

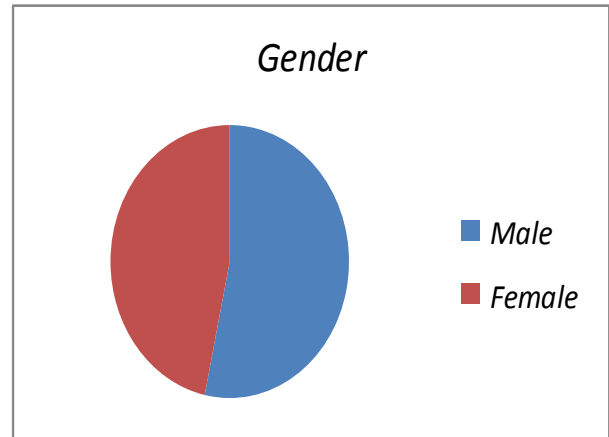
*Student Involvement Survey: A closer look at the  
gender differences within our student body*

*Student Life Research and  
Assessment*

*April, 2010*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Ohio State Student Involvement Survey is designed to collect information on the extent to which students participate in social and academic activities, and utilize university services and resources. Questions are also included in hopes of understanding students' expectations of, and satisfaction with, their OSU experience. The information provided by this survey will help inform the university of the needs of diverse student groups, based on which effective policies and practices may be identified to improve student college integration and satisfaction.



This survey was conducted through the Office of Student Life Research and Assessment at the Ohio State University.

Participation in this survey was completely voluntary and all responses were confidential, with the reporting done in the aggregate so that no individual can be identified. Students were sent an initial email requesting their participation. In order to take the survey, students were asked to click on a web link to continue and had the opportunity even once the link was clicked to opt out of the survey. All students were sent two reminders before the survey closed.

The survey was sent to a random sample of approximately 10,000 undergraduate students at Ohio State University during the winter quarter of 2009. The sample was drawn from the Office of Student Life Research and Assessment. Out of the entire sample, a total of 1,957 students responded for a response rate of 19.6%.

## **ANALYSIS**

The survey can be broken down and analyzed from several angles. Gender has been a longstanding point of interest for many researchers. It gives us a picture of what students tend to be more involved. More importantly however, it provides us with information to make decisions as to how we can target populations in the future. The following brief will focus on several questions related to student involvement and their experiences at The Ohio State University through the lens of the student's gender.

## DEMOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS

The following general demographic information also provides a more detailed look at Ohio State's student population in terms of their gender:

### Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	1,037	53.0%
Female	906	47.0%
Total	1,943	100.0%

There is a strong and relatively equal representation of both male and female students who responded to the involvement survey.

### Race/Ethnicity

	Male	Female	Total
American Indian/Eskimo	2	3	5
Asian/Pacific Islander	51	40	91
Black	59	86	145
Hispanic	32	21	53
Other	69	46	115
White, Non-Hispanic	824	710	1,534
Total	1,037	906	1,943

### Student status upon entering Ohio State

	Male	Female	Total
New First Quarter Freshmen	746	699	1,445
Transfer	276	194	470
Total	1,022	893	1,915

Transfer students comprise only 25% of the entire student population to take the involvement survey.

### Class rank

	Male	Female	Total
Freshmen	136	136	272
Sophomore	211	195	406
Junior	259	220	479
Senior	415	352	767
Special Student CPS	1	0	1
Irregular	14	3	17
Special Student	1	0	2
Total	1,037	906	1,943

## QUESTIONS OF INTEREST

The following survey questions provide a further look at the level of involvement commitment and satisfaction each ethnic group has to Ohio State.

How often do you participate in campus events and activities (e.g. lectures, cultural festivals, athletic events)?

	Male	Female	Total
Never	54 5.5%	44 5.2%	98 5.4%
Occasionally	153 15.6%	130 15.4%	283 15.5%
Sometimes	274 28.0%	222 26.2%	496 27.2%
Often	241 24.6%	218 25.8%	459 25.2%
Very often	193 19.7%	192 22.7%	385 21.1%
Always	64 6.5%	40 4.7%	104 5.7%
Total	979 100.0%	846 100.0%	1,825 100.0%

Female students are slightly more involved in campus activities on a regular basis (53.2%) than their male counterparts (50.8%)

How often do you raise questions in class?

