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News from Institutional Research

From time to time, this bulletin has focused on the interaction among ethnic minority students, their majority peers and faculty. The conclusions have generally reflected a view that Creighton undergraduate majority students have not had much exposure to non-majority students and, while affable, do not go out of their way to learn more about them. However, as educators, we know that interaction among different cultural backgrounds is one method of helping these undergraduates understand how they will grow and develop from learning about those different from themselves.

This issue of "News from Institutional Research" looks at the results of the 2007 College Student Survey completed by 490 undergraduate seniors in late April/early May and reports on the undergraduate experiences that were more likely to result in interaction between majority and non-majority students.

2007 Seniors

Experiences Promoting Interaction Between Majority and Non-Majority Students

In the analysis that follows, one-way analysis of variance was employed to determine if there were statistically significant differences between Caucasian men and women who had taken advantage of various opportunities and those who had not and their interaction with members of another racial group. It provides suggestions for those students looking to prepare themselves for an increasingly diverse society.

Below, the "outcome" is underlined. Activities for which there were statistically significant differences between those who indicated they had participated in the activity and those who had not are listed below the "outcome". The number in parentheses refers to the number of students who reported they had participated in the activity. Therefore, in the first example, both Caucasian men and women (148 in total) who had roommates of a different ethnicity were significantly more likely to report they socialized with someone of another racial group than those Caucasian men and women who did not.

	Men		Women	
Socialized with someone of another racial group	Yes	No	Yes	No
Had roommate of different ethnicity (148)	2.49	2.18***	2.47	2.18***
Taken ethnic studies course (280)	2.34	2.20	2.37	2.13***
Participated in ethnic/racial student organization (73)	2.52	2.26*	2.52	2.23***
Participated in leadership training (171)	2.41	2.21*	2.33	2.25
Dined or shared a meal with someone from another racial group	Yes	No	Yes	No
Had roommate of different ethnicity (148)	4.11	3.19***	3.86	3.20***
Taken ethnic studies course (280)	3.56	3.43	3.51	3.24*
Participated in ethnic/racial student organization (73)	4.04	3.43**	3.78	3.34**
Enrolled in honors or advanced courses (128)	3.83	3.35**	3.57	3.36
Participated in leadership training (171)	3.72	3.36***	3.56	3.33
Had meaningful & honest discussions about race/ethnic relations with someone from another racial group	Yes	No	Yes	No
Had roommate of different ethnicity (148)	3.54	2.98***	3.54	2.92***
Taken ethnic studies course (280)	3.23	3.09	3.29	2.82***
Taken women's studies course (88)	3.77	3.10***	3.18	3.11
Participated in ethnic/racial student organization (73)	3.74	3.09**	3.60	3.02**
Participated in study-abroad program (115)	2.94	3.24	3.35	3.03*
Played varsity/intercollegiate athletics (62)	3.38	3.14	3.63	3.05**
Participated in leadership training (171)	3.41	3.01*	3.30	3.02*
Participated in intramural sports (308)	3.16	3.32	3.24	2.91*
Performed community service as a part of a class (290)	3.23	3.09	3.24	2.88*
Participated in CSJ-sponsored Service Trip, Immersion or Teach-In	3.25	3.15	3.43	3.07*
Participated in Campus-Ministry-sponsored Retreats/Faith Formation	3.25	3.15	3.35	3.03*

***p>.001; **p>.01; *p>.05

2007 Graduating Seniors - Experiences Promoting Interaction

Shared personal feelings & problems with someone from another ethnic group	Men Yes	Men No	Women Yes	Women No
Had roommate of different ethnicity (148)	3.65	2.93***	3.65	3.06***
Participated in ethnic/racial student organization (73)	3.74	3.10**	3.56	3.19*
Played varsity/intercollegiate athletics (62)	3.38	3.15	3.71	3.19**
Enrolled in honors or advanced courses (128)	3.43	3.07*	3.32	3.23
Participated in leadership training (171)	3.49	2.97***	3.33	3.21
Participated in Campus-Ministry-sponsored Retreats/Faith Formation	3.25	3.15	3.35	3.03*

Had intellectual discussions outside of class with someone from another ethnic group	Yes	No	Yes	No
Had roommate of different ethnicity (148)	3.60	3.00***	3.60	3.00**
Participated in ethnic/racial student organization (73)	3.82	3.12***	3.68	3.10***
Participated in study-abroad program (115)	3.03	3.26	3.44	3.10*
Played varsity/intercollegiate athletics (62)	3.52	3.16	3.69	3.13**
Enrolled in honors or advanced courses (128)	3.51	3.07*	3.31	3.16

Studied or prepared for class with someone from another ethnic group	Yes	No	Yes	No
Had roommate of different ethnicity (148)	3.35	2.89**	3.76	3.25***
Participated in ethnic/racial student organization (73)	3.61	2.96**	3.40	3.11

Socialized or partied with someone from another ethnic group	Yes	No	Yes	No
Had roommate of different ethnicity (148)	3.96	3.24***	3.76	3.25***
Participated in ethnic/racial student organization (73)	4.00	3.41**	3.28	2.41***
Played varsity/intercollegiate athletics (62)	3.65	3.47	3.89	3.35**
Participated in leadership training (171)	3.74	3.32**	3.50	3.38
Participated in intramural sports (308)	3.61	2.92**	3.51	3.27

Attended events sponsored by another ethnic group	Yes	No	Yes	No
Had roommate of different ethnicity (148)	2.82	2.32**	2.86	2.43
Took ethnic studies course (280)	2.66	2.20**	2.65	2.43
Participated in ethnic/racial student organization (73)	3.65	2.31***	3.28	2.41***
Participated in student government	2.89	2.42*	2.77	2.54
Participated in leadership training (171)	2.68	2.37	2.81	2.43**
Participated in intramural sports (308)	2.51	2.44	2.68	2.37*
Participated in CSJ-sponsored Service Trip, Immersion or Teach-In	3.10	2.39**	3.02	2.49**
Participated in Campus-Ministry-sponsored Retreats/Faith Formation	2.83	2.36*	2.98	2.39***
Performed community service as a part of a class requirement (290)	2.57	2.36	3.10	2.62**

***p>.001; **p>.01; *p>.05

Having a roommate of a different ethnicity might not be a conscious choice on the part of incoming freshmen who live in the residence halls. However, all of the other activities listed above involve choices on the students' part. As students, especially freshmen, look for involvement opportunities, faculty and other advisors have the ability to steer them to activities that will help to prepare them for the diverse work world they will be entering.

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