

Background

Merced College partnered with the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCSSE) to administer a voluntary online pilot survey. CCSSE developed this survey with "the purpose ... to help colleges understand their students' experiences with racism, inclusion, and belonging." In April 2021 over 7,500 spring 2021 students received an email invitation to participate in the Race/Ethnicity pilot survey that CCSSE launched in spring 2021. The students invited were the same students that received an invitation to participate in the original CCSSE survey launched a month earlier. The students that were not included in this survey were student under 18 years of age at the start of the term and students enrolled in inmate education courses, as both those students' experiences are considered very different from the majority of the student body by the CCSSE organization.

Prior to the email invitation, students received several email announcements regarding the launch of the survey, including during the launch of the original CCSSE survey. The survey was also promoted on the college's social media pages and students received one email reminder a week after the initial launch and the survey was open until June 15, 2021. By the end of collection, 104 students participated in this pilot survey.

Besides questions regarding student demographics, there were 34 questions asking students to reflect on the current academic year (2020-21) with the following categories:

- Perceptions of racism (pg. 1)
- Experience with racism (pg. 2)
- Challenging Racism (pg. 3)
- Diversity in the classroom (pg. 4)
- Diversity of Staff (pg. 5)
- Sense of Belonging (pg. 5)
- Perceptions of Academic Success (pg. 6)
- Familiarity with college activities (pg. 7)

A sample of the full questions as written in the survey will be provided at the very end of the document.

Representation of Respondents

The full demographics collected from the survey respondents start on page 8 of this document, but a few key highlights should be shared to keep in mind that those who respondent are not necessarily representative of our typical student body:

Overrepresentation		Underrepresentation	
<u>Survey</u>	<u>MC Spring 2021</u>	<u>Survey</u>	<u>MC Spring 2021</u>
Female: 71%	Female: 64%	Hispanic: 45%	Hispanic: 58%
Full-Time: 70%	Full-Time: 40%	24 years or younger: 56%	24 years or younger: 62%

Because of the strong over- and under-representation for certain student populations in this survey, the population of these results will be referred to as "respondents" as it is difficult to say that these participants are representative of the perceptions, experiences and sentiments of the usual Merced College student population. While reviewing the results, keep in mind that these respondents are more likely a female, full-time student who has reliable access to internet.

Results

Students were asked demographic questions at the start of the survey, but for the sake of digging into the data, that data will be shared at the last section of results. Pay attention to the number of respondents for each question (listed as "N: ###" in parenthesis next to the question). Because the questions did not have a "not applicable" or "uncertain" option, it is likely students skipped the questions if they did not have an opinion or a recent experience to provide feedback for that prompt.

Perceptions of Racism

The first two questions in the survey asked students to answer whether or not they believe racism exists in the community and in the college. Students could only answer “Yes” or “No” for these two questions. It is possible that the three students who skipped question 1 were not sure so they did not answer. Students were much more likely to believe racism exists in the community outside of the college than at the college. Table 1 displays the full breakdown of question 1 and 2 results.

Table 1. Do you believe racism exists:	Yes		No	
	#	%	#	%
Q1. The community outside of this college? (N: 101)	81	80.2%	20	19.8%
Q2. At this college? (N: 104)	40	38.5%	64	61.5%

Experience with Racism

For the questions regarding experiences with racism (questions 3 -6), students were asked to recall how often they experience racism both in the outside community and at the college. Similarly to perceptions of racism, respondents were more likely to witness or have racism directed at them outside of the college than in the college. Tables 3 and 4 display the full breakdown of responses for the four questions regarding respondents experiences.

