

2014-2015 Dine-With-A-Prof Program Evaluation



Name of Assessment Project: 2014-2015 Dine-With-A-Prof Program Evaluation

Name(s) of Person(s) Responsible for Assessment Project: Executive Assistant (Jeanie Lyn Arciaga)

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Units/Departments Involved in Assessment Project:

Program, Service, or Event Related to Assessment Project:

The Dine-With-A-Prof Program connects undergraduate students and esteemed faculty members over a shared meal and intends to foster student-faculty interactions outside of the classroom. This program offers a unique opportunity for students to engage with their faculty members and facilitates informed discussions outside of the normal classroom setting.

Through this program, undergraduate students invite a faculty member or graduate teaching assistant (TA) out to lunch during the academic year. All undergraduate students are eligible to redeem one meal voucher per quarter at one of the specified dining facilities on-campus, of which include The Faculty Club or Zanzibar Cafe at the Loft. At the end of the quarter, participants are invited to fill out a survey on their experience.

This year, some students that participated in the program received a "Table Topics" handout that listed discussion topics. This guide was created to help students prepare for their lunch and suggest meaningful conversation starters.

Assessment Project Description: This assessment was administered primarily to evaluate students' level of confidence when interacting with faculty members as a result of participating in the program. Confidence levels are assessed using an interval scale that measures students' level of agreement to various statements such as "I feel confident interacting with faculty", "I am more likely to interact with faculty in the future", and other related observations.

Along with program effectiveness, this assessment also analyzes program usage, participant satisfaction, and feedback or areas of improvement. Demographic questions, such as student's college of registration, enrollment type, etc. were used to identify the populations that are utilizing the program. Through the use of open-ended questions, participants are asked to report back on what they gained from the experience. Similarly, open-ended questions allow students and faculty to offer up suggestions for program improvements.

The results from this assessment will be used to improve the Dine-With-A-Prof Program for future years. Additionally, these results highlight the importance of student-faculty interactions in impacting student success and retention.

Unit/Program Specific Goals and Learning Outcomes: As a result of participating in the Dine-With-A-Prof Program, students be able to:

- Gain confidence in interacting with faculty members
- Learn to effectively prepare for meetings with their faculty members
- Gather information about potential career options
- Gain insight into their academic goals
- Interact with faculty in the future

Relationship to Student Affairs: Advance a Plan for Personal, Academic, and Professional Success

Learning Outcomes:

Assessment Project Start: 10/27/2014

Assessment Project End: 7/8/2016

Population/Sample: All undergraduate students across the six colleges are eligible to participate in the program once per quarter. Web-based surveys using Baseline were sent to program participants on a quarterly basis. Out of the 1009 students who were issued the electronic survey, 215 students successfully completed the survey (~21% response rate).

Type of Assessment: Student learning outcomes and/or behavioral outcomes, Tracking usage, Satisfaction study

Other Assessment Type(s):

Assessment Methods: Surveys, Participant Counter

Other Assessment Method(s):

Data Collection Tools: Data was collected using survey methods provided through Baseline.

Data Analysis Methods: Data will be analyzed using Baseline and comparing available results from previous years.

How Your Results Will Be Presented: A program report will be prepared and made available mid-August to showcase findings and suggest areas of improvement.

Progress: 100%

Link Assessment Project in Campus Labs Baseline :

Name

Source

No items to display.

Summary of Findings: Students responses to the program were overwhelmingly positive. **93.81%** of respondents reported they "definitely would" recommend the Dine-With-A-Prof Program. Findings also showcase a strong correlation between program goals and student learning objectives. For instance:

- When asked if they felt more confident interacting with faculty as a result of the program, **53.02%** of respondents strongly agree and **39.53%** of respondents agree.
- When asked if they felt more informed about academic goals, **42.33%** of respondents strongly agree and **33.95%** of respondents agree.
- When asked if they are more likely to interact with faculty in the future, **62.33%** of respondents strongly agree and **32.09%** of respondents agree.

