

## Chapter 7: Student Affairs Assessment Summary

Each year, the Office of Student Affairs administers several surveys that address student-life, achievement, and well-being. The surveys covered in this chapter are those that were administered in the 2015-2016 academic year: the Missouri College Health Behavior Survey (MCHBS), the EBI Residence Life Assessment, the EBI Campus Climate Assessment, and the EBI Greek Life Assessment. The information collected is too comprehensive to report in full in this chapter. However, the chapter will highlight information that is most directly related to student learning.

### **Missouri College Health Behavior Survey (MCHBS)**

In the Spring of 2016, 439 Truman students took the Missouri College Health Behavior Survey. The mental and physical health of Truman Students is very important to the University, which is why we are a part of the Missouri Partners in Prevention coalition. Also referred to as Pip 21, the MCHBS evaluates 21 public and private colleges on health related questions. The MCHBS collects a variety of information regarding areas such as drug and alcohol abuse, mental health, relationships, gambling and attitudes towards Truman's policies.

One item on the survey is, "What reasons have contributed to you considering leaving your current college/university? (Check all that apply)". Although the students were not significantly more likely to discontinue education than in other institutions, 52% of them chose the option "Difficulty keeping up with academics" as a reason contributing to discontinue education. This option was endorsed significantly more frequently by Truman students than by students at other Missouri institutions.

When the survey asked “In which campus activities or organizations are you involved? (Check all that apply)”, only 11% of Truman students responded with “not involved in any activity/organization” compared to PIP 21 response percentage of 33%. A higher percentage of Truman students are involved in Religious groups, Honors/Academic/Professional Clubs, Service/Volunteer groups, Interfraternity Council Fraternity, Intramurals/Club sports, Performance Arts, Political groups, Residential Life, and Multicultural/LGBTQ groups.

The students were also asked “Which of the following are the main sources of your stress?”. Ninety-five percent of Truman students checked School/Academics as a main source of stress. Truman students were also more likely to check mental health issues (Truman = 27%; PIP21 = 16%) and outside organizations (Truman = 27%; PIP21 = 20%) as sources of stress. Truman has a slightly higher percentage of students feeling overwhelmed (Truman = 29%; PIP21 = 24%). In order to cope with stress, most Truman students went to friends/peers (Truman = 86%; PIP21 = 74%) and the University Counseling Center (Truman = 34%; PIP21 = 30%).

### **EBI Res Life Assessment and EBI Campus Climate Assessment**

The Office of Student Affairs routinely surveys students to evaluate their residential experience. As an institution that requires first year students to stay on campus, student’s residential experience feedback is vitally important. The survey is published by Educational Benchmarking, Inc. (EBI) and we can compare against Select 6 institutions, Carnegie class institutions, and all institutions participating.

Both the Res Life Assessment and Campus Climate Assessment asked “To what degree has living in on-campus housing enhanced your learning experience?” In the Res Life Assessment,

1,086 Truman students responded. Truman students were less likely to identify living on campus as enhancing their learning experience than were students at comparison schools. The survey also identifies predictors that “need work” or are an “issue.” Those identified in the Res Life assessment were Personal Interactions, Diverse Interactions, LLC Connections and Support, Self-Management, Alcohol and Drug-Use, and Sustainability. In the Campus Climate Assessment, 960 Truman students participated.. The predictors that “need work” or are an “issue” are as follows: Perceptions of Administration, Sexual Assault, Policies, Campus Training, Perceptions of Peers, and Visibility.

### **EBI Greek Life Assessment**

Greek Life is prominent at Truman, with 860 respondents from the Truman Greek community. The greatest strength that stands out for Truman Greek is learning interpersonal relationship skills. Truman Greek students show greater endorsement in learning interpersonal relationship than comparison institutions.