WASC Student Survey

Social Justice and Civic Engagement at San Francisco State University

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Survey Development

- Developed by WASC Committee
- Focus on
  - Technology
  - Student Preparedness
  - Social Justice
  - Civic Engagement
- Today’s focus is on the latter two issues
SFSU Administration

- Administered to undergrads, Fall 2009
- Women are over-represented; men are under-represented, and there may be other imbalances
- Probably needs to be re-weighted

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class Level</th>
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<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Seniors</td>
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<td>67.9%</td>
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Social Justice

At SFSU, issues of social justice should include:

- Geography
- Social Reform
- Peace
- Health Equity
- Fairness
- Environment
- Justice
- Age
- Weighted Average
- Disabilities
- Gender
- Ethics
- Social Responsibility
- Race/Racism
- Poverty
- Human Rights
SFSU's commitment to social justice classes taught me to explore bias, discrimination, and prejudice.
Social Justice

Participate in Social Justice Issues

- Frosh
- Soph
- Jr
- Sr
- Total

Class projects | Research/Scholarly/Creative activities | Volunteerism/Community service | Other

80.0% | 70.0% | 60.0% | 50.0% | 40.0% | 30.0% | 20.0% | 10.0% | 0.0%
Two Comments

- All of these are important. San Francisco is known for its diversity and should appreciate and respect this diversity on campus. Consequently, all these stratification of student life should be respected. Programs should be developed to help students through their struggles - empowering students to overcome their adversity and become future leaders of people who are in the situations that SF State helped them overcome.

- It would be nice to temper some of the radical political rhetoric at SF State with practical, non-radical ideology that attempts to integrate useful progressive ideas with a nuanced understanding of American reality - one that isn't swamped with promotion of the victim role, hyper-vigilant activism and PC paranoia. Jus' my opinion. Case in point: filling the student union with anti-domestic abuse t-shirts with politically charged slogans on the front. The message is valid, but when you have to read shirts that say "Beat your meat, not your girl," it can make you feel a little discouraged about the responsibility students and administrators are taking for the symbolic messages they're putting into the world.
Civic Engagement

At SFSU, civic engagement should include:

- Civic Internships
- Community-based scholarship
- Community organizing skills development
- Community service (extracurricular)
- Community service (course-based)
- Leadership, skills development
- Personal responsibility
- Public forums
- Social Responsibility
- Voter registration
- Other

The chart indicates that Civic Engagement at SFSU is represented by different activities, with Civic Internships being the highest at 60.0%, followed by Community-based scholarship at 50.0%, and so on, down to Other at 0.0%.
Civic Engagement

SFSU develops civic leadership skills
Differences are statistically significant \( (p=.026) \)
Civic Engagement

Frequency of civic engagement activities

- Frosh: Daily/Weekly, Monthly, Yearly, Never
- Soph: Daily/Weekly, Monthly, Yearly, Never
- Junior: Daily/Weekly, Monthly, Yearly, Never
- Senior: Daily/Weekly, Monthly, Yearly, Never
- Total: Daily/Weekly, Monthly, Yearly, Never
Civic Engagement Comments

• I do not understand what you mean by 'civic engagement mission' or some of the options listed, it all seems very vague, ambiguous.

• Community service should be major specific to be relevant and required to graduate.

• I liked the way my English class approached the SHINE project. It was optional, but counted for credit in class. It was a good way to introduce students to a volunteer program that really helps the wider SF community.

• I'll figure out what civic responsibility I have on my own, thank you, and will not participate in any school programs.

• True civic engagement cannot be taught.
Summary: Social Justice

- Students have a fairly expansive view of social justice issues.

- The majority of students believe SFSU is committed to social justice.

- The majority of students participate in social justice issues in class & research/scholarly/creative activities; somewhat less than half say they participate in community service.

- A few students express dissatisfaction with the emphasis on social justice.
Summary: Civic Engagement

• Students are in less agreement about what should be involved with civic engagement; 7 of 11 issues were supported by a majority of respondents.

• Overall, slightly more than 40% agreed the SFSU develops civic leadership skills in students; agreement declined as class level increased ($p=0.026$).

• A majority of students report that they do not participate in civic engagement activities.
Summary: Community Beliefs

- Large majorities (80%-90%) of freshmen and seniors believe people working together can make a difference in communities; no statistically significant differences
- About 45% of freshmen & seniors reported participating in activities to help others during the past 12 months; no statistically significant differences
Social Justice

• Large majorities of freshmen (83%) and seniors (90%) say they frequently work with diverse others; these differences are statistically significant

• Even larger majorities say they work Somewhat Effectively to Effectively with these diverse others; these differences also are statistically significant