Background
The Your First College Year (YFCY) freshman survey, coordinated through the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA, surveys first year students at the end of their freshman year.

In 2007, all freshmen at Texas A&M were asked to complete the survey on-line. Of the 5,810 students in the population, 988 freshmen completed at least a portion of the instrument for a response rate of 17%.

Results
Students rating themselves “above average” or “highest 10%” compared with the average person their age in:
- 75% Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people
- 69% Tolerance of others with different beliefs
- 67% Ability to see the world from someone else’s perspective
- 63% Ability to discuss and negotiate controversial issues
- 57% Openness to having my own challenged

Students indicating they “agree” or “strongly agree” with the following statements:
- 90% I see myself as part of the campus community
- 82% My college experiences have exposed me to diverse opinions, cultures, and values
- 24% In class, I have heard faculty express stereotypes about racial/ethnic groups
- 23% In class, I have heard faculty express stereotypes about women
- 23% There is a lot of racial tension on this campus
- 20% In class, I have heard faculty express stereotypes about men
- 13% I have felt discriminated against based on my gender
- 12% I have felt discriminated against based on my race/ethnicity
- 10% I have felt discriminated against based on my religion
- 9% I have felt discriminated against based on my socio-economic status
- 3% I have felt discriminated against based on my sexual orientation

Students indicating they “very often” or “often” experienced the following with students from a racial/ethnic group other than their own:
- 38% Dined or shared a meal
- 32% Socialized or partied
- 31% Studied or prepared for class
- 30% Had intellectual discussions outside of class
- 30% Shared personal feelings and problems
- 23% Had meaningful and honest discussions about race/ethnic relations outside of class
- 9% Attended events sponsored by other racial/ethnic groups
- 7% Had guarded, cautious interactions
- 4% Had tense, somewhat hostile interactions
- 3% Felt insulted or threatened because of race/ethnicity

Students reporting objectives considered “very important” or “essential”:
- 56% Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures
- 51% Engaging with members of my own racial/ethnic group
- 35% Helping to promote racial understanding

Students noting they are “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with:
- 82% Overall sense of community among students
- 76% Respect for the expression of diverse beliefs
- 54% Racial/ethnic diversity of faculty
- 52% Racial/ethnic diversity of student body

Since entering college, how has it been to develop close friendships with students of a different racial/ethnic group?
- 32% Very easy
- 47% Somewhat easy
- 18% Somewhat difficult
- 3% Very difficult

For more information visit http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/yfcy.html or http://studentlifestudies.tamu.edu/

Prepared on: October 18, 2008