Table 3. During the academic year, how often have you witnessed racism in:										
	Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Very Often	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Q3: The community outside of the College (N: 103)	37	35.9%	15	14.6%	32	31.1%	14	13.6%	5	4.9%
<i>Witnessed racism outside college at least once: 64.1%</i>										
Q4: At the College (N: 102)	68	66.7%	19	18.6%	11	10.8%	3	2.9%	1	1.0%
<i>Witnessed racism at the college at least once: 33.3%</i>										

Table 4. During the academic year, how often have you has racism been directed toward you:										
	Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Very Often	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Q5: The community outside of the College (N: 103)	50	48.5%	26	25.2%	17	16.5%	9	8.7%	1	1.0%
<i>Had racism directed at them outside of the college at least once: 51.5%</i>										
Q6: At the College (N: 102)	78	76.5%	13	12.7%	8	7.8%	2	2.0%	1	1.0%
<i>Had racism directed at them at the college at least once: 23.5%</i>										

Challenging Racism

Four questions (questions 7-10) were asked in which respondents reflected on moments they saw a member of the college challenge racism or that they were provided an avenue to report incidents of racism. When asked whether an instructor or staff member took a stance against racism directed at the student (Table 6/Question 8), respondents were much more likely to select “never.” However, with over two-third of respondents revealing in the previous questions that they have not witnessed/experienced racism at the college, it is likely the “never” is a reflection that they have not been in a situation where they would have witnessed/experienced an instructor/staff member taking a stance.

Table 5. Q7: During the current academic year at this college, how often have you witnessed college instructors and other staff members taking a stance against racism (N: 101)

Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Very Often	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
55	54.5%	12	11.9%	19	18.8%	11	10.9%	4	4.0%
<i>Witnessed a stance against racism at all: 45%</i>									

Table 6. Q8: During the current academic year at this college, how often have you experienced college instructors and other staff members taking a stance against racism in your defense?(N: 102)

Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Very Often	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
78	76.5%	9	8.8%	8	7.8%	5	4.9%	2	2.0%
<i>Experienced staff/instructor take a stance in defense of student at least once: 23.5%</i>									

Table 7. Q9: During the current academic year at this college, I have had opportunities to provide feedback to the college regarding incidents of racism. (N: 101)

Strongly Disagree		Moderately Disagree		Slightly Disagree		Slightly Agree		Moderately Agree		Strongly Agree	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
33	32.7%	7	6.9%	9	8.9%	22	21.8%	19	18.8%	11	10.9%
<i>Leaned towards “Disagree”: 48.5%</i>						<i>Leaned towards “Agree”: 51.5%</i>					

Table 7. Q10: During the current academic year, this college has taken appropriate actions regarding incidents of racism. (N: 98)

Strongly Disagree		Moderately Disagree		Slightly Disagree		Slightly Agree		Moderately Agree		Strongly Agree	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
16	16.3%	3	3.1%	9	9.2%	29	29.6%	22	22.4%	19	19.4%
<i>Leaned towards “Disagree”: 28.6%</i>						<i>Leaned Towards “Agree”: 71.4%</i>					

Diversity in the Classroom

Questions 11 – 15 asked respondents to reflect on discussions of diversity and race/ethnicity in the classroom. About one third of students have not participated in a discussion or activity in class that encouraged them to examine their own understanding of race/ethnicity issues or reflect on their cultural experiences.

Table 8. Q11: During the current academic year at this college, how often have you participated in activities or discussions designed to introduce you to cultural experiences other than your own? (N: 100)

Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Very Often	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
38	38.0%	22	22.0%	19	19.0%	20	20.0%	1	1.0%
<i>Participated in activities to introduce new cultural experiences at least once: 62%</i>									

Table 9. Q12: During the current academic year at this college, how often have you participated in activities or discussions out of class that encouraged you to examine your understanding of issues of race/ethnicity?(N: 100)

Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Very Often	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
37	37.0%	17	17.0%	27	27.0%	11	11.0%	8	8.0%
<i>Participated in activities to introduce new cultural experiences at least once: 63%</i>									

Table 10. Q13: During the current academic year at this college, how often have you participated in activities or discussions in class that reflect your cultural experiences? (N: 98)

Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Very Often	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
29	29.6%	24	24.5%	32	32.7%	7	7.1%	6	6.1%
<i>Participated in activities to introduce new cultural experiences at least once: 70.4%</i>									

Table 11. Q14: During the current academic year at this college, how often have you participated in activities or discussions in class that encouraged you to examine your understanding of issues of race/ethnicity?(N: 98)

Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Very Often	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
31	31.6	24	24.5	24	24.5	13	13.3	6	6.1%
<i>Participated in activities to introduce new cultural experiences at least once: 68.4%</i>									

Table 12. Q15: During the current academic year at this college, how often have your instructors included topics and perspectives focused on your race/ethnicity? (N: 96)

Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Very Often	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
35	36.5%	21	21.9%	25	26.0%	10	10.4%	5	5.2%
<i>Participated in activities to introduce new cultural experiences at least once: 63.5%</i>									

Diversity of Staff

Questions 16 – 20 asked participants to reflect on the diversity of college staff and how important the diversity of the staff to the participants. Respondents were more likely to agree that the college has adequate diversity amount instructors and staff (Question 16). Almost 95% of respondents do not consider an instructor’s race/ethnicity when selecting courses (Table 14/Question 19).

Table 13. Q16: At this college, there is an adequate amount of diversity among instructors and staff members.(N: 92)

Strongly Disagree		Moderately Disagree		Slightly Disagree		Slightly Agree		Moderately Agree		Strongly Agree	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
10	10.9%	5	5.4%	6	6.5%	26	28.3%	23	25.0%	22	23.9%
<i>Leaned towards “Disagree”:</i> 22.8%						<i>Leaned Towards “Agree”:</i> 77.2%					

Table 14. Questions 17, 18 & 19

	Yes		No	
	#	%	#	%
Q17. Is it important that your counselor is the same race/ethnicity as you? (N: 95)	10	10.5%	85	89.5%
Q18. During the current academic year at this college, have you been advised by a college staff member who is the same race/ethnicity as you? (N: 94)	49	52.1%	45	47.9%
Q19. Do you consider the race/ethnicity of your instructors when deciding which course sections to take at this college? (N:94)	6	6.4%	88	93.6%

Table 15. Q20: During the current academic year at this college, how many classes have you taken taught by instructors who are the same race/ethnicity as you? (N: 94)

None		One		Two		Three		Four or More	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
43	45.7%	26	27.7%	10	10.6%	5	5.3%	10	10.6%
<i>Have had at least one class with an instructor who is the same race/ethnicity:</i> 54.3%									

Sense of Belonging

Four questions (21 – 24) asked students to reflect on their sense of belonging and levels of care they feel from instructors and staff. Over three-quarters of respondents felt they belong at Merced College. A similar strong majority also believe there is a culture of caring at the college.

Table 16. Q21: During the current academic year at this college, I have felt like I belong. (N: 94)

Strongly Disagree		Moderately Disagree		Slightly Disagree		Slightly Agree		Moderately Agree		Strongly Agree	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
9	9.6%	4	4.3%	9	9.6%	21	22.3%	22	23.4%	29	30.9%
<i>Leaned towards "Disagree": 23.5%</i>						<i>Leaned Towards "Agree": 76.5%</i>					

Table 17. Q22: Currently, there is a culture of caring at this college. (N: 93)

Strongly Disagree		Moderately Disagree		Slightly Disagree		Slightly Agree		Moderately Agree		Strongly Agree	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
10	10.8%	5	5.4%	8	8.6%	21	22.6%	21	22.6%	28	30.1%
<i>Leaned towards "Disagree": 23.5%</i>						<i>Leaned Towards "Agree": 76.5%</i>					

Table 18. Q23: During the current academic year at this college, I have felt that my instructors care about my success in the courses I am taking. (N: 95)

None of Them Care		Some of Them Care		All of Them Care	
#	%	#	%	#	%
4	4.2%	43	45.3%	48	50.5%
<i>Believe at least some instructors care about student's success : 95.8%</i>					

Table 19. Q24: During the current academic year at this college, I have felt that college staff (other than my instructors) care about me. (N: 94)

None of Them Care		Some of Them Care		All of Them Care	
#	%	#	%	#	%
11	11.7%	45	47.9%	38	40.4%
<i>Believe at least some college staff care about student : 88.3%</i>					

Perceptions of Academic Success

Questions 25 to 28 asked students to reflect on how well they think they did the academic year and how they think their instructors perceived their academic ability. Respondents were more likely to feel comfortable in doing well in all their courses (question 25).

