Student Climate Survey

Summary

Administered Spring 2017

Prepared by:



Office of Institutional Research



2017 Student Climate Survey

Findings (N=592, 36.9% response)

In 2009, a climate survey was administered to students by the National Multicultural Institute (NMCI) to assess the state of the climate for students on campus including those from underrepresented backgrounds. To assess change, the College received permission from NMCI to utilize questions from the 2009 instrument. A climate survey was designed by the President's Council on Inclusivity and Multicultural Diversity for administration in spring 2017. The summary results are presented below. A total of 592 students responded for a response rate of 37%

Areas of Strength

Students now believe much more strongly in the importance of incorporating multiculturalism and diversity into the curriculum and other programs of the College.



Saint Mary's should require all students to take at least one course on multicultural issues





The majority of students continue to agree that the leaders of the College are committed to improving the climate.



The leaders at Saint Mary's are committed to making changes at the school to improve the climate for all

2009 2017



Students believe strongly that all members of the College community are responsible for fostering and promoting inclusivity.

Students continue to report feeling respected and supported by faculty and staff.



% Agree

Areas of Challenge

1. Students report increased difficulty making friends and feeling like they can be themselves.

Saint Mary's students report increased difficulty in making friends compared to 2009.



It is easy to make friends at Saint Mary's

Students with the most difficulty making friends include students of color, first-generation, LGBTQ, those with faiths other than Catholicism or no faith at all and those with disabilities.



Percent who **disagree** it is easy to make friends at Saint Mary's

Significantly more students disagree that they can really be themselves at Saint Mary's compared to 2009.



I can really be myself at Saint Mary's

LGBTQ students, students with faiths other than Christianity and those with no religious affiliation report the highest levels of disagreement in ability to be themselves at Saint Mary's.



Percent who disagree I can really be myself at Saint Mary's

Many students continue to feel as though they must conform to a traditional image of a Saint Mary's student.



Underrepresented populations are significantly more likely to agree that in order to feel accepted, they need to conform to a traditional image of a "Saint Mary's woman".



Percent who agree to be accepted here, they feel they must confirm to traditional image of a "Saint Mary's woman" *Compared to 2009, significantly more students disagree that they feel safe expressing a viewpoint that is different from the norm at Saint Mary's.*



I feel safe expressing a viewpoint that is different than the norm at Saint Mary's

LGBTQ students are most likely to indicate they do not feel safe expressing a viewpoint different from the norm at Saint Mary's.



Percent who disagree they feel safe expressing a viewpoint different than the norm at Saint Mary's

2. Populations from underrepresented backgrounds are significantly less likely to experience Saint Mary's as a welcoming and inclusive community.

Compared to 2009, more students agree that the atmosphere in their classes make them feel like an outsider.



Students of color, first-generation students, LGBTQ students, and students who are not Christian are more likely to agree the atmosphere in their classes make them feel like an outsider.



Percent who agree the atmosphere in their classes make them feel like an outsider

2009 2017

More than a fifth of populations from underrepresented backgrounds including students color, firstgeneration, LGBTQ, students who are not Christian, and those with a disability disagree that Saint Mary's provides a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all.



Percent who disagree that Saint Mary's provides a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all





Students report most often observing other students harass other students because of political beliefs. Appearance, Dress, sexual orientation and race/ethnicity were subjects of harassment with more than half of students reporting observing harassment or making fun during the past year.



During the past year, how frequently have you observed students harassing or making fun of other students because of their: (Means)

More than a fifth of students indicate the climate is intolerant for students with diverse gender identities and LGBTQ individuals.



Percentage characterizing the climate at Saint Mary's as "intolerant" for the following groups:

Assessment of Climate by Members of Specified Population (% Intolerant)	2009	2017
LGBTQ Individuals	72.7%	46.2%
Underrepresented racial/ethnic groups	19.4%	30.2%
Individuals from disadvantaged economic backgrounds (first-gen)		22.4%
People whose first language is other than English	20.0%	18.7%
Individuals with disabilities	12.9%	8.9%
International students/faculty/staff	6.3%	25.0%

While fewer students of color, LGBTQ students, and students of faith backgrounds other than Christianity or no faith backgrounds reported they had been teased or harassed at Saint Mary's, underrepresented students were still significantly more likely to report harassment.



Percent who agree that on several occassions they have been teased or harassed at Saint Mary's

3. Since 2009, students are more likely to disagree that the College provides appropriate response to diversity related incidents with nearly all subgroups of students more likely to disagree.