When asked to report on what they gained from their experience, respondents said:

- "[...] I feel much more comfortable talking to my professors now" (FA14 Evaluation)
- "I learned more about my professor's area of research, and became more comfortable interacting with my professor both in and out of class" (FA14 Evaluation)
- "[I gained] A more personal relationship with the professor, as well as more confidence in interacting with faculty" (WI15 Evaluation)
- "By participating [in] the Dine-With-A-Prof Program I gained the ability to better communicate with faculty and be more confident when approaching faculty..." (WI15 Evaluation)
- "I learned about career options and got feedback on what it's like working in my area of interest" (WI15 Evaluation)
- "I loved the experience. [It] made me feel more confident, built a connection with the professor, [and I] became more informed about career and research opportunities" (WI15 Evaluation)
- "[I gained] A one on one interaction with my professor that would not be available in class or office hours" (SP15 Evaluation)

Other themes emerged through this assessment. For instance, some respondents noted that as a result of the Dine-With-A-Prof Program, they were able to establish a relationship with their professor, obtain a mentor, inquire about a letter of recommendation, and others.

Overall, students expressed a great deal of satisfaction as a result of their involvement with the Dine-With-A-Prof Program. They seek out this resource for a variety of reasons and appear to benefit from this experience.

Impact of Assessment: This assessment illustrates the value of student-faculty interaction outside of the normal classroom setting, and its impact on the student experience. As a result of their participation in the program, respondents gained confidence in their ability to interact with faculty, informed their knowledge of professional and academic goals, as well as other opportunities that support student development. Above all, these functions support campus-wide efforts that promote student success and retention.

Results from this assessment project suggested several areas of improvement for the program. These lessons will be helpful in modifying the program for future years.

First, results show that the "Table Topics" handout may not have been entirely effective in helping students to prepare for their lunch. When asked to provide feedback on the "Table Topics" handout, individuals mentioned:

- "It was helpful to get an idea of what to ask" (FA15 Evaluation)
- "[...] I was able to easily make dialogue with and have the conversation that I wanted with the professor without the table topics list" (SP15 Evaluation)
- "[...] I think the Table Topics are pretty good for students who are doing this for the first time..." (SP15 Evaluation)

While most respondents did not benefit from this resource, Table Topics may be distributed to those that are participating in the program for the first time or need additional guidance in preparing for their lunch.

Second, increasing the program's visibility campus-wide should be considered. Several respondents report they were unaware of the program previously, and others recommend increased marketing efforts to promote the program.

Some ideas for increasing visibility are outreaching to the colleges during Orientation, Welcome Week, and special events. As this program occurs at a campus-wide level, advertising can be featured in resources such as Student Insider, TritonLink, Blink, and other websites that target a large audience. Partnering with the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Office and other academic departments can also play a role in promoting and advertising the program.




Lastly, outreach efforts should range more broadly in order to encourage the participation of all undergraduate students across campus. Respondents to this assessment reported to be mostly first-year students. While this may reflect the majority of the UCSD student population, it is also important to consider the involvement of other demographic groups and how they may benefit from participating in the Dine-With-A-Prof Program. Outreach efforts towards transfer students, international and out-of-state-students, and other underrepresented groups should be considered.

Lessons Learned: A few considerations are included for future assessment of this program:

- The time at which survey is distributed can impact the overall response rate by both faculty members and students. For instance, survey responses for students may be higher during slower periods of the quarter when student schedules are more available. As a result, the point in time when the initial survey is distributed matters a great deal to the likelihood of receiving responses.
- Creating incentives for students to fill out the survey may also promote an increased number of respondents. For some students, participation in the program happens earlier in the quarter and they may be disinclined to fill out the survey. Some suggestions for incentives may be a raffle prize, gift cards, or additional meal vouchers that can be used in the future.
- The manner in which follow-up is facilitated can also impact a respondent's participation in the survey. For instance, sending out a certain number of reminder e-mails may be helpful in encouraging individuals to participate in the survey if they did not complete it after the first round of e-mails are sent.
- For participation usage sign-up systems, including a section to indicate NFRS or TRAN students, their academic classification (first, second, third, or fourth year student), new participants, and resident or non-resident students may

be helpful to capture demographic information of students using the program.

Supplemental Information: Additional information about the Dine-With-A-Prof Program is available on our webpage:
<https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/advising/academic-success/dine-with-a-prof.html>

-  Fall 2014-Student Survey
-  Spring-2015-Dine-With-A-Prof-Program-Survey-Stude
-  Winter 2015-DWAP Survey (Student)

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