Table 20. Q25: During the current academic year at this college, I am confident that I will complete all of my courses with a grade of C or better. (N: 94)

Strongly Disagree		Moderately Disagree		Slightly Disagree		Slightly Agree		Moderately Agree		Strongly Agree	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
6	6.4%	4	4.3%	3	3.2%	14	14.9%	14	14.9%	53	56.4%
<i>Leaned towards "Disagree": 23.5%</i>						<i>Leaned Towards "Agree": 76.5%</i>					

Table 21. Q26: During the current academic year, I would rate my academic ability as... (N: 94)

Below Average		Average		Above Average	
#	%	#	%	#	%
8	8.5%	58	61.7%	28	29.8%

Table 22. Q27: During the current academic year at this college, do you think your instructors have a different perception of your academic ability than you do? (N: 94)

None of Them		Some of Them		All of Them	
#	%	#	%	#	%
26	27.7	57	60.6	11	11.7

Table 23. Q28: During the current academic year at this college, my instructors have expressed high expectations of me. (N: 94)

Strongly Disagree		Moderately Disagree		Slightly Disagree		Slightly Agree		Moderately Agree		Strongly Agree	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
4	4.3%	7	7.4%	13	13.8%	26	27.7%	27	28.7%	17	18.1%
<i>Leaned towards "Disagree": 25.5%</i>						<i>Leaned Towards "Agree": 74.5%</i>					

Familiarity with College Activities

Questions 29 – 34 asked students to reveal their familiarity and use of activities and academic supports. About 40% of the time of respondents were familiar with an activity or academic support, but there was very low actual participation or use of the activity, with the highest used activating being peer tutoring at 30%. Questions 31 and 34 are not included in the results. They were open-ended questions that asked by students did not participate in the activates and CCSSE did not provide those results.

Table 24. Q29: During the current academic year at this college, which of the following extracurricular or academic activities have you known about?

Metric	# Selecting "Yes"	% (of 104)
a. Student Leadership Positions	52	50.0%
b. Formal student mentoring programs composed of people the same race/ethnicity as you	26	25.0%
c. Student organizations/clubs	61	58.7%
d. Organized sports/activities	41	39.4%

Table 25. Q30: During the current academic year at this college, have you participated in the following extracurricular activities?

Metric	# Selecting "Yes"	% (of 104)
a. Student Leadership Positions	10	9.6%
b. Formal student mentoring programs composed of people the same race/ethnicity as you	6	5.8%
c. Student organizations/clubs	12	11.5%
d. Organized sports/activities	6	5.8%

Table 26. Q32: During the current academic year at this college, which of the following academic supports have you known about?

Metric	# Selecting “Yes”	% (of 104)
a. Peer or other tutoring	77	74.0%
b. Organized learning communities	19	18.3%
c. Supplemental Instruction (extra class sessions)	31	29.8%
d. First-Year Experience	22	21.2%
e. Orientation	40	38.5%
f. Student Success Course (teaches skills needed to succeed in college)	40	38.5%
g. Skill labs (writing, math, etc.)	41	39.4%

Table 27. Q33: During the current academic year at this college, have you participated in the following academic supports?

Metric	# Selecting “Yes”	% (of 104)
a. Peer or other tutoring	31	29.8%
b. Organized learning communities	1	1.0%
c. Supplemental Instruction (extra class sessions)	10	9.6%
d. First-Year Experience	9	8.7%
e. Orientation	20	19.0%
f. Student Success Course (teaches skills needed to succeed in college)	16	15.4%
g. Skill labs (writing, math, etc.)	14	13.5%

Demographics

At the start of the survey, participants were asked to share demographic details. Along with the standard race/ethnicity, age, and gender, CCSSE asked students to declare their assigned-at-birth gender as well as their self-declared gender and their sexual orientation. Also the ethnicity table is summarized as both an unduplicated count based on six core race/ethnicities, the Race/Ethnicity pilot survey also asked students to identify from an expanded race/ethnicity list that explored list of 25 race/ethnicities. Lastly students were asked to identify as full or part-time students and if they are currently an international student.

