

Who Are UIC's Asian American Students?

Results from UIC Asian American Undergraduate Survey

Conducted by:
Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Asian Americans

Asian Americans at the University of Illinois at Chicago

- 25% of the undergraduate population
- Nearly 30% of freshman class
- No designated services or programs until this fall—Asian American Culture & Resource Center to open January 2005
- Not listed in UI Facts book until this year
- Very little information about them

Research Questions

- What is the demographic profile of UIC's Asian American undergraduates?
- What are their perceptions of UIC?
- What is their level of campus involvement and use of student services?
- Do they have Asian American role models and support on campus?
- What is their interest in the Asian American Resource & Cultural Center and Asian American studies courses?

Background/Procedure

- Web-based survey of undergraduates (~3800)who:
 - Self-identify as being of Asian descent
 - Have a UIC e-mail address
 - NOT be enrolled on a student visa
 - Be enrolled in Fall 2003
- Mail follow-up of random sample of 300 non-respondents
- Incentive prizes were offered
- 853 students responded, but only 739 students met the inclusion criteria

Generational Status/Language

- Generation
 - 62% 2nd (born in U.S.)
- Citizenship
 - 66% US born
 - 19% naturalized
 - 11% permanent resident
 - 4% dual
- Primary language
 - 63% English
 - 19% Asian language

More demographics

- 62% female
- 23% 1st generation college students
- 19% transfer students
- Residence while at school
 - 41% with parents
 - 35% on campus
 - 24% off-campus
- Commuters:
 - 32% more than 10 miles

Class Level and Major

- Year in school
 - 34% 4th yr or above
 - 24% 3rd year
 - 20% 2nd year
 - 21% 1st year
- Most popular majors
 - 14% biological sciences
 - 13% business majors
 - 9% engineering

Ethnic/Racial Identity

- How students identify –
 - 40% specific Asian ethnicity (i.e., “Chinese”)
 - 28% specific Asian ethnicity-American, (“Chinese-American”)
 - 21% “Asian American”
- 4 largest Asian ethnic groups (reported by students who selected only one ethnic group)
 - Asian Indian – 24%
 - Filipino – 20%
 - Korean – 20%
 - Chinese – 19%
- 14% multiracial

Ethnic/Racial Identity

- 65% somewhat/strongly agreed that they are trying to learn more about their racial/ethnic group in college
- 74% somewhat/strongly agreed that they are attached to their ethnic group

Choosing UIC

- 40% said UIC was their first choice
- Why students chose UIC:
 - Tuition cost: 77%
 - Close to home: 74%
 - Friends attend: 28%
 - Diversity: 22%
 - Programs available: 18%
 - Academic Quality: 18%
 - Ease of Transfer: 5%

Campus Climate (positive)

- Over 80% agreed that university supports ethnic diversity
 - 62% felt university specifically supports Asian American Students
- 80% believe there is a strong Asian American community at UIC
- 58% agree that they have a sense of belonging on campus
- 53% somewhat/strongly agree that there are enough resources for Asian Americans

Campus Climate (negative)

- Over half disagree that faculty/staff are sensitive to their concerns as Asian American students
- 32% experienced racism on campus
- 47% somewhat/strongly disagree that there are enough resources for Asian Americans

Involvement in Student Organizations

- Cultural: 34%
- Religious: 30%
- Honor: 30%
- Hobby: 28%
- Professional: 27%
- Intramural Sports: 14%
- Service: 11%
- Residence Hall: 9%
- Greek: 8%
- Student Government: 5%
- Political: 4%

Participation in campus activities

- Lecture – 61%
- Cultural event – 50%
- Activities fair – 47%
- Career fair – 44%
- Campus movies – 37%
- Athletic events – 25%

Participation in Asian American activities

- Organization Meetings –29%
- Asiantation – 20%
- Asian American awareness month – 20%
- Speaker –20%
- Asian American studies course – 20%
- Workshop – 13%
- Conference –11%

