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

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 II which consisted of 406 freshmen who initially registered for the project. There were three surveys implemented during the year. The October 2008 survey had a response rate of 64%. The February 2009 survey had a response rate of 29%. And the April 2009 survey had a response rate of 34%.

Results

High School Involvement
• 97% were involved in at least one student organization in high school
• 86% served in leadership positions in their high school organizations

Bryan/College Station (BCS) Involvement
• 92% of participants were not involved in BCS community organizations
• The main reasons for not being involved were lack of time and a lack of information

Texas A&M Involvement
• 85% were involved in campus organizations in October 2008
• 90% were involved in campus organizations in January 2009
• 89% were involved in campus organizations in April 2009

• The main reason for not getting involved was not making it into a preferred organization.
• The main reasons for getting involved were to contribute to personal development and fulfill interests
• 17% said they stopped their involvement in campus organizations. Reasons included being busy, losing interest, and having other priorities

Texas A&M Leadership
• Up to 31% of participants served in a leadership position in their campus organizations during their freshman year

Employment
• 8% were employed while in school in October 2008
• 16% were employed while in school in January 2009
• 82% said they planned to work during the summer in 2009

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:

• 79% used time management skills
• 69% used project management skills
• 63% used group dynamics skills
• 60% used written communication skills
• 56% used interpersonal communication skills
• 54% used public speaking skills
• 50% used critical thinking skills
• 44% used effective meeting skills
• 44% used delegation skills

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