
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY
ANNUAL SPRING SURVEY OF SCSU STUDENTS
SPRING 2016

RESULTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT



PREPARED

BY

Sandrine Zerbib

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SURVEY
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SCSU SURVEY HOMEPAGE

[HTTP://www.stcloudstate.edu/scsusurvey](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/scsusurvey)

Several faculty directors are members of the Midwest Association of Public Opinion Research (M.A.P.O.R.) and the American Association of Public Opinion Research (A.A.P.O.R.) and all faculty directors subscribe to the code of ethics of the A.A.P.O.R.

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT AND METHODS

The SCSU Survey is an ongoing survey research extension of St. Cloud State University. The SCSU Survey performs its research primarily in the form of telephone interviews.

Dr. Stephen Frank began the survey in 1980 conducting several omnibus surveys a year of central Minnesota adults in conjunction with his Political Science classes. Presently, the omnibus surveys continue, but have shifted to a primary statewide focus. These statewide surveys are conducted once a year in the fall and focus on statewide issues such as election races, current events, and other important issues that are present in the state of Minnesota. During spring semester the Survey conducts an omnibus survey of currently enrolled student adults.

The Survey is financed by conducting surveys for government agencies (state and local) and for non-profits. We do not do surveys for political parties or candidates. Some support is provided by the SCSU School of Public Affairs and SCSU.

The primary mission of the SCSU Survey is to serve the academic community and public and nonprofit sector community through its commitment to high quality survey research and to provide education and experiential opportunities to researchers and students. We strive to assure that all SCSU students and faculty directors contribute to the research process, as all are essential in making a research project successful. This success is measured by our ability to obtain high quality survey data that is timely, accurate, and reliable, while maintaining an environment that promotes the professional and personal growth of each staff member. The survey procedures used by the SCSU Survey adhere to the highest quality academic standards. The SCSU Survey maintains the highest ethical standards in its procedures and methods. Both faculty and student directors demonstrate integrity and respect for dignity in all interactions with colleagues, clients, researchers, and survey participants.

II. SURVEY PERSONNEL

The Survey's faculty directors are Dr. James Cottrill (SCSU Assistant Professor of Political Science), Dr. Ann Finan (Associate Professor of Sociology), Dr. Steve Frank (SCSU Professor of Political Science), Dr. Amanda Hemmesch Breaker (SCSU Assistant Professor of Psychology), Dr. Steven Wagner (SCSU Professor of Political Science), and Dr. Sandrine Zerbib (SCSU Associate Professor of Sociology). The faculty directors subscribe to the Midwest Association of Public Opinion Research (M.A.P.O.R.) and the American Association of Public Opinion Research (A.A.P.O.R.) code of ethics.

James B. Cottrill

Dr. James B. Cottrill is Assistant Professor of Political Science at St. Cloud State University, teaching courses and conducting research on American political institutions and processes. Dr. Cottrill earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Texas A&M University. His research agenda is focused primarily on electoral competition in congressional races, with particular emphasis on the impact of redistricting reform on competition and representation. Dr. Cottrill's research has been published in *Polity*, *Justice System Journal*, and *Election Law Journal*, and his expertise on American politics has been cited by numerous news outlets, including the Associated Press, the McClatchy-Tribune News Service, NBC Bay Area, CBS Radio, the San Francisco Chronicle, and the San Jose Mercury News. Before joining the political science department at St. Cloud State, Dr. Cottrill taught courses at Santa Clara University, Foothill College, and Texas A&M University.

Ann Finan

Dr. Finan holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and Sustainable Agriculture from Iowa State University, and a M.S. from the University of Michigan in Resource Ecology and Management. Dr. Finan is an environmental sociologist, specializing in sustainable agriculture and food systems, community, and social inequality. She also studies immigrants and immigration in relation to community and food systems. Her current research focuses on the sustainable food and agriculture movement and on immigrants and immigration in non-metro Minnesota. She teaches Environmental Sociology, Social Inequality, Environmental Justice, Community Sociology, Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems and the Sociology of Responsibility.

Stephen I. Frank

Dr. Frank holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science from Washington State University. Dr. Frank teaches courses in American Politics, Public Opinion and Research Methods at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Frank started the SCSU Survey in 1980, and since has played a major role in the development, administration and analysis of over 150 telephone surveys for local and state governments, school districts and a variety of nonprofit agencies. Dr. Frank has completed extensive postgraduate work in survey research at the University of Michigan. Dr. Frank coauthored with Dr. Wagner and published by Harcourt College, *"We Shocked the World!" A Case Study of Jesse Ventura's Election as Governor of Minnesota*. Revised Edition.