Sources of Stress

- 89% mentioned school as moderate/a lot of stress
- 58% relationships
- 55% family
- 45% work
- 22% cultural conflicts

Awareness and Use of university services

- Most common answer: “know about but and have not used”
 - Counseling Center (72%)
 - Study Abroad (72%)
 - Student Government (68%)
 - Wellness Center (64%)
 - Legal Services (62%)
 - Academic Center for Excellence (59%)
 - Health Programs (58%)
 - Career Services (57%)

Use of University services (cont)

- Know about and have used:
 - 96% computer labs
 - 81% academic advising
 - 56% recreation center
- Did not know about:
 - 41% Women’s Affairs
 - 37% Student Development Services
 - 27% Legal services
 - 27% Academic Center for Excellence

Employment and Income

- Employment status
 - 40% work off-campus
 - 29% do not work
 - 18% work on-campus
- Household income –
 - 27% over \$75K
 - 26% \$25 to \$49.9K
 - 19% \$50 to \$74.9K
 - 16% less than \$15K
 - 13% \$15 to \$24.9K

Special Programs Enrollment

- Emerging Scholars – 2%
- GPPA – 11%
- Honors College – 25%
- McNair– 0%
- Summer Research Opportunities – 1%
- TRIO Programs -- <1%

Academic Support

- For academic concerns, from whom are you most likely to seek advice?:
 - Friends: 39%
 - Academic Office: 38%
 - Faculty: 36%
 - Family: 22%
- How important is it for you to receive (academic) advice from someone who is Asian?
 - 58% not important at all
 - 42% somewhat/very important

Career Support

- For career concerns, from whom are you most likely to seek advice:
 - 40% family
 - 39% friends
 - 36% Career Office
 - 17% faculty
- How important is it for you to receive (career) advice from someone who is Asian?
 - 51% not important at all
 - 49% somewhat/very important

Personal Support

- For personal concerns, from whom are you most likely to seek advice?
 - 70% friends
 - 44% family
 - 8% other
 - 2% office
 - 1% faculty
- How important is it for you to receive (personal) advice from someone who is Asian?
 - 42% not important at all
 - 58% somewhat/very important

Faculty/Staff Role Models

- It is important that I can find faculty and staff who look like me on campus:
 - 40% somewhat/strongly agree
- I have Asian American Role Models on campus:
 - 74% somewhat/strongly disagree

Student Role Models

- It is important that I can find students who look like me on campus:
 - 44% somewhat/strongly agree
- I have Asian American peer mentors on campus:
 - 70% somewhat/strongly disagree

Asian American Resource & Cultural Center

- Students who think that having a center is important – 82%
- Students who report that they are likely to use the center – 69%
- Students think it is VERY important to have:
 - Academic programs – 61%
 - Social programs – 47%
 - Cultural programs – 54%
 - Community awareness programs – 58%
 - Programs to promote Asian Am. studies – 58%

Asian American Studies

- I feel that my teachers commonly incorporate my ethnic/cultural heritage into the curriculum – 15%
- I feel that there are enough Asian American courses at UIC – 28%
- It is important to have Asian American studies at UIC – 82%
- 88% interested in Asian language courses

Implications for Practice

- Students identify more with their specific ethnicity than the “Asian American” label
- Students are interested in learning more about their cultural heritage
- There is a need for academic support
- Students feel a lack of role models and peer mentors on campus
- There is a strong interest in the Cultural Center and Asian American Studies courses

Future Plans

- More specific analyses by ethnicity, college, other subgroups of sample
- Future presentations will be more in-depth on specific issues or populations
- Written report by end of year

Campus Resources

- Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Asian Americans
 - Corinne Kodama & Mitzi Lee, Co-Chairs
 - www.uic.edu/depts/CCSAA
- Asian American Resource & Cultural Center
 - Karen Su, Director
 - www.uic.edu/depts/oa/AARCC/

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