Since 2009 an increase has been seen in the number of students disagreeing that Saint Mary's provides appropriate response to diversity-related incidents on-campus.



Saint Mary's provides appropriate response to diversityrelated incidents on campus



4. Since 2009, students feel greater discomfort in talking about racial and ethnic issues with people of differing race/ethnicities.



Discomfort in discussing racial/ethnic issues has increased for both white students and students of color since 2009.



5. The majority of students continue to believe the College has done a good job in providing programs and activities promoting multicultural understanding. However, about 12% of students disagreed in 2017.



Saint Mary's has done a good job of providing programs and activities that promote multicultural understanding.



2017 Student Climate Survey

Full Results Summary

Table 1: Demographics

	Saint
	Mary's
Age	N=585
18	10.8%
19-21	72.5%
22-24 25	15.2%
25 or older	1.6%
Classification	N=588
First-Year	25.9%
Sophomore	21.6%
Junior Senior	24.3% 25.7%
Graduate Student	
	2.4%
Gender identification	N=587
Female	98.6%
Male	0.7%
Transgender	0.0%
Other	0.7%
Sexual Orientation	N=582
Heterosexual	89.5%
Gay/Lesbian Bisexual	1.7% 5.8%
Asexual	1.2%
Questioning/Unsure	1.0%
Another sexual orientation other than above	0.7%
English first language?	N=582
Yes	92.1%
No	7.9%
Ftherisite	N=581
Ethnicity Black or African-American	1.5%
Asian	3.6%
Latina/o or Hispanic	5.6 % 9.5%
Two or more races	9.5 % 4.6%
White	79.5%
Another race/ethnicity other than listed above	1.2%
The former for the former and the former above	1.270
Citizenship	N=580
U.S. Citizen	97.2%
Permanent U.S. Resident	0.7%
Neither U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident	2.1%

Religious Affiliation	N=582
Christian-Roman Catholic	71.8%
Christian-Protestant/Other	10.3%
Another faith other than Christianity	3.2%
Atheist	1.5%
Agnostic	5.2%
None	7.9%
Diagnosed with Disability of Impairment	N=585
Yes	21.4%
No	78.6%
Residency	N=583
On-Campus	87.1%
Off-campus, apartment	9.6%
Off-campus, with parent/guardian	3.3%
First-Generation	N=592
Yes	21.6%
No	78.4%

Table 2: General Climate at Saint Mary's College

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following:	Mean	Disagree Strongly (1)	(2)	Neither Agree nor Disagree (3)	(4)	Agree Strongly (5)	No Response
Saint Mary's provides a welcoming atmosphere of inclusiveness for all.	3.96	3.5%	10.6%	6.9 %	43.1%	34.6%	1.2%
2009 Results	3.93	2.3%	9.5%	8.4%	50.8%	27.2%	1.7%
I am treated with the same respect as other students by faculty members.	4.51	1.2%	4.2%	4.6%	22.6%	66.7%	0.7%
2009 Results	4.46	0.4%	5.2%	4.0%	28.0%	60.6%	1.7%
I am treated with the same respect as other students by staff members.	4.53	0.8%	3.4%	4.7%	24.2%	66.2%	0.7%
2009 Results	4.45	0.8%	4.0%	5.4%	27.8%	60.4%	1.7%
I am treated with the same respect as other students by other students.	4.01	3.4%	10.0%	9.3%	36.1%	40.0%	1.2 %
2009 Results	N/A						
I have the opportunity to participate in social activities at Saint Mary's that are important to me.	4.46	0.8%	3.5%	6.1%	26.7%	61.5%	1.4%
2009 Results	4.47	0.7%	2.8%	5.2%	30.2%	59.4%	1.7%
It is easy to make friends at Saint Mary's.	3.97*	3.0%	11.3%	12.2%	31.8%	40.9%	0.8%
2009 Results	4.21*	1.2%	7.3%	9.3%	32.0%	48.5%	1.7%
I feel proud to be a student at Saint Mary's.	4.43	2.2%	3.2%	7.6%	22.8%	63.3%	0.8%
2009 Results	4.44	0.8%	3.9%	7.6%	25.0%	61.0%	1.7%

*Significant difference at the p<.05 level between 2009 and 2017.

Table 3: General Climate at Saint Mary's College (cont.)

