

# **Campus Involvement and Student Outcomes: Results from the 2017 Student Life Survey**

Center for the Study of Student Life

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report examines the benefits of involvement on campus using data from the 2017 Student Life Survey, which includes a random sample of undergraduate students on the Columbus campus.

- Almost 80% of undergraduate students' report being involved in at least one of the following campus activities:

Student organization	Undergraduate research
Student Life sponsored program	Intramural sports
Social fraternity or sorority	On-campus student employment
Community service or service-learning	
- Students who are involved on campus have significantly higher cumulative grade point averages (3.29) than students who are not involved (2.85).

Compared to uninvolved students,  
the odds of **involved students** are...

- 2.6x Higher that they report having grown as a result of their experiences at Ohio State
- 2.4x Higher that they report feeling a sense of belonging on campus
- 2.3x Higher that they report taking part or participating in Ohio State traditions
- 2.2x Higher that they report having relationships with other Ohio State students
- 2.0x Higher that they report that they have relationships with Ohio State faculty
- 1.8x Higher that they report that they have relationships with Ohio State staff



## INTRODUCTION

This report explores campus involvement among students at The Ohio State University. Involvement in on-campus activities during college play a critical role in student success, from bolstering a students' sense of belonging to increasing retention and academic success (Tinto, 1993; Finn, 1989). Involvement fosters experiential learning during college, which is linked to getting a good job after graduation, workplace involvement, overall well-being and alumni attachment (Gallup, 2015). This report examines overall involvement, demographic differences in involvement and how involvement is associated with students' attitudes, relationships and satisfaction with Ohio State as well as cumulative grade point average.

## METHODS

The Student Life Survey is administered annually by the Center for the Study of Student Life to examine trends in student involvement and sense of belonging as well as to improve institutional practices and to address current issues affecting students at Ohio State.

The 2017 Student Life Survey was administered to random samples of 4,000 undergraduate students and 1,000 graduate and professional students on the Columbus campus. A total of 1,288 students responded to the survey, for an overall response rate of 25.8%. The response rate was 24.1% among undergraduate students and 32.4% among graduate and professional students. This report focuses on undergraduate students only.

Campus involvement is measured as participation in one or more of the following activities:

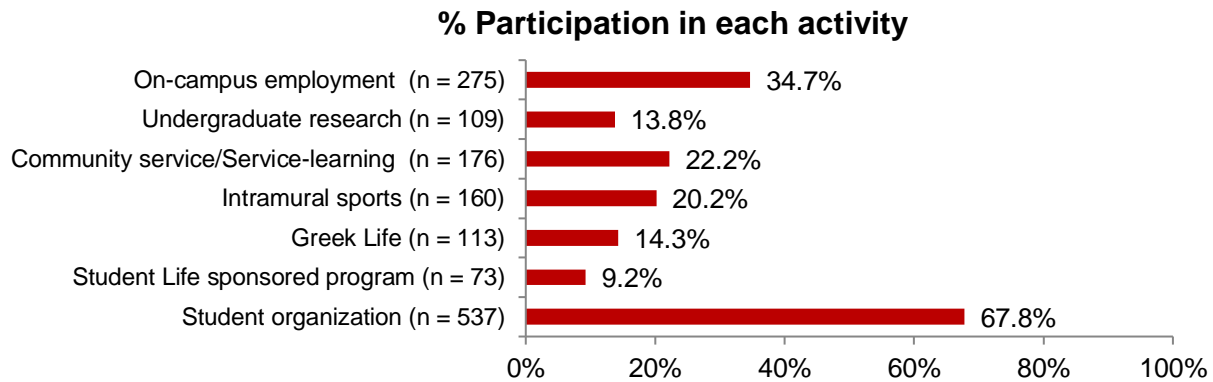
- Student organization
- Student Life sponsored program
- Social fraternity or sorority
- Community service or service-learning
- Undergraduate research
- Intramural sports
- On-campus student employment

Demographic differences in involvement and relationships between involvement and students' outcomes are tested using chi-square tests of independence, t-tests, and logistic and multivariate regression to determine if there are statistically significant relationships.