He also published two academic book chapters: one appears in the current edition of *Perspectives on Minnesota Government and Politics* and the other, co-authored with Dr. Wagner, is contained in *Campaigns and Elections*, edited by Robert Watson and Colton Campbell. Dr. Frank is past chairperson of the SCSU Department of Political Science and served as President of the Minnesota Political Science Association. At its 2010 Annual meeting, the Minnesota Political Science Association named Dr. Frank as its first Distinguished Professor of Political Science.

Steven C. Wagner

Dr. Wagner holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. Dr. Wagner earned his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Illinois State University. Dr. Wagner teaches courses in American Politics and Public and Nonprofit Management at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Wagner joined the SCSU Survey in 1997. Before coming to SCSU, Dr. Wagner taught in Kansas where he engaged in community-based survey research and before that was staff researcher for the U.S. General Accounting Office. Dr. Wagner has written many papers on taxation, and state politics and has published articles on voting behavior, federal funding of local services and organizational decision making. Dr. Wagner, with Dr. Frank, published two texts on Jesse Ventura's election as Minnesota's Governor and a book chapter on the campaign. Dr. Wagner is immediate past chairperson of the SCSU Department of Political Science.

Sandrine Zerbib

Dr. Zerbib holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology from the University of California Irvine and a Masters in Sociology from both California State University-Fullerton and University of Paris 10-Nanterre (France). Dr. Zerbib's ongoing research focuses on issues of immigration, sexuality and citizenship. Dr. Zerbib's current research analyzes the effect of domestic partnership laws on gay bi-national couples leaving in France. She is also currently collaborating with Dr. Finan on research with immigrant women farmers or gardeners with a particular focus on gender relations and food systems. She teaches courses in Research Methods, Sociology of Gender, Immigration and Citizenship, and Advanced Research Methods. Her past research on belly dance and body images can be found in sources such as the *Journal of Gender Studies* and *Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change* series.

Amanda Hemmesch Breaker

Amanda Hemmesch Breaker is an Assistant Professor of Developmental Psychology at Saint Cloud State University. Dr. Hemmesch earned her Ph.D. in Lifespan Social-Developmental Psychology from Brandeis University. After graduate school, she worked as a cognitive epidemiologist studying older adult caregivers at Boston University's School of Public Health. Dr. Hemmesch's research focuses on how health and psychosocial factors, especially social relationships, influence development and well-being throughout adolescence and adulthood. Her current research examines factors that contribute to quality of life in aging, facial paralysis, and disability. She has published in *Psychology & Aging*, and *Stigma & Health*.

III. CALL CENTER SUPERVISORS AND TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT

Lead Student Directors

Ms. Megan Kalk, 4th Year Student, Sociology and International Relations Majors, Onamia, Minnesota.

Ms. Karen Stay, Graduate Student, Cold Spring, Minnesota

Assistant Lead Director

Ms. Josefina Abdullah, 3rd year Student, Sociology Major, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Student Directors

Mr. Landry Kabore, 3rd year Student, Political Science and International Relations Majors, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Mr. Mike Grewatz, 4th year Student, Sociology Major, Duluth, Minnesota.

Mr. Cedric Filiyaro, 2nd year Student, Political Science Major, Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

Ms. Jordee Matson, 4th year, Sociology. Major, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Student Technical Consultant

Ms. Irina Nishat 3rd year Student, Management Information Systems Major, St Cloud, Minnesota.

Student Callers

The interviewers for this survey are enrolled in the classes of Drs. Zerbib (Sociology) and Cottrill (Political Sciences) and their participation was part or in addition of their coursework. Student directors and faculty directors conducted a general training session. All student directors monitored all calling over the survey period.

IV. METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The February 2016 St. Cloud State University Survey findings are based on telephone interviews with a representative sample of 524 currently enrolled SCSU students. The sample included both landline phones and cell phones. Interviews were conducted from February 22 to February 28 from about 4:30 to 9:30 each night at the St. Cloud State University Survey Lab. The sample was obtained from the Center for Information Systems.

Sample Design

The sample was designed to represent all currently enrolled SCSU students who had provided a phone number (landline or cell phone). The phone numbers were drawn systematically from a stratified database of all SCSU students: (a) 600 dorm residents were chosen from the population of SCSU dorm residents with available phone numbers; (b) 1,700 off-campus

residents were chosen from the population of SCSU off-campus residents with available phone numbers.

Contact Procedures

Before calling began, the original sample was comprised of 2,300 students, including 600 dorm residents and 1,700 off-campus residents. From this sample, a few students were screened out for being less than 18 years old and as such fell outside our Institutional Research Board approval. Of the remaining students, 524 (after statistical weighting) respondents completed the survey.

