. This is similar to seniors at other CSUs (63%) but more often than those at Carnegie peer institutions (55%).



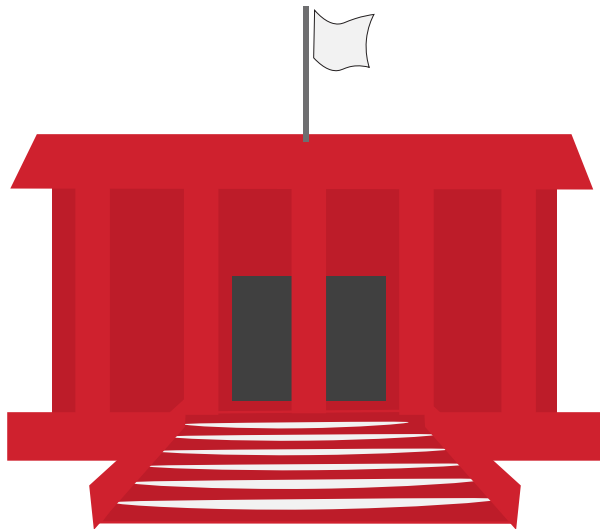
Embracing Diversity

84% of CSUN seniors had serious conversations with students from different ethnic backgrounds while at CSUN. This compares to about 81% at other CSU campuses and 78% at Carnegie peer institutions.

80% of CSUN seniors had conversations with students of different economic backgrounds while at CSUN. 77% at other CSUs and 75% at Carnegie peer institutions reported that they had had such an experience..

74% of CSUN seniors reported trying to better understand others' points of views while at CSUN. About 71% at other CSU campuses and 72% at Carnegie peer institutions reported doing the same.

What are students' opinions about their CSUN Experience?



The College Experience

84.7% of seniors reported having a **positive educational experience** at CSUN, much like their peers at other CSUs (84.2%) and at Carnegie peer institutions (84.5%).

Like their peers, most CSUN Seniors also report that they would **go to CSUN again if they could start over** (CSUN: 81.8%; other CSUs: 80.7%; Carnegie peers: 81.3%).

CSUN seniors were also similar to their peers in reporting that **college exams challenged them to do their best work** (CSUN: 87.5%; other CSUs: 86.4%; Carnegie peers: 87.1%).

Intellectual Skills

Seniors reported that their college education contributed to their ability in...

Critical and Analytical Thinking

- CSUN 84%
- Other CSUs 84%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 83%

Working Efficiently with Others

- CSUN 78%
- Other CSUs 75%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 72%

Writing Clearly and Efficiently

- CSUN 74%
- Other CSUs 74%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 75%

Speaking Clearly and Efficiently

- CSUN 73%
- Other CSUs 72%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 68%

Analyzing Quantitative Problems

- CSUN 67%
- Other CSUs 66%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 64%

Solving Complex Real World Problems

- CSUN 67%
- Other CSUs 63%
- Carnegie Peer Institutions 63%



Students' interactions with faculty at CSUN

Interaction with CSUN Faculty

CSUN seniors largely report positive experiences with faculty.

75.5% of CSUN seniors indicated that they found their faculty members to be available, helpful, and sympathetic (similar to peers at other CSUs, 76.5%, and at Carnegie comparison institutions, 77.5%).

Like seniors at other, similar institutions, most CSUN students reported that they have talked to instructors about their academic performance (CSUN: 75.2%; other CSUs: 74.9%; Carnegie peer institutions: 73.4%) and about their career plans (CSUN: 81.6%; other CSUs: 78.7%; Carnegie peer institutions: 77.0%)

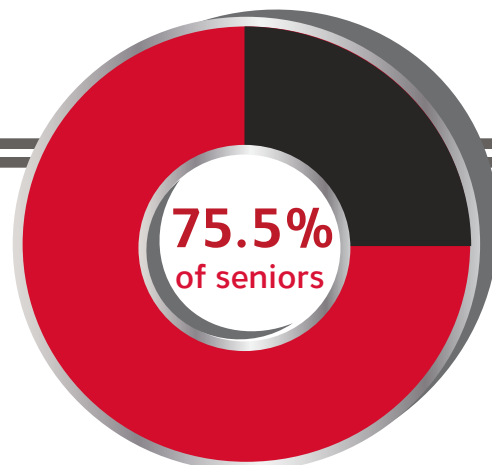
Student Support at CSUN

CSUN seniors are somewhat more likely to report feeling supported as compared to their peers.

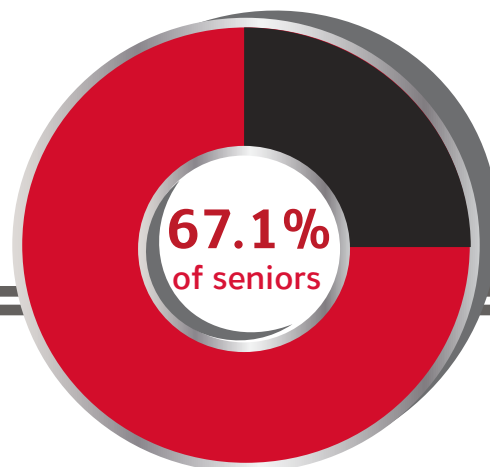
At CSUN, 73.0% of seniors report that they believe the university provided the support they needed to succeed academically, as compared with 68.8% of seniors at other CSUs and 69.6% of seniors at Carnegie peer institutions.

CSUN seniors are also more likely to report that they received the support they needed to thrive socially (CSUN: 67.1%; other CSUs: 62.3%, Carnegie peer institutions: 60.0%).

Furthermore, seniors at CSUN are just as likely as their peers at other institutions to report that they believe other students at the university are supportive and friendly (CSUN: 84.2%; other CSUs: 84.1%; Carnegie peer institutions: 83.4%).



found CSUN faculty members to be available, helpful, and sympathetic



found CSUN gave them the support they need to thrive socially.