Co-Curricular Activities

Background

The amount of time and effort students put into their studies and other educationally purposeful activities impact the student experience. Decades of research studies link students participation in activities with student learning. What happens in the classroom and laboratory is core to academic success, but college is a seamless experience in which class time and out-of-class time complement each other. Intentional activities contributing to the academic learning experience, especially activities that provide students with opportunities to learn and develop skills through active participation, are often referred to as "co-curricular" activities. Programs may be led by faculty or staff, or by students themselves, but they must have stated goals and measured outcomes. At a time when college performance is being evaluated in a competitive global context, co-curricular learning assessment provides real insights into the quality of the campus learning environment.

Profile of Involved Students

In March 2012, a Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership survey was given to a random sample of Purdue undergraduates with a total 1,454 respondents. The percentages below are those respondents who indicated that they considered themselves to be involved in Purdue clubs or organizations.

Characteristics of Students Involved in Purdue Clubs and Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Involved</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. S. Citizen</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in University residence</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was involved in high school</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matriculated at Purdue</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By class level the highest percentage of students indicating involvement was sophomores at 81%, compared to three-fourths of freshmen, juniors and seniors.

By race/ethnicity African American/Black students had the highest involvement at 83%, followed by Caucasian students at 81%, Asian 70% and Hispanic/Latino 67%.

By getting involved in student organizations, students learn how to collaborate, communicate, lead, and practice sound financial skills. Many alumni cite their experiences with student organizations as having been critical to their career advancement. For more information, visit http://www.getinvolved.purdue.edu

Among alumni for whom data are available, those who had been involved in student organizations had higher college GPAs and higher annual incomes when they graduated than those alumni who had not been involved.

Source: Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership, March 2012

Categories of Co-Curricular Programs

- Service Learning
- Cultural Development
- Leadership Development
- Professional Development
- Wellness Development

Number of Student Clubs and Organizations

Purdue had 647 student organizations in 2001-02. In ten years, the number of student organizations has increased 43%, with 928 organizations in 2010-11.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>928</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men and Women Affiliated* with Fraternities, Sororities and Cooperative Houses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Men in Fraternities</th>
<th>Women in Sororities</th>
<th>Men in Cooperatives</th>
<th>Women in Cooperatives</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>3,085</td>
<td>2,048</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>5,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>2,924</td>
<td>2,038</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>5,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>2,701</td>
<td>2,045</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>5,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>2,781</td>
<td>2,181</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>5,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>3,058</td>
<td>2,327</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>5,803</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figures reflect affiliation (not residency) during spring semester.

Involvement & Student Success

Engaged students earn more credits & higher GPAs

Source: NSSE 2010

A recent study of student involvement in five co-curricular activities (Air Force, Army, and Navy ROTC; Band & Orchestras; and Purdue Musical Organizations) across six semesters of Fall 2008 through Spring 2011 showed that these students outperformed all Purdue students. Academic performance was measured in terms of earning 15 or more credits per semester and attaining a 3.0 or higher GPA.

Co-Curricular Activities

Student Satisfaction

Freshmen Satisfaction With Their Entire Educational Experience by Hours of Co-Curricular Activity

Purdue Co-Curricular Involvement Compared with Peer Institutions

Peer Comparisons

Percent of Respondents Indicating Activity is "Very Important" to Their Expectations for College

Purdue students' interest and commitment to clubs, activities, and volunteer work is on an upward trajectory.

Source: CIRP Freshman Survey

More information on Purdue's Student Affairs website: http://www.purdue.edu/vpsa/

Student Interest

Student Participation and Impact

Activity Participation and Impact

Team-based Learning
Leadership Activities
Extracurricular Service Activities
Activities that Increase Understanding of Diversity
Internships
Research
Interdisciplinary Projects
Learning Communities
Service Learning in a Course
Study/Work Abroad

Impact

80%
79%
74%
60%
60%
49%
29%
29%
25%
25%
38%
52%
29%
11%
56%
36%
16%
7%
8%
23%

1Percent of students who indicated they participated in a particular activity during their time at Purdue.

2Percent of students who participated in the activity and indicated that a particular activity had the most impact on their academic success.

Source: Graduating Students Learning Outcomes Survey 2012 (GSLOS)
The full GSLOS report is available at: http://www.purdue.edu/oir/graduatingstudentslearningoutcomes.html

Student Affairs Outcomes

Alignment with University Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes

Student Affairs has intentional learning outcomes in 60 courses and programs with 199 learning outcomes aligned to the Council for Advancement of Standards, which encompasses 6 domains of learning: Knowledge Acquisition; Cognitive Complexity; Intrapersonal Development; Interpersonal Development; Humanitarian & Civic Engagement; and Practical Competence. Seventy-nine percent of the learning outcomes align with Purdue Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes. Student Affairs Learning Outcomes are explained on Purdue's Student Affairs website: http://www.purdue.edu/oir/purdue-experience

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