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following:	Mean	Disagree Strongly (1)	(2)	Neither Agree nor Disagree (3)	(4)	Agree Strongly (5)	No Response
Faculty members apply the same academic standards to all students regardless of their background.	4.43	2.4%	3.4%	4.9 %	26.4%	61.7%	1.4%
2009 Results	4.41	1.0%	5.7%	4.4%	27.9%	59.4%	1.7%
I feel comfortable talking about LGBTQ issues with people of a different sexual orientation than mine.	3.82	4.7%	11.5%	16.2 %	29.6%	36.0%	2.0%
2009 Results	3.75	3.7%	12.0%	18.6%	35.1%	28.9%	1.7%
Saint Mary's provides appropriate response to diversity-related incidents on campus.	3.48*	7.8%	16.9 %	18.8%	30.6%	24.5%	1.5%
2009 Results	3.67*	3.0%	12.2%	22.0%	38.4%	22.8%	1.7%
Saint Mary's should require all students to take at least one course on multicultural issues.	3.92*	6.6%	8.6%	16.0 %	22.8%	44.8%	1.2%
2009 Results	3.37*	27.8%	34.1%	22.1%	11.2%	3.2%	1.7%

Table 4: General Climate at Saint Mary's College (cont.)

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following:	Mean	Disagree Strongly (1)	(2)	Neither Agree nor Disagree (3)	(4)	Agree Strongly (5)	No Response
Any student who makes use of mental health counseling services will be	2.30	30.9%	27.5%	24.7%	11.5%	4.2%	1.2%
stigmatized by other students. 2009 Results	2.27	27.8%	34.1%	22.1%	11.2%	3.2%	1.7%
Staff and faculty at the college treat each other with respect.	4.23	1.2%	3.0%	12.8%	35.5%	45.3%	2.2%
2009 Results	4.32	0.3%	2.8%	9.1%	39.5%	46.7%	1.7%
I feel comfortable talking about racial and ethnic issues with people of races/ ethnicities other than mine.	3.72*	5.2%	15.4%	11.8%	36.7%	30.1%	0.8%
2009 Results	3.93*	1.9%	8.8%	13.5%	43.6%	30.4%	1.7%
Saint Mary's has done a good job of providing programs and activities that promote multicultural understanding.	3.78*	3.4%	9.0%	19.9 %	40.4%	26.5%	0.8%
2009 Results	3.90*	1.5%	7.5%	16.9%	45.7%	26.8%	1.7%

*Significant difference at the p<.05 level between 2009 and 2017.

Table 5: Climate of Inclusiveness

				Neither			
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or		Disagree		Agree nor		Agree	
disagree with the following:	Mean	Strongly		Disagree		Strongly	No
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Response
Students at Saint Mary's separate		-	-	-	-	-	_
themselves into groups based on their	3.79*	3.5%	9.5%	14.4%	47.6%	23.5%	1.5%
ethnicity, race, religion, or other ways in	3.79	3.570	9.570	14.4 /0	47.070	23.370	1.570
which they are different.							
2009 Results	3.97*	2.1%	6.8%	10.4%	51.9%	27.2%	1.7%
In my classes, professors integrate							
culturally-diverse points of view into the	3.84*	2.4%	8.6%	16.0 %	47.0%	24.5%	1.5%
coursework and / or class discussions.							
2009 Results	3.73*	1.9%	7.6%	22.0%	50.6%	16.3%	1.7%
My professors at Saint Mary's care about	4.54	0.8%	2.2%	5.1%	25.0%	65.0%	1.9 %
my growth and development.	1.01	0.070	2.270	5.170	23.070	05.070	1.970
2009 Results	4.52	0.3%	1.2%	5.5%	30.9%	60.4%	1.7%
I can really be myself at Saint Mary's	4.03*	3.7%	10.3%	9.3%	30.7%	44.3%	1.7%
2009 Results	4.25*	2.1%	5.9%	8.1%	31.8%	50.4%	1.7%
To be accepted here, I feel that I must							
conform to the traditional image of a	3.12	12.5%	20.6%	21.5%	29.7 %	13.7%	2.0%
"Saint Mary's woman".							
2009 Results	3.03	12.2%	25.1%	20.4%	29.0%	11.6%	1.7%
Saint Mary's provides a good support system to	3.62*	3.9%	10.1%	27.0%	34.8%	22.1%	2.0%
help new students transition into the school.	0.02	5.970	10.1 /0	27.070	54.070	44.1 /0	2.070
2009 Results	3.74*	2.6%	9.3%	22.9%	39.4%	24.2%	1.7%

*Sig. difference at p<.05 level between 2009 & 2017.