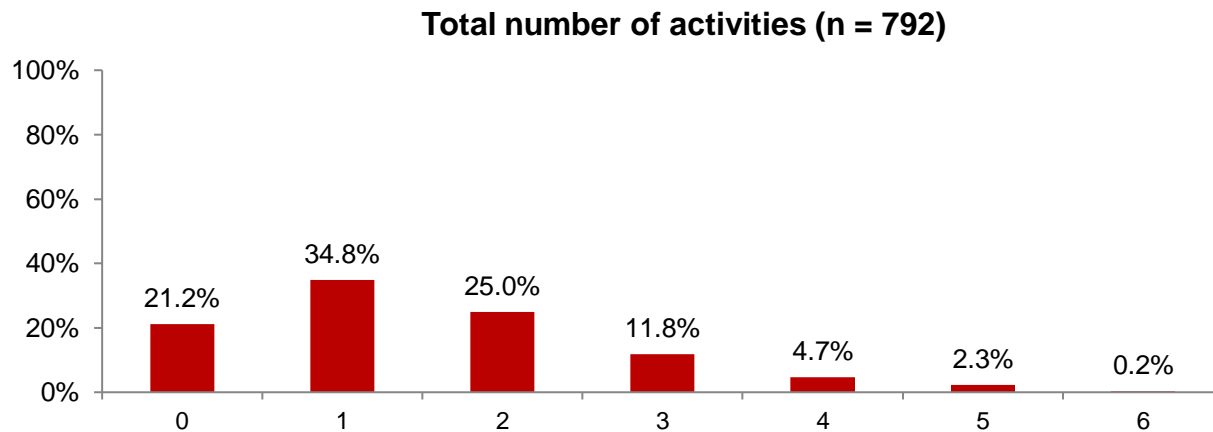
# FINDINGS

## CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Among all undergraduate students, 78.8% report being involved in at least one of seven ways on campus. The following chart summarizes the percentage of students who report being involved in each activity. The most frequently reported way to be involved is through a student organization (67.8%) and the least frequently reported way to be involved in through a Student Life sponsored program (9.2%).



Students can be involved in multiple ways on campus. The following chart indicates the total number of listed activities in which students report participating. Twenty-one percent report being involved in any activities, while the majority of students' report being in one (34.8%) or two activities (25.0%). Very few students report being in four or more activities (7.2%).



\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$

## WHO IS ENGAGED ON CAMPUS?

The following table examines demographic differences in campus involvement. There are statistically significant differences in the percentages of students who report being involved on campus by first generation status, age, military or veteran status, academic level and living situation.

% Involved	Percent	N	Statistically Significant Difference
<b>Gender<sup>b</sup></b>			
Female	79.8%	461	
Male	77.4%	277	
Transgender/Self-Defined	--		
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>b</sup></b>			
African American/Black/African	70.0%	28	
Asian	83.5%	96	
Latinx	73.2%	30	
White	79.5%	542	
Other race	65.0%	13	
Multiracial	75.0%	30	
<b>First-Generation College Student<sup>b</sup></b>			
First generation	67.5%	172	***
Continuing generation	84.1%	523	
<b>Citizenship<sup>a</sup></b>			
International student	82.1%	46	
Domestic student	78.6%	703	
<b>Age<sup>a</sup></b>			
Traditional age (18-24)	81.4%	720	***
Non-traditional age (25+)	44.6%	29	
<b>Military/Veteran<sup>b</sup></b>			
Military/Veteran	63.4%	26	**
Civilian	79.9%	672	
<b>Academic Level (self-identified)<sup>b</sup></b>			
First-year undergraduate	76.1%	175	
Second-year undergraduate	82.8%	188	**
Third-year undergraduate	74.1%	177	
Fourth-year+ undergraduate	83.2%	208	
<b>Living Situation</b>			
Residence Hall	82.7%	325	***
University-owned apartment or house	92.3%	24	
Sorority or Fraternity	100.0%	19	
Off-campus (not with parents/family)	78.6%	334	
Off-campus (with parents/family)	54.1%	46	

<sup>a</sup>Source: Student Information System

<sup>b</sup>Source: Self-identified

-- Too few respondents to report

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$

## CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT AND STUDENT OUTCOMES

To examine the benefits of campus involvement, logistic regressions were run predicting a series of outcomes, from sense of belonging to intention to complete their degree at Ohio State. Students who are involved on campus are significantly more likely than uninvolved students to agree or strongly agree that they have relationships with other Ohio State students, faculty and staff; that they have grown as a result of their experiences at Ohio State, to take part or participate in Ohio State traditions, to feel like they have a sense of belonging on campus and overall are satisfied with their experiences at Ohio State.

% Agree or Strongly Agree	Involved	Not Involved	Odds Ratio <sup>a</sup>
I feel that I am a member of the Ohio State community	92.5% (n = 673)	89.2% (n = 174)	1.26
I have relationships with other Ohio State students	94.4% (n = 686)	83.6% (n = 163)	2.24***
I have relationships with Ohio State faculty	64.2% (n = 464)	49.7% (n = 97)	2.00***
I have relationship with Ohio State staff	60.7% (n = 439)	46.7% (n = 91)	1.80***
I have grown as a result of my experiences at Ohio State	94.8% (n = 686)	87.2% (n = 170)	2.58***
I take part or participate in Ohio State traditions	83.9% (n = 609)	67.2% (n = 131)	2.28***
I feel a sense of belonging to campus	88.8% (n = 645)	75.7% (n = 146)	2.43***
Ohio State offers me opportunities to engage in difficult dialogues	86.3% (n = 626)	79.4% (n = 154)	1.41
I would recommend Ohio State to other students	95.5% (n = 692)	92.8% (n = 179)	1.41
Overall, I am satisfied with my experiences at The Ohio State University	94.8% (n = 690)	90.8% (n = 177)	1.85
I intend to complete my degree at Ohio State	97.7% (n = 712)	96.4% (n = 187)	1.71

<sup>a</sup>Results of logistic regression predicting involvement; Regression controls for gender, race/ethnicity, first generation student status, age and international student status.



Involved students' average GPA



Uninvolved students' average GPA

Students who are involved on campus have statistically significantly higher grade point averages than uninvolved students. Involved students' cumulative GPA is 3.29 compared to 2.85 for uninvolved students ( $p=.000$ ).

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$