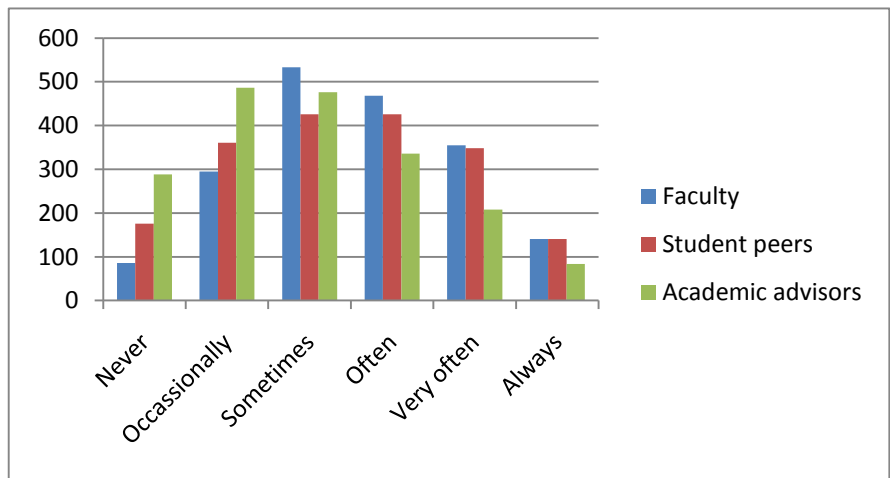
	Male	Female	Total
Never	115 11.4%	110 12.6%	225 12.0%
Occasionally	220 21.9%	187 21.4%	407 21.7%
Sometimes	272 27.1%	244 27.9%	516 27.5%
Often	190 18.9%	144 16.5%	334 17.8%
Very often	139 13.8%	125 14.3%	264 14.1%
Always	69 6.9%	63 7.2%	132 7.0%
Total	1,005 100.0%	873 100.0%	1,878 100.0%

**How often do you answer questions in class?**

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Never</b>	61 6.1%	73 8.4%	134 7.1%
<b>Occasionally</b>	191 19.0%	156 17.9%	347 18.5%
<b>Sometimes</b>	285 28.4%	257 29.4%	542 28.9%
<b>Often</b>	224 22.3%	167 19.1%	391 20.8%
<b>Very often</b>	165 16.4%	152 17.4%	317 16.9%
<b>Always</b>	79 7.9%	68 7.8%	147 7.8%
<b>Total</b>	1,005 100.0%	873 100.0%	1,878 100.0%

*Male students are slightly inclined to participate in classroom discussions on a regular basis than female students.*

**How often do you contact the following individuals for academic purposes (discuss assignments, grades, course related topics and subjects, etc.)?**



## CONCLUSION

As we look at the level of involvement of male and female students at Ohio State University, there is valuable information we can gather. On a whole, the majority of students responding to this survey are involved in some type of campus activity on a regular basis. Male and female students participate equally in these programs and services. However, additional followup is recommended for minority and transfer students as they are largely underrepresented in this survey. In addition, it would be also valuable to further investigate the student rankings as several of those listed with a special status (ie special student, irregular student) did not participate.

## IMPLICATIONS

The Office of Student Life maintains a strong commitment to meet the ever changing needs of the student body to ensure their success at Ohio State. How do the results from this survey alter the way we currently engage with students and inspire change in our practices as we look towards the future? It is encouraging to see that both male and female students are not only equally represented in the survey results, but that both parties also participate in campus activities on a regular basis. Not only do they both feel welcomed to participate out of the classroom, but inside as well with their professors and other peers. How can we let those in academia know of this correlation? How can we encourage them in their work with undergraduate students?

*The Office of Student Life is committed to eliminating barriers to student success; helping students develop their skills in leadership, teamwork, decision-making, communication and problem-solving; creating a climate of support and appreciation for all; and collaborating with academic units to integrate classroom and co-curricular activities to provide a meaningful and cohesive total learning experience.*

The report indicates that minority and transfer students are under represented in the survey results. What can we do in our individual areas to better reach these students? What activities and forums can we provide to help them feel a part of the larger Ohio State community? How can we better target these students in our admissions process?