While still a majority of representation in the survey, two of our core highly represented groups (Hispanic and 24 years or younger) are underrepresented in this survey. In Fall 2020, students that were 24 or younger represented 65% of the student population. However, in this survey, they only represent 56% of participants. Also, in Fall 2020, Hispanic students made up 57% of the population, but only represent 45% of survey participants. Female students are overrepresented in the survey. For most terms, female students roughly comprise 60% of the student body, but represented 71% of participants in the survey.

When possible, the tables on the following pages will include Merced College spring 2021 demographics to compare the population of the survey respondents to that of the college in the term the survey was conducted.

Age of Respondents			MC Spring 2021 %
Ages	#	%	
18-19 years old	35	34.0%	34.4%*
20-21 years old	14	13.6%	27.8%
22-24 years old	9	8.7%	
25-29 years old	6	5.8%	12.0%
30-39 years old	20	19.4%	14.8%
40-49 years old	13	12.6%	6.7%
50-64 years old	5	4.9%	4.1%
65+ years old	1	1.0%	
Total (N)	103	100.0	

* the “18-19” Merced College data is “19 years or less” and in AY 2020-21 there was an increase in AB288 students which increased the percent of students 19 or younger compared to previous academic years.

Simplified Race/Ethnicity of Respondents (Unduplicated)		
Race/Ethnicity	#	%
Asian	7	7.1%
Black	3	3.1%
Hispanic	44	44.9%
White	18	18.4%
2 or more	18	18.4%
Other	8	8.2%
Total (N)	98	100.0

Expanded Race/Ethnicity of Respondents (duplicate answers)					
Race/Ethnicity	#	%	Race/Ethnicity	#	%
American Indian	6	5.8%	Cuban	0	0.0%
Alaska Native	0	0.0%	Mexican American	52	50.0%
East Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Korea, Taiwanese)	3	2.9%	Puerto Rican	1	1.0%
Filipina/o/x	2	1.9%	South American	0	0.0%
Southeast Asian (Cambodian, Vietnamese, Hmong)	3	2.9%	Other Hispanic/Latina/o/x	3	2.9%
South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Nepalese, Sri Lankan)	6	5.8%	Native Hawaiian	0	0.0%
Other Asian	3	2.9%	Pacific Islander (non-Native Hawaiian)	2	1.9%
African American/Black	6	5.8%	Middle Eastern	1	1.0%
African	0	0.0%	European	23	22.1%

Caribbean	0	0.0%	Other White	4	3.8%
Other Black	0	0.0%	Additional Race or Ethnic Category	2	1.9%
Central American	2	1.9%	Decline to Answer	6	5.8%

Are you an international student? (N: 103)		
	#	%
Yes	4	3.9
No	99	94.2

Do you think of yourself as (N: 103)			MC Spring 2021 %
	#	%	
Man	27	26.2%	35.1%
Woman	74	71.8%	63.8%
Transgender man/trans man/female-to-male (FTM)	0	0.0%	Not available
Transgender woman/transwoman/male-to-female (MTF)	0	0.0%	Not available
Genderqueer/ gender nonconforming neither exclusively male nor female	1	1.0%	Not available
Additional gender category	1	1.0%	1.1%

What sex was originally listed on your birth certificate? (N: 101)		
	#	%
Male	26	25.7%
Female	75	74.3%

Do you think of yourself as (N: 98)		
	#	%
Straight or heterosexual	85	86.7%
Lesbian or gay	4	4.1%
Bisexual	4	4.1%
Queer, pansexual, and/or questioning	2	2.0%
Something else	2	2.0%
I do not know	1	1.0%

Are you currently enrolled in full-time or part-time at this college? (N: 103)			MC Spring 2021 %
	#	%	
Part-Time	31	30.1%	59.9%
Full-Time	72	69.9%	40.1%