

Campus Well-Being

Background

Purdue University leaders recognize the foundational role of well-being in students' success during college. While Belonging has been measured since 2013 - via one question in the [SERU](#) - Campus Well-Being has not been measured with regularity or across the entire student population. To better understand how to respond to areas of concern regarding Campus Well-Being, a new data collection effort began in Fall 2022.

Evidence shows that, while the health and well-being of Purdue students is mostly favorable, a significant minority of students have personal issues/concerns, or they feel unsure about their place within the Purdue community*:

- In response to the statement, "I am optimistic about my life," just 74.3% of Purdue undergraduates agreed or strongly agreed. **One out of every four Purdue students is unsure or equivocal about their future.**
- 66.2% of undergraduate students agree or strongly agree that "I feel that I belong at Purdue." **One undergraduate student out of 10 (11.5%) disagrees with the statement.** (The balance of 29.2% were equivocal.)
- 68.7% are satisfied with their life.
- 34.2% say they feel lonely

* These indicators are drawn from the Spring 2022 SERU survey and based on a sample of n=8494.

Strategic Measurement Plan

It is necessary to measure Campus Well-Being in a rigorous, systematic fashion. Explicitly measuring this concept will convey the message that Campus Well-Being is essential, will enhance diversity and inclusion, improve academic outcomes, our interventions and decision making, plus enhance research capacities.

The measure will include the following elements:

- General **health**, mental health, and physical health, plus other aspects of **welfare**.
- The matters of passion, persistence, and resilience are covered in the survey, which we broadly label as **grit**.
- The topics of influence, scope or touch, and purpose make up the questions we broadly label as **impact** in this measure.
- Making meaningful and effective connections or bonds with others is labeled as **networks** within our survey items.
- Taking initiative and providing or receiving guidance and direction are two important elements that make up **leadership** within our measure.

Logistics

The measurement process began with an initial round of data collection in Fall 2022, with a second round planned for Spring 2023. For the first year of this project, the Office of the Provost does not plan to offer incentives to students.

We are currently in the second round of data collection to further test and validate our measures of Campus Well-Being and [Campus Belonging](#). We will share initial findings by the summer of 2023 with the whole Purdue community.

Next Steps

In addition to considering and discussing possible wild card questions for your area, we also need your support to maximize participation across the different areas of student populations. It is necessary to obtain a large sample overall, but also one that captures an adequate response from small academic and demographic segments of the student population.

Please share information about this survey with instructors and student-facing staff and encourage student participation in both data collections. The data collected from this survey will inform decisions about the success of our students. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important work.

Please direct any questions or comments to idata@purdue.edu.