Several steps were taken to ensure that the telephone sample of students was representative of the larger SCSU student population. Phone numbers with no initial contact were called up to 10 times over different days and times to increase the possibility of contact. In addition, appointments were made as necessary to interview the designated respondent at his/her convenience. Calling was completed between 4:30 pm to 9:30 pm to maximize contacts availability and ensure equal opportunities to respond among various respondent demographic groups. Attempts to convert initial refusals commenced almost immediately and continued throughout the survey. The final few nights of interviewing were almost exclusively devoted to contacting hard to reach respondents. Overall, the survey data collected is based on a 59% cooperation rate¹. The sample is an almost a match to the population of currently enrolled SCSU students with respect to demographics such as age, gender, ethnicity, class standing, and international student or not. The demographic of dorm residents and also of graduate students were about 10% higher than the actuality. Statistical weighting was done on both variables – Dorm residency and class status – to make an exact match and gain representability.

Technology

The SCSU Survey operates a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) Lab on the St. Cloud State University campus. The CATI Lab is equipped with 19 interviewer stations; each includes a computer, a phone, and a headset. In addition to the interviewer stations, there is the Supervisor Station, which is used to monitor the survey while it is in progress. The SCSU Survey has its own server designated solely for the use of the SCSU Survey.

The SCSU Survey is licensed to use Sawtooth Software's Sensus 6.0, a state-of-the-art windows-based computer-assisted interviewing package. This program allows us to develop virtually any type of questionnaire while at the same time programming edit and consistency checks and other quality control measures to ensure the most valid data.

All interview stations are networked for complete, ongoing sample management. Sawtooth Software's Sensus allows immediate data updating, ensuring maximum data integrity and allowing clients to get progress reports anytime. The Survey directors are able the review data for quality and consistency. Question answers are entered directly into the computer, thus keypunching is eliminated, which decreases human error and facilitates immediate data

¹ The cooperation rate is determined by dividing the number of completed interviews (524), by the total of completed interviews, partial interviews, and refusals (total = 888).

analysis. The calling system is programmed to store call record keeping automatically, allowing interviewers and supervisors to focus on the interviewing task. Callbacks are programmed through the computer network and made on a schedule.

Sample Error

The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is ± 4.4 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. In all sample surveys there are other possible sources of error for which precise estimates cannot be calculated. These include interviewer and coder error, respondent misinterpretation, and analysis errors. When analysis is made of sub-samples such as respondent gender, the sample error may be larger.

Sample Weighting

Weighting is generally used in survey analysis to compensate for patterns of non-response that might bias results. The interviewed sample of all students was weighted to match population parameters for dorm residents and ethnicity. All statistics reported are weighted.

The total survey data set consisted of 25 asked variables and six imported variables from the student database (gender, international student or not, year born, ethnicity, class standing, on or off campus residence, and GPA). Of the 25 questions, three were asked for the SCSU Campus Involvement.

Findings, methodology and the questionnaire will be found by going to the SCSU Survey web site and following the links to the spring SCSU student 2016 survey. <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/scsusurvey>.

Analysis (Important note)

Because the data for this survey included information about whether students were enrolled during the academic year of 2014-2015, we were able to conduct the analysis selecting for students who were enrolled during these semesters (fall 2014 and Spring 2015).

Demographic Breakdown of Respondents²

Sex			
		Frequency	Percent
	Male	256	49%
	Female	268	51%
	Total	524	100%

On Campus or Off Campus Resident			
		Frequency	Percent
	Off Campus	435	83%
	On Campus	89	17%
	Total	524	100%

Ethnicity			
		Frequency	Percent
	Black or African-American	43	8%
	Asian	14	3%
	White	434	83%
	Latino/a or Chicano/a	6	1%
	American American/Alaska Native	1	.1%
	Unknown	3	1%
	More than 1	15	3%
	Non-resident Alien	7	1%
	Total	524	100%

Class Standing			
		Frequency	Percent
	First Year	74	14%
	Sophomore	94	18%
	Junior	102	19%
	Senior	143	27%
	Previous Degree	27	5%
	Special Degree	7	1%
	Graduate	77	15%
	Total	524	99%

² Weighted on dorm and class status.

International Student or Not International Student			
		Frequency	Percent
	Not International	517	99%
	International	7	1%
	Total	524	101%

University College or School			
		Frequency	Percent
	COLA	105	20%
	COSE	104	20%
	HBS	84	16%
	SHHS	91	17%
	SOE	62	12%
	SOPA	53	10%
	UG	25	5%
	Total	524	100%

Student Enrolled or Not during academic year 2014-15			
		Frequency	Percent
	Not enrolled	224	43%
	Enrolled	300	57%
	Total	524	101%

AGE			
		Frequency	Percent
	18 to 20	61	43%
	21 to 25	149	57%
	26 to 30	149	
	31 and older	164	
	Total	523	101%

Missing N = 1 (less than 18 years old)

Age:	GPA:
Median = 27	Median = 3.0
Mean = 29.51	Mean = 2.92
Standard deviation = 9.39	Standard deviation = .78