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Sociology Department Climate Survey

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Sociology Department Climate Survey

Intro

This survey was developed in the Fall of 2019 by students Brenda Martinez and Emma Johnson under the advisory of Sociology faculty Dr. Angela Fillingim, Dr. Glenn Tsunokai, and Dr. Melissa Osborne. The administered survey was adapted from the Environmental Studies Diversity and Inclusion survey conducted by the ENVIS Community and Equity Committee headed by Dr. Kate Darby. The aim of this survey is to increase support for students in the department by better understanding the lived reality of Sociology students.

Methods

A link to the finished Qualtrics survey was sent to the student emails of Western Washington University Sociology majors on November 8, 2019. Students followed an external link that anonymized their answers so their results were not connected to their student emails. Respondents took the survey on Qualtrics where they were asked questions about resource access and insecurity, demographics, and the climate of the Sociology department. Students had until November 22, 2019 to complete the survey. The survey took students about 30 minutes to complete. Results were then analyzed in Qualtrics and Microsoft Excel by students Emma Johnson and Brenda Martinez.

Results

Demographics:

- 107 respondents
- 38.4% of respondents are first generation students
- 24.4% of respondents are part of the LGBTQ+ community
- 31.8% of respondents have a mental health condition
- All respondents are either current Sociology majors or intend to be
- Racial breakdown:
 - o 68% White
 - o 14% Asian/Asian American
 - o 12% Hispanic/Latino
 - o 3% Pacific Islander
 - o 2% African/African American
 - o 1% Middle Eastern/Southwest Asian/North African
- Gender breakdown:
 - o 79.1% cis female
 - o 12.8% cis male
 - o 3.5% prefer not to say
 - o 2.3% gender non-conforming
 - o 1.2% not listed
 - o 1.2% trans male

Key Findings:

- Recommendations from respondents include

- More faculty of color
- Cultural competency training for faculty and staff
- Center diverse perspectives
- More dialogue in the classroom
- Explicit assignment expectations
- Interdisciplinary courses
- Emphasis on how courses can apply to post-grad life
- Student material and tangible needs
 - Finances
 - More time
 - Mental health support
- Lack of guidance in department
 - Lack of student-faculty mentoring relationships
 - Office hours are inaccessible
 - Department difficult to navigate logistically
 - Lack of information regarding capstone class
- Lack of socialization in department