📏 Measuring Civic Engagement

👥 Public

Name of Assessment Project:	Measuring Civic Engagement

Name(s) of Person(s) Responsible for Assessment Project:	**Role**
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Providing Department:	Center for Student Involvement
Other Units/Departments Involved in Assessment Project:	Student Life

Program, Service, or Event Related to Assessment Project

This assessment project was designed to assess UC San Diego student involvement in Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement through the Center for Student Involvement Community Service year long initiatives.

Assessment Project Description

The main purpose of the assessment project was to assess UC San Diego student involvement in Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement through the Center for Student Involvement Community Service year long initiatives. Involvement was assessed by comparing students' pre-test responses to post-tests results. Each survey question was extracted from existing surveys, therefore we also compared participants to the general student population. The results of this project will be used to improve the initiatives and to demonstrate the value of initiatives engaging in civic learning and democratic engagement. We piloted the assessment with students engaging in CSI Community Service initiatives.

Unit/Program Specific Goals and Learning Outcomes

As a result of participating in Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement through the Center for Student Involvement Community Service year long initiatives, students will:

Gain knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to work effectively in a diverse society to create more just and equitable workplaces, communities and social institutions

Gain a heightened sense of responsibility to one's communities that encompasses the notions of global citizenship and interdependence, participation in building civil society, and empowering individuals as agents of positive social change to promote social justice locally and globally

Gain a better understanding of Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement theory and practice

Relationship to Student Affairs Learning Outcomes:	Think Critically and Solve Problems, Communicate Effectively, Advance a Plan for Personal, Academic, and Professional Success, Lead in a Diverse Global Society, Promote Social Justice and Community Responsibility
Assessment Project Start:	7/1/2012
Assessment Project End:	7/31/2013

Population/Sample

Participants in CSI Community Service initiatives were assessed.
We invited 900 students to participate in the pre survey and post survey. We had 171 respondents for the Pre Survey administered in fall and 95 respondents for the Post Survey administered in spring. Both results represent a small percentage (about 20% and 10%) of the students CSI Community Service engages per year. Even with numerous reminders it was difficult to obtain participant responses and due to the survey length (46 questions) some respondents did not complete all the questions.

The breakdown of the percentage of students respondents from each CSI Community Service initiative were as follows (specific data can be found in the baseline project).
Alternative Breaks: Pre 57% (n=85) Post 56% (n=48)
Community Law Project: Pre 12% (n=16) Post 0% (n=0)
Education Corps: Pre 11% (n=17) Post 38% (n=33)
Health Corps: Pre 12% (n=18) Post 6% (n=5)
Volunteer Connection: Pre 8% (n=11) Post 0% (n=0)

Type of Assessment:	Student learning outcomes and/or behavioral outcomes, Benchmarking
Other Assessment Type(s):	
Assessment Methods:	Surveys
Other Assessment Method(s):	

Data Collection Tools

This assessment was an online survey through Campus Labs, including questions from the University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) and Your First College Year Survey (YFYCS). The questions from UCUES and YFYCS allowed CSI staff to compare the participants' responses to the general student population at UCSD.

Data Analysis Methods

Data was analyzed using Campus Labs and was compared to the results of UCUES and YFCYS.

Presentation of Findings

Results of this assessment were shared with CSI staff to improve Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement initiatives. Results will be shared with UCSD's Civic Learning and Democratic

Engagement committee to be used in UCSD's involvement with NASPA task force on Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement.

Progress: ✔ 100%

Link Assessment Project in Campus Labs Baseline

Source Name	Project Name
All project data	Measuring Civic Engagement
All project data	Measuring Civic Engagement Post Survey

Summary of Findings

Overall students in Alternative Breaks, Community Law Project, Health Corps, Education Corps, and Volunteer Connection initiatives in the Center for Student Involvement – Community Service (CSI CS) showed improvement in two primary learning outcomes based on identical pre and post survey questions. Not surprisingly, students who are attracted to service tended to be higher in measures of civic learning and democratic engagement than the general UC San Diego student who answered identical questions in the UCUES and YFYC surveys. We found in our pre (n=171) and post (n=95) survey data that they tended to grow even more after participating in our initiatives.

1. Gain knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to work effectively in a diverse society to create more just and equitable workplaces, communities and social institutions

Students in CSI CS initiatives are exposed to diverse settings, both in the peers with whom they volunteer and the communities in which they serve.

The survey results show:
* An increase of 13% points of program participants who ranked themselves in the highest 10% compared to their peers in their ability to see the world from someone else's perspective (pre 28% n=48 post 41% n=39).
* An increase of 16% points of program participants who ranked themselves in the highest 10% compared to their peers in their ability to work cooperatively with diverse people (pre 45% n=77 post 61% n=58).
* 85% (n=73) of post survey respondents indicated that developing a personal code of values and ethics was very important to them compared to 62% (n=1,611) of 2012 UCUES respondents.

2. Gain a heightened sense of responsibility to one's communities that encompasses the notions of global citizenship and interdependence, participation in building civil society, and empowering individuals as agents of positive social change to promote social justice locally and globally.

Students in CSI CS initiatives are advised by staff members that encourage the practice of issue-specific and forward-thinking reflections after service, allowing students to synthesize their service with learning and apply it to one's communities. Students are also exposed to workshops developed by staff and community partners that relate community service work to future career and leadership paths.

The survey results show:
* An increase of 10% points of program participants who rated themselves as having an excellent understanding of the importance of personal social responsibility (pre 25% n=41 post 35% n=30).
* An increase of 9% points of program participants who indicated that influencing social values

was essential to them personally (pre 35% n=60 post 44% n=42).
- 46% (n=44) of post survey respondents indicated that becoming a community leader was essential to them personally compared to 11% (n=120) of 2010 YFYC respondents.

Impact of Assessment

The results of this project demonstrated the value of CSI CS initiatives in that students tended to grow even more after participating in our year long initiatives.

Through student and staff leadership retreats, students were encouraged to engage in educational trainings and workshops before service along with reflection after to learn about the demographic makeup of the community being served and social justice issues being addressed. While an increase in participation in political activities was not reflected in the survey results, through more focused education and reflection activities in CSI CS initiatives the level of community engagement can be connected to involvement in the political arena.

Lessons Learned

We need to rethink whether or not we need to revise our 3rd learning outcome which stated... Gain a better understanding of Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement theory and practice. In the survey we did not ask about knowledge acquisition which would measure the achievement of the 3rd learning outcome. Therefore we will reconsider the need for the inclusion of the 3rd learning outcome or add questions that would measure the achievement of the 3rd learning outcome in future iterations of the survey.

We need to rewrite the learning outcomes to focus on a more discrete and measurable result.

Supplemental Information

We utilized UCUES and YFYCS surveys to compare the participants' responses to the general student population at UCSD.

Below is a link to the most recent Your First Year College Experience survey available online (from 2010) showing all results for UC San Diego.
http://studentresearch.ucsd.edu/sriweb/Surveys/YFCY2010/YFCY2010All.pdf

Below is a link to the most recent UCUES survey available online (from 2012) showing all results for UC San Diego.
http://studentresearch.ucsd.edu/sriweb/Surveys/UCUES/2012/UCUESUCSDVSALLUC2012.pdf

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