2021 COLLEGE SENIOR SURVEY (CSS)

Each year, thousands of students across the United States complete the College Senior Survey, a national survey from the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA. The CSS was administered in the spring of 2021 when most students were participating in online learning and had limited campus access due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The results in this newsletter profile Chapman University’s graduating class of 2021. Over 258 graduating seniors completed the survey online resulting in a 14% response rate.

ACTIVITIES DURING COLLEGE
72.6% Had a roommate of a different race/ethnicity
62.0% Participated in an internship program
53.1% Held a leadership position in an organization
41.7% Joined a fraternity or sorority
41.1% Attended a racial/cultural awareness workshop
28.6% Participated in study abroad
20.0% Participated in an undergraduate research program

DIVERSITY-RELATED STRENGTHS
Percent reporting “Somewhat Strong” or “A Major Strength” on a 5-point scale
97.0% Ability to work cooperatively with diverse people
91.6% Ability to see the world from someone else’s perspective
84.2% Tolerance of others with different beliefs

FACULTY-STUDENT INTERACTION
Percent reporting, on a 3-point scale, that professors frequently provide them with:
52.9% Encouragement to discuss coursework outside of class
46.5% Encouragement to ask questions and participate in discussions
44.8% Help in achieving professional goals
40.1% Feedback on academic work (outside of grades)
39.5% Encouragement to pursue graduate/professional study
37.8% Advice and guidance about educational programs

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY CONTRIBUTED TO MY...
Percent reporting “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” on a 4-point scale
95.7% Intellectual and practical skills
92.0% Problem-solving skills
82.8% Ability to conduct research
69.7% Understanding of global issues
69.1% Understanding of national issues
66.8% Knowledge of people from different races/cultures

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Percent reporting “Yes”
88.0% Voted in a national, state or local election
93.0% Discussed politics
49.5% Performed volunteer or community service work
60.9% Helped raise money for a cause or campaign

CAMPUS CLIMATE
Percent reporting “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” on a 5-point scale
35.2% Chapman University is an institution that values diversity
64.2% Faculty members at Chapman University make an effort to create inclusive and welcoming classroom environments
Percent reporting “Very Descriptive” on a 3-pt scale
23.8% There is respect for other expressions of diverse values and beliefs at Chapman University

SENSE OF BELONGING AND INCLUSION
Percent reporting “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” on a 4-point scale
78.3% Felt like a member of Chapman University
75.4% Felt valued at Chapman University
69.1% Felt a sense of belonging to campus
61.1% Felt there was a lot of racial tension on campus

MENTAL HEALTH, INSECURITY AND CHALLENGES WHILE IN COLLEGE
Percent reporting “Frequently”
66.3% Felt overwhelmed by all I had to do
64.5% Felt anxious
38.0% Felt depressed
20.5% Sought personal counseling
8.1% Contributed money to help support my family
6.5% Felt hungry but didn’t eat because I didn’t have enough money for food

Since entering college:
Percent reporting “Yes”
21.1% Held a full-time job (approx. 40 hrs) while taking classes
1.7% Been homeless for at least one month
### LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

**Percent reporting “Yes”**

- **75.0%** Plan to work full-time after graduation
- **80.9%** Feel prepared for employment (Percent reporting “Agree” or “Strongly Agree”)
- **20.4%** Plan to attend graduate school full-time after graduation
- **84.5%** Feel prepared for graduate or advanced education (Percent reporting “Agree” or “Strongly Agree”)

### WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO SENIORS WHEN CONSIDERING A CAREER PATH?

**Percent reporting “Very Important” or “Essential” on a 4-point scale**

- **87.7%** Stable, secure future
- **86.5%** Work/life balance
- **83.4%** Availability of jobs
- **77.6%** Expression of personal values
- **75.5%** Leadership potential
- **69.8%** Ability to pay off debt
- **69.1%** High income potential
- **65.6%** Creativity and initiative

### CAREER GOALS

**Percent reporting “Very Important” or “Essential” on a 4-pt scale**

- **51.5%** Obtaining recognition from my colleagues for contribution to my special field
- **47.4%** Becoming a community leader
- **29.2%** Creating artistic work
- **22.8%** Writing original works (poems, novels, etc.)

### WILL YOU PURSUE A SCIENCE-RELATED RESEARCH CAREER?

- **8.9%** Definitely yes
- **8.3%** Probably yes
- **11.9%** Uncertain
- **27.4%** Probably no
- **43.5%** Definitely no

### SCIENCE SELF-CONCEPT

**Percent reporting “Agree Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” on a 5-point scale**

- **43.9%** I derive great personal satisfaction from working on a team that is doing important research
- **24.4%** I have a strong sense of belonging to a community of scientists
- **20.7%** I think of myself as a scientist
- **23.2%** I feel like I belong in the field of science

### ARTIST SELF-CONCEPT

**Percent reporting “Agree Somewhat” or “Strongly Agree” on a 5-point scale**

- **39.4%** I think of myself as an artist
- **32.7%** I have a strong sense of belonging to a community of artists

### RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

**Frequently** | **Occasionally** | **Not at all**
---|---|---
38.3% | 29.9% | 26.8%

- How often did professors provide you with an opportunity to work on a research project or creative activity (e.g., an original piece of film, dance, music, creative writing, or other)?

### 51.0% Satisfaction with the encouragement and support you received from Chapman faculty to do research and/or participate in creative activities.

**Percent reporting “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” on a 5-point scale**

### ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

**Percent reporting “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” on a 4-pt scale**

- **33.7%** I will give Chapman University money as an alum
- **51.1%** I plan to remain engaged with Chapman as an alum (e.g., campus events, fundraising, admissions)

### SATISFACTION

**Percent reporting “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” on a 5-point scale**

- **74.0%** Overall college experience

**Percent reporting “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” on a 4-point scale**

- **77.8%** If asked, I would recommend this college to others

Prepared by: Chapman’s Institutional Research and Decision Support (IRADS)
Chapman.edu/irads