Table 5: Climate of Inclusiveness

(cont.)

				Neither			
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or		Disagree		Agree nor		Agree	
disagree with the following:	Mean	Strongly		Disagree		Strongly	No
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Response
Occasionally, I hear students make racially or							
culturally insensitive remarks about students,	3.04	19.8 %	16.2%	17.9 %	29.4 %	15.2%	1.5%
faculty, or staff.							
2009 Results	2.96	15.9%	22.8%	17.3%	34.5%	7.9%	1.7%
The atmosphere in my classes makes me feel like an outsider.	2.13*	39.0%	28.0%	16.0%	9.6%	5.6%	1.7%
2009 Results	1.91*	44.8%	30.7%	12.3%	8.3%	2.3%	1.7%
On several occasions, I have been teased or harassed at Saint Mary's.	1.73	62.8 %	15.7%	9.6%	5.2%	5.4%	1.2%
2009 Results	1.69	61.0%	17.8%	9.9%	7.7%	1.8%	1.7%

*Significant difference at the p<.05 level between 2009 and 2017.

Table 6

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following:	Mean	Disagree Strongly (1)	(2)	Neither Agree nor Disagree (3)	(4)	Agree Strongly (5)	No Response
Students respect the faculty and other teaching staff.	4.29*	1.2%	3.4%	6.1%	43.2%	44.4%	1.7%
2009 Results	4.18*	0.6%	4.3%	8.6%	48.2%	36.7%	1.7%
The leaders at Saint Mary's are committed to making changes at the school to improve the climate for all.	4.01*	3.2%	6.4%	13.2%	39.0%	37.0%	1.2%
2009 Results	3.89*	1.4%	7.3%	20.0%	41.3%	28.3%	1.7%
School leaders are friendly and appropriate.	4.28*	1.0%	4.1%	9.5%	35.0%	48.3%	2.2%
2009 Results	3.96*	2.5%	7.3%	14.2%	42.4%	31.9%	1.7%
Saint Mary's promotes respect for diversity.	4.05	2.7%	7.9 %	11.3%	36.1%	40.5%	1.4%
2009 Results	4.11	1.2%	3.9%	12.3%	46.4%	34.5%	1.7%
I feel safe expressing a viewpoint that is different than the norm at Saint Mary's.	3.36*	9.6%	20.3%	15.2%	32.1%	21.6%	1.2%
2009 Results	3.76*	3.0%	12.3%	13.0%	46.8%	23.2%	1.7%
Incorporating diverse perspectives into the educational and social programs of the College is essential for providing a quality education.	4.42*	1.5%	2.0%	10.3%	23.8%	60.3%	2.0%
2009 Results	4.28*	1.2%	2.9%	10.2%	36.5%	47.5%	1.7%
It is the responsibility of every member of the college community to help create an environment where all feel included and involved.	4.64	0.7%	1.0%	6.1%	17.1%	73.5%	1.7%
2009 Results	4.59	0.3%	0.7%	3.6%	30.1%	63.7%	1.7%
I would recommend Saint Mary's to family and friends as a good place to go to college.	4.30	3.7%	4.4%	9.0%	23.3%	58.3%	1.4%
2009 Results	4.40	2.1%	4.0%	7.2%	24.7%	60.4%	1.7%

During the past year, how frequently have you						Almost	
observed students harassing or make fun of other	Mean	Never		Sometimes		Always	No
students because of their:		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Response
Ethnic or racial Background	1.89*	47.6%	23.8%	18.6%	7.1%	1.4%	1.5%
2009 Results	1.77*	48.5%	28.7%	14.9%	4.6%	0.6%	2.8%
Religious beliefs	1.70	55.6%	23.6%	13.2%	4.7%	1.2%	1.7%
2009 Results	1.69	51.0%	28.9%	14.0%	3.0%	0.4%	2.8%
Sexual Orientation	2.03*	42.1%	22.3%	23.5%	9.3%	0.8%	2.0%
2009 Results	2.30*	30.8%	24.6%	26.5%	12.4%	2.8%	2.9%
Accent	1.61*	61.8%	20.6%	10.0%	4.1%	1.9%	1.7%
2009 Results	2.00*	41.2%	27.1%	19.6%	7.3%	2.2%	2.6%
Appearance	2.23*	36.0%	23.5%	23.3%	13.2%	2.9%	1.2%
2009 Results	2.92*	15.6%	17.8%	32.9%	21.7%	9.7%	2.3%
Dress	2.22*	35.0%	25.7%	23.0%	11.5%	3.7%	1.2%
2009 Results	2.97*	13.4%	19.3%	33.0%	20.9%	11.0%	2.3%
Disability	1.36*	73.3%	15.7%	6.9 %	1.4%	0.5%	2.2%
2009 Results	1.50*	61.7%	25.3%	7.7%	1.9%	0.6%	2.8%
Gender	1.35	74.8%	14.7%	6.3%	1.9%	0.5%	1.9%
2009 Results	1.37	70.7%	16.9%	4.3%	1.9%	1.0%	5.2%
Socioeconomic Status	1.76	57.3%	17.7%	15.2%	5.1%	2.7%	2.0%
2009 Results	1.84	50.8%	22.5%	16.2%	4.3%	3.5%	2.8%
Political Beliefs	3.06	19.3%	12.0%	24.8%	28.7%	14.0%	1.2%
2009 Results							

