



The Community College's Role in Developing Students' Civic Outcomes

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Progress and Next Steps for TDC's Civic Outcomes Survey

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TDC's Civic Outcomes Survey

2012: Survey originally created and administered at De Anza College

2013: 4 CA community colleges (Shasta, Cañada, De Anza, & the San Diego Community College District) collaborated to refine the survey and brainstorm broad categories of outcomes, including civic agency, civic knowledge, civic behavior, etc.

Spring 2014: The revised instrument, as well as an institutional questionnaire, was piloted in CA

Fall 2014: Following the CA pilot, as well as feedback and suggestions from TDC members, the survey and institutional questionnaire were further refined

Spring 2015: 9 TDC colleges from across the nation participated in a national pilot of the Civic Outcomes Survey and Institutional Questionnaire



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Results of the CA Pilot

Conceptual Framework

- Astin's (2002) I-E-O Model takes into account:
 - Incoming college students' background characteristics (both demographic and behavioral)
 - College environment (programs, policies, practices, people, cultures, and experiences)
 - Students' outcomes after accounting for pre-college characteristics and college environment

Methods

- In spring 2014 we administered the Civic Outcomes Survey & Institutional Questionnaire at 3 community colleges and 1 district in CA
- A total of 34,587 students was asked to participate, and 1,756 usable surveys were returned (for an aggregate 5% response rate)
- We utilized factor analysis and stepwise linear regression to identify the individual and institutional factors associated with greater civic outcomes

Individual Predictors of Civic Outcomes

Positively Associated with Civic Outcomes

- English at home (Electoral Participation)
- Female (Civic Capacity)
- Latino/a (Electoral Participation, Civic Agency)
- Age (Political Behavior, Civic Agency)
- F-T enrollment (Civic Capacity, Civic Agency, Increased Civic Knowledge)
- Number of credits earned (most civic outcomes)

Positively Associated with Correct Answers

- Higher parental income
- English at home
- Age

Negatively Associated with Civic Outcomes

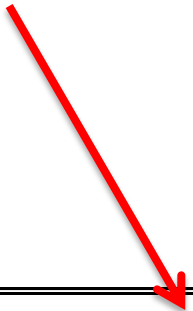
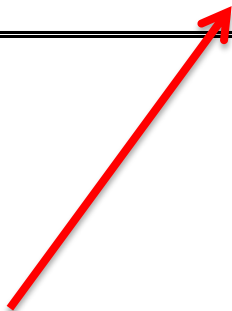
- English at home (Civic Capacity, Increased Civic Knowledge)

Negatively Associated with Correct Answers

- Female
- Asian
- Latino/a
- Other race/ethnicity

Institutional Predictors of Civic Outcomes

	Civic Leadership	Correctly Answered Questions	Civic Political Behavior	Electoral Participation	Civic Agency	Civic Capacity	Increased Civic Knowledge
<i>R</i> ² After Controlling for Student Characteristics and Pre-College Behaviors	.23	.17	.33	.32	.09	.07	.06
Final <i>R</i> ²	.68	.56	.50	.42	.18	.18	.16



Institutional Predictors of Civic Outcomes

	Correctly Civic Leadership	Correctly Answer Civic Questions	Political Behavior	Electoral Participation	Civic Agency	Civic Capacity	Increased Civic Knowledge
R^2 After Controlling for Student Characteristics and Pre-College Behaviors	.23	.17	.33	.32	.09	.07	.06
College Characteristics	Final Betas						
City: Small	-.10**						
Suburb: Midsize		.06*					
Size: Very Large						.09**	
Percent of Full-Time Faculty					.07*		.10**
Percent of Students with Pell		-.12**				.14**	
Civic Engagement in Faculty Professional Development					.09**		.13**
Institutional Intentionality around Civic Engagement		.65**					.04*
Final R^2	.68	.56	.50	.42	.18	.18	.16

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$

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Institutional Intentionality around Civic Engagement		.65**					.04*
College Student Behaviors	Final Betas						
Work on Campus	.03*						
Obtain News Regularly	.07**	.05*	.06**	.12**		.09**	.09**
Discuss Politics Regularly	.05**	.05*	.18**	.12**	.11**	.11**	.15**
Volunteer	.65**		.19**	.07**	.19**	.19**	.11**
Vote in Student Election	.17**		.24**	.19**	.12**	.14**	.13**
Final R²	.68	.56	.50	.42	.18	.18	.16

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Implications and Next Steps

- Results provide preliminary yet meaningful information about community college students' civic outcomes
- Several limitations, including:
 - Low response rate
 - Variability in survey administration at the 4 colleges
 - Small number of institutions means that results related to college characteristics must be interpreted with caution
 - Chicken and egg problem
- Next steps:
 - Analyze data from national pilot in summer/fall 2015
 - Prepare for future administrations of TDC's Civic Outcomes Survey in 2016 and beyond



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Experiences of the National Pilot and Suggestions for the Future



THANK YOU!

**Please feel free to contact us with
additional questions, comments, or ideas**

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