

## National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) 2007: Comparison of Response Rates by UW Campus

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The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) seeks to gain a greater understanding of how students spend their time in college and how they benefit from the experience. At the three UW campuses, Seattle, Bothell, and Tacoma, the 2007 NSSE was administered during spring quarter via a web-based questionnaire.<sup>1</sup> This report summarizes the cross-campus rates of response.

Table 1 displays the number of students surveyed and response dispositions for each of the three branches.

**Table 1. Number (and percentage) of responses by branch.**

Response Category	Branch			Total
	Seattle	Bothell	Tacoma	
Non-respondent	3481 (75.4)	550 (75.9)	678 (82.5)	4709 (76.4)
Refused	181 (3.9)	11 (1.5)	25 (3.0)	217 (3.5)
Respondent	955 (20.7)	164 (22.6)	119 (14.5)	1238 (20.1)
Total	4617	725	822	6164

The distribution of respondents by gender across the three UW institutions is displayed in Table 2. Across all three institutions, males were under-represented when compared to the random sample. The discrepancy was greatest at UW Bothell (29.9% vs. 44.0), followed by UW Seattle (39.4% v. 48.5) and finally, UW Tacoma (33.6% v. 42.1). In contrast, across the three campuses, females were over-represented in comparison to the random sample at each respective campus. Again, the widest gap occurred at UW Bothell, where females comprised 70.1% of the respondents in comparison to the random sample where they comprised 56.0%. At UW Seattle and UW Tacoma, females represented 60.6% and 66.4% of the respondents as compared with the random sample where they constituted 51.5% and 57.9%, respectively.

<sup>1</sup> Results of the survey for the UW Seattle campus are reported in OEA Report 07-06.

**Table 2. Frequency and percentage of respondents and non-respondents by gender.**

Gender	Seattle			Bothell			Tacoma		
	Non-respond.	Respond.	Total	Non-respond.	Respond.	Total	Non-respond.	Respond.	Total
Male	1861 (50.8)	376 (39.4)	2237 (48.5)	270 (48.1)	49 (29.9)	319 (44.0)	306 (43.5)	40 (33.6)	346 (42.1)
Female	1801 (49.2)	579 (60.6)	2380 (51.5)	291 (51.9)	115 (70.1)	406 (56.0)	397 (56.5)	79 (66.4)	476 (57.9)
Total	3662 (100.0)	955 (100.0)	4617 (100.0)	561 (100.0)	164 (100.0)	725 (100.0)	703 (100.0)	119 (100.0)	822 (100.0)

Table 3 provides the distribution of respondents by ethnicity across the three UW institutions. Students identifying themselves as White American made up the largest percentage of respondents at all three campuses. In contrast to the random sample, White American students were over-represented at UW Seattle (57.7% vs. 53.6), UW Bothell (57.3% vs. 54.2) and UW Tacoma (58.8% vs. 55.7). Respondents who identified as Asian American were slightly under-represented relative to their proportion in the random sample at all institutions — most notably so at UW Bothell (14.6% vs. 18.1) and UW Tacoma (12.6% v. 16.8). Students who reported African-American ethnicity were over-represented at UW Tacoma (10.1% vs. 6.4) in comparison to the random sample, whereas they were proportionate with the original sample at UW Seattle and UW Bothell. At UW Bothell and UW Tacoma, respondents citing American Indian ethnicity were under-represented. With the exception of UW Tacoma, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander respondents were relatively well-represented.

**Table 3. Frequency and percentage of respondents and non-respondents by ethnicity.**

Ethnicity	Seattle			Bothell			Tacoma		
	Non-respond.	Respond.	Total	Non-respond.	Respond.	Total	Non-respond.	Respond.	Total
African American	114 (3.1)	20 (2.1)	134 (2.9)	18 (3.2)	6 (3.7)	24 (3.3)	41 (5.8)	12 (10.1)	53 (6.4)
American Indian	50 (1.4)	10 (1.0)	60 (1.3)	5 (0.9)	0 (0.0)	5 (0.7)	12 (1.7)	1 (0.8)	13 (1.6)
White American	1925 (52.6)	551 (57.7)	2476 (53.6)	299 (53.3)	94 (57.3)	393 (54.2)	388 (55.2)	70 (58.8)	458 (55.7)
Asian American	1102 (30.1)	265 (27.7)	1367 (29.6)	107 (19.1)	24 (14.6)	131 (18.1)	123 (17.5)	15 (12.6)	138 (16.8)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	27 (0.7)	5 (0.5)	32 (0.7)	2 (0.4)	1 (0.6)	3 (0.4)	14 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	14 (1.7)
Other	443 (12.1)	104 (10.9)	547 (11.8)	130 (23.2)	39 (23.8)	169 (23.3)	125 (17.8)	21 (17.6)	146 (17.8)
Unknown	1 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Total	3662 (100.0)	955 (100.0)	4617 (100.0)	561 (100.0)	164 (100.0)	725 (100.0)	703 (100.0)	119 (100.0)	822 (100.0)

The distribution of respondents by class (as of Autumn 2007) is presented in Table 4. When compared with the random sample, freshmen respondents were well-represented at UW Seattle, slightly over-represented at UW Bothell (20.1% vs. 18.8) and under-represented at UW Tacoma (15.1% vs. 19.2). In comparison, senior respondents were well-represented at UW Seattle and UW Bothell, whereas they were over-represented (84.9% vs. 80.8) at UW Tacoma.

**Table 4. Frequency and percentage of respondents and non-respondents by class.**

Class	Seattle			Bothell			Tacoma		
	Non-respond.	Respond.	Total	Non-respond.	Respond.	Total	Non-respond.	Respond.	Total
Freshman	1932 (52.8)	494 (51.7)	2426 (52.5)	103 (18.4)	33 (20.1)	136 (18.8)	140 (19.9)	18 (15.1)	158 (19.2)
Senior	1730 (47.2)	461 (48.3)	2191 (47.5)	458 (81.6)	131 (79.9)	589 (81.2)	563 (80.1)	101 (84.9)	664 (80.8)
Total	3662 (100.0)	955 (100.0)	4617 (100.0)	561 (100.0)	164 (100.0)	725 (100.0)	703 (100.0)	119 (100.0)	822 (100.0)

Overall, respondents had a significantly higher GPA (3.26 vs. 3.09),  $p < .001$  than non-respondents. This finding held true for all three institutions. Furthermore, respondents had a significantly higher mean SAT score (1202 vs. 1162),  $p < .001$ , as compared with non-respondents. However, when analyzed separately, only the difference between respondents and non-respondents' SAT scores at UW Seattle remained statistically significant,  $p < .001$ . The failure to find a significant difference in SAT scores at UW Tacoma and UW Bothell was due to lack of power; that is, only 36 and 60 students, respectively, had SAT scores on record.