



Results from the 2008 College Senior Survey - Athletics

At the end of the 2007-2008 academic year, seniors were invited to complete the College Senior Survey (CSS). This survey asked students a series of questions about their educational and social experience at Case, their satisfaction with various aspects of their undergraduate education, their relationships with faculty, staff and peers, their future plans, their time management, and their political leanings. A total of 206 students replied, representing approximately 27% of graduating seniors. As in the general population, the majority of the sample (53%) was male, though the percentage of men in the sample was lower than the percentage of male graduates (58%). The sample is nearly identical to the population in terms of major. For example, 33% of the sample and 33% of graduating seniors were engineering or computer science majors.

This report examines survey items related to participation in varsity/intercollegiate athletics.

Participation

- 47% of student respondents participated in intramural sports.
- 21% of survey respondents participated in varsity/intercollegiate athletics.

Students who participated in intramural sports were significantly more likely to have:

- Joined a fraternity or sorority
- Taken an honors or advanced course
- Completed an internship
- Completed leadership training

Students who participated in varsity/intercollegiate athletics were no more likely than their peers to have participated in the above activities.

Social Life

Those who participated in intramural sports

- Were significantly more likely than their peers to be satisfied or very satisfied with:
 - The overall sense of community on campus
 - The availability of campus social activities
 - The overall college experience
- Were significantly more likely than their peers to agree or strongly agree that they:
 - Have a sense of belonging to this campus
 - See themselves as part of the campus community
- And were significantly less likely than their peers to say that they:
 - Felt lonely or homesick
 - Felt overwhelmed by all they had to do

Those who participated in varsity/intercollegiate athletics

Were significantly more likely than their peers to be satisfied or very satisfied with:

- The overall sense of community on campus
- The availability of campus social activities
- The overall college experience
- And were significantly more likely than their peers to agree or strongly agree that they:
- Have a sense of belonging to this campus

Learning Outcomes

Those who played varsity or intercollegiate athletics reported significantly greater gains than their peers in:

- General knowledge
- Understanding of the problems facing their community
- Preparedness for employment after college
- Ability to manage their time effectively
- Understanding of global issues

Those who played intramural sports reported significantly greater gains than their peers in interpersonal skills; however, there were no differences between those who participated in intramural sports and those who did not on other the learning outcomes.

Overall Satisfaction

The majority of students said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall college experience (80%). Additionally, most students said that, if they could start over and make their college choice again, they “probably” (47%) or “definitely” (31%) would still choose to enroll at Case.

Those who participated in varsity or intercollegiate athletics were significantly more satisfied with their overall college experience than were their peers. That said, these students were no more likely than their peers to say that, if they could start over, they would still choose to enroll at Case. Those who participated in intramural sports were significantly more likely than their peers to say that, if they could start over, would still choose to enroll at Case. That said, these students did not differ from their peers in their rating of the overall college experience.

Conclusion

Results presented in this report highlight the relationship between athletics, satisfaction with Case, and gains in learning outcomes. Though the data reveal strong, positive relationships, the old adage holds true: “correlation is not causation.” Further research may help us better understand whether participation in athletics causes increased satisfaction and gains in learning outcomes.

