

## What Determines Involvement at Carnegie Mellon?

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### A. Why is this topic interesting? Is there a client for whom you might do the survey?

Carnegie Mellon is not known for its school spirit. In particular, we have noticed low attendance at sporting events and the creation of the Tartan Rewards Program, which aims to increase attendance at Carnegie Mellon events. Understanding how groups form on campus can be used to unify the student body and improve attendance at school events. CMU sports teams and clubs and the Tartan Rewards Program could be possible clients of this survey because the information could improve their attendance rates. This study needs to be done now to benefit incoming classes of students and attract more students to come to Carnegie Mellon

### B. What question(s) do you propose to study?

Our survey would ask questions about the student's current involvement on campus. Questions would include which factors student's find most influential in choosing groups to participate in:

- Friends involved
- Advertising
- Major
- Past participation
- Career goals
- Dorm activities
- What main mode of contact do you use for involvement (email, facebook, text, call, in person)
- Do you live on or off campus? Have a car?
- Nationality/International Status?

We would also ask about a student's grade level, hometown and gender to see if these are confounding variables. We can do additional research into the size of students' virtual social networks versus "real" social networks. How do you mainly interact with others: classes, clubs, social life, office hours/study groups, other?

### C. Previous Research

these are OK but they are organized and listed poorly -- not like a list of references or annotated bibliography in a paper! Please clean up.

This is a website that allows students to rate their social lives by major. There is no analysis, it is just raw data but it shows the affect of major on social life for Carnegie Mellon students. [http://www.studentsreview.com/specific\\_detail.php3?uid=1150&f=Social&d\\_short=CM&d\\_school=Carnegie+Mellon+University](http://www.studentsreview.com/specific_detail.php3?uid=1150&f=Social&d_short=CM&d_school=Carnegie+Mellon+University) - **Maggie Soderholm**

This article from the Tartan tells how the new school mascot, the Scotty, has improved attendance at school sporting events and other on campus activities. <http://thetartan.org/2008/9/15/news/> - **Bruce Jackson**

"A Journey Through Adult Student Involvement on Campus" by Wendy Morgan explores how involvement has a positive influence on development and learning. Additionally, it leads to a

greater satisfaction with the college experience overall.

<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/SAHE/JOURNAL2/2001/Journey.htm>- **Ellie Gurary**

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/591753?&Search=yes&searchText=involvement&searchText=university&searchText=student&searchText=campus&list=hide&searchUri=/action/doBasicSearch%3Facc%3Don%26Query%3Dcampus%2Bstudent%2Binvolvement%2Buniversity%26gw%3Djtx%26acc%3Don%26prq%3Dcampus%2Bstudent%2Binvolvement%2Bengagement%26Search%3DSearch%26hp%3D25%26wc%3Don%26acc%3Don&prevSearch=&item=1&ttl=8004&returnArticleService=showFullText>

This article explains the role that residential housing has on students' involvement in the university and the university's location. The article shows that students tend to not involve themselves in the community at large and delves into how the community perceives them.-

**Chrissy Swierkocki**

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3838723?&Search=yes&searchText=university&searchText=student&searchText=engagement&list=hide&searchUri=/action/doBasicSearch%3Facc%3Don%26Query%3Dstudent%2Buniversity%2Bengagement%26gw%3Djtx%26acc%3Don%26prq%3Dcampus%2Bstudent%2Binvolvement%2Buniversity%26Search%3DSearch%26hp%3D25%26wc%3Don%26acc%3Don&prevSearch=&item=3&ttl=18975&returnArticleService=showFullText>

This article explains the role that students from different countries play in the university community and how their presence affects the experience of other students-**Jen Sung**

#### ***D. Sampling Frame***

Undergraduate Students in randomly sampled classes. We will use a stratified cluster method to select students to take our survey. Attached are the classes we randomly selected through a random number generator. There are three classes for each college for a total of 18 classes. We plan to survey all the students in these 18 classes.

**This is great. Effectively, your frame will be the list of classes this spring at CMU. You will want to survey all the students in each class.**

#### ***E. Target Population***

All Carnegie Mellon Undergraduate Students. There can be a coverage error if a large part of the class does not show up that day, or a non-response error if they do not fill out the survey. A measurement error may occur based on the questions asked, and a natural tendency to inflate certain values (how much social time one spends weekly); we can account for that by modeling appropriately. If we correctly implement a random sample, we should minimize sampling error to negligible amounts. Also, coverage error can be avoided with cooperation of professors in encouraging the survey.

**good observations**

#### ***F. Mode of Data Collection***

In-class surveys of randomly selected classes from the undergraduate course offerings. We felt that this was the best method of collecting data because it will minimize errors and lead to the best random sample of undergraduate students with the highest response rate.

#### ***G. Variables of Interest***

- Friends involved

**we'll discuss sample size for clustered samples soon.**

- Advertising
- Major
- Past participation
- Career goals
- Dorm activities
- What main mode of contact do you use for involvement (email, facebook, text, call, in person)
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### ***I. IRB Form***

Attached.

**The draft IRB form is good. You will want to revise the details as your design, questionnaire, etc. solidify, before turning in the final draft of it.**

### ***J. Confidentiality***

Confidentiality is a matter of trust, and our data collection process will include gathering personal information from our respondents. This information, however, will be unbeknownst to us as surveyors and, therefore, will not be released in conjunction with the survey results. Furthermore, we will protect the identities of those who take part in the survey by assuring anonymity. Finally, we can attest that the particular course names and numbers included in the survey will not be disclosed.

**this is great**