

Texas A&M University System
2015 Student Learning Outcome Report
for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

ETHICAL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Upon completion of their degree program, students will articulate multiple cultural perspectives in local, national and global communities. Students will identify and analyze social and ethical challenges, including possible resolutions.

ASSESSMENT: NSSE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES TOPICAL MODULE

The National Survey of Student Engagement includes optional modules for specialized topics.

RESULTS: SUFFICIENT

The University uses the Carnegie Classification as a benchmark of NSSE performance and considers performance to be:

- **Exemplary** when 1 point or more above
- **Proficient** when equal to or above
- **Sufficient** when no more than 1 point below
- **Emerging** when no more than 2 points below
- **Insufficient** when more than 2 points below

ANALYSIS:

A&M-Central Texas strives to help its entire student body develop a personal code of values and ethics. To analyze the impact of the institution's efforts in this area, the institution surveyed its 14-15 seniors using the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Overall, A&M-Central Texas seniors indicated substantial growth in this area. 65% of A&M-Central Texas seniors responding to the survey reported that their experiences at the institution has contributed "very much" or "quite a bite" to their knowledge, skills, and personal development in the area of values and ethics.

ACTION:

As part of the institution's curricular review process, academic programs are beginning to integrate ethical reasoning into programs. For instance, as part of its efforts to become accredited by AACSB, every business program is incorporating additional ethical reasoning aspects to their curriculum. Furthermore, A&M-Central Texas was selected as one of 20 universities to be a part of AASCU's American Democracy Project's Economic Inequality Initiative. As part of this initiative, a 6-part lecture series was held on inequality and youth homelessness.

COMMENTS:

The institution is looking at additional measures to expand its analysis of ethical reasoning

GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Upon completion of their degree program, students will utilize multidisciplinary perspectives to evaluate initiatives that have been employed to address global issues. Students will describe the nature of global interdependence and its impacts. Students will articulate an understanding of cultural differences from diverse perspectives in specific disciplines.

ASSESSMENT: NSSE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES TOPICAL MODULE

The National Survey of Student Engagement includes optional modules for specialized topics.

RESULTS: SUFFICIENT

The University uses the Carnegie Classification as a benchmark of NSSE performance and considers performance to be:

- **Exemplary** when 1 point or more above
- **Proficient** when equal to or above
- **Sufficient** when no more than 1 point below
- **Emerging** when no more than 2 points below
- **Insufficient** when more than 2 points below

ANALYSIS:

A&M-Central Texas is one of the most culturally diverse universities in the State of Texas. Furthermore, because of the number of military students and families that attend the institution, many students from A&M-Central Texas have experienced the interconnectedness of diverse peoples. To analyze the impact of their social and academic experiences on their ability to develop a global perspective, the institution surveyed its graduating senior students in 2014-2015 using the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The focus of this analysis is the NSSE topic module - Global Perspective. NSSE's Goal Perspective module is a shorter version of the Global Perspectives Inventory (GPI). The module focuses on the cognitive and social elements of a global perspective. When compared to the other universities (N=101) who participated in the Global Perspectives module, A&M-Central Texas seniors provided, on average, statistically different answers on five of the twenty-one questions. On each of these questions, the differences related to respondents from A&M-Central Texas being more accepting of diverse peoples than the average student from the participating institutions. For instance, 45% of the respondents from A&M-Central Texas indicated that they disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement: "Most of my friends are from my own ethnic background". 28% of the students from the other participating institutions responded in a similar manner.

ACTION:

The Central Texas is a very diverse region. For instance, according to ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates for Killeen, Texas (2013 American Community Survey Estimates), only 33.1% of the population identifies as White only. Therefore, as the institution looks to enhance students' ability to analyze the impact of multiple factors on the interconnectedness of diverse peoples in the global environment, A&M-Central Texas will be placing increasing focus on becoming a leader in

community engagement and community based research. Combined, these areas are one of the five priorities in the institution's academic master plan. By integrating community issues into classes, research, and service opportunities, students will be able to analyze diversity issues at multiple levels. Furthermore, through increased study abroad initiatives, students will get a chance to contrast issues that may occur both here and abroad.

COMMENTS:

A&M-Central Texas plans to repeat this analysis every two years.