Longitudinal Study of Involvement
At Texas A&M University
Freshman Year – Cohort I

Background
This survey is part of a longitudinal study that tracks what involvement opportunities students choose, what leadership positions they accept, and what they learn throughout their involvement in student organizations. This report covers involvement during the entire freshman year.

Two cohorts were recruited for the project through the Freshman Leadership Organizations (FLO) applicant pool during fall 2007 and fall 2008. This report covers Cohort I which consisted of 254 freshmen who initially registered for the project. There were three surveys implemented during the year. The October 2007 survey had a response rate of 68%. The February 2008 survey had a response rate of 43%. And the April 2008 survey had a response rate of 45%.

Results

High School Involvement
- 97% were involved in at least one student organization in high school
- 72% served in leadership positions in their high school organizations

Bryan/College Station (BCS) Involvement
- 71% of participants were not involved in BCS community organizations, although many of those who said they were involved listed campus organizations instead of community groups
- The main reasons for not being involved were lack of time and having different priorities

Texas A&M Involvement
- 86% were involved in campus organizations in October 2007
- 92% were involved in campus organizations in January 2008
- 82% were involved in campus organizations in April 2008
- The main reason for not getting involved was not making it into a preferred organization.
- The main reason for getting involved were to contribute to personal development and fulfill interests
- 15% said they stopped their involvement in campus organizations. Reasons included changing interests, changes within the organizations, and scheduling conflicts

Texas A&M Leadership
- Up to 19% of participants served in a leadership position in their campus organizations during their freshman year

Employment
- 10% were employed in October 2007
- 19% were employed in January 2008
- 80% said they planned to work during the summer in 2008

Skill Development
Participants were asked where they used specific skills during the school year. The following results indicate how many participants believed they had used the skills within their campus organizations during the year:

- 72% used time management skills
- 64% used project management skills
- 62% used interpersonal communication skills
- 60% used written communication skills
- 57% used group dynamics skills
- 48% used public speaking skills
- 43% used critical thinking skills
- 42% used delegation skills
- 33% used effective meeting skills

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For a complete report, please visit the Student Life Studies web page.