*Significant difference at the p<.05 level between 2009 and 2017.

Table 8: Frequency of Insensitive Remarks from College Employees

Since you've been at Saint Mary's, how frequently							
have you heard a College employee (faculty, staff,	Maan	NT		Constinues		Almost	N.
administrator) make an insensitive or disparaging	Mean	Never	(2)	Sometimes	(A)	Always	No
remarks about:		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Response
Individuals with diverse gender identities	1.28	80.6 %	11.1%	4.6 %	1.2%	1.0%	1.5%
2009 Results							
Underrepresented racial/ethnic groups	1.32	77.9%	11.8%	5.9 %	1.5%	0.8%	2.0%
2009 Results	1.36	71.8%	17.8%	5.8%	1.4%	0.3%	2.9%
LGBTQ individuals	1.30	79.4 %	12.2%	4.2%	1.9%	0.8%	1.5%
2009 Results	1.36	72.7%	16.7%	5.4%	1.4%	0.7%	3.2%
Individuals with disabilities	1.17	86.5%	7.4%	2.4%	0.8%	0.5%	2.4%
2009 Results	1.13	85.9%	9.9%	0.8%	0.1%	0.1%	3.0%
Individuals whose first language is other than	1.23	83.1%	10.0%	4.2%	0.3%	0.8%	1.5%
English	1.23	03.170	10.070	4.2 /0	0.370	0.070	1.570
2009 Results	1.29	76.1%	15.3%	4.3%	0.8%	0.6%	2.9%
Individuals from faith traditions other than my	1.32	77.9%	12.3%	6.4%	1.0%	0.8%	1.5%
own	1.52	11.9%	12.3%	0.470	1.0%	0.8%	1.5%
2009 Results							
Individuals from disadvantaged economic	1.05	93 60/	10 10/	2 70/	1.00/	1.00/	1 =0/
backgrounds	1.25	82.6%	10.1%	3.7%	1.0%	1.0%	1.5%
2009 Results							
International students/faculty/staff	1.22	83.4%	10.1%	3.0%	0.5%	1.0%	1.9%
2009 Results							

Table 9: Characterization of Climate for Diverse Groups

How would you characterize the climate at Saint		Very	Very			Very	
Mary's for:	Mean	intolerant		Neutral		tolerant	No
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Response
Underrepresented racial/ethnic groups	3.70*	2.9%	11.7%	23.8%	33.3%	26.4%	2.0%
2009 Results	4.02*	0.8%	4.7%	17.8%	41.6%	32.0%	3.0%
LGBTQ individuals	3.47*	4.1%	17.1%	25.8%	29.4%	20.8%	2.9%
2009 Results	3.22*	6.4%	16.7%	33.3%	28.7%	11.0%	3.9%
Individuals with disabilities	4.08*	1.5%	4.4%	19.9 %	31.1%	40.9 %	2.2%
2009 Results	4.31*	0.6%	2.1%	11.6%	35.2%	47.2%	3.3%
People whose first language is other than English	3.85	1.7%	7.9 %	24.7%	31.8%	30.9%	3.0%
2009 Results	3.83	0.7%	7.0%	23.8%	40.5%	23.8%	4.3%
Individuals from faith traditions other than my	3.78	2.7%	8.4%	26.0%	31.9 %	29.1 %	1.9 %
own							
2009 Results							
International students/faculty/staff	4.06*	1.2%	3.7%	21.5%	34.0%	38.0%	1.7%
2009 Results	4.27*	0.6%	1.2%	12.7%	39.1%	43.0%	3.5%
Individuals from disadvantaged economic	3.72	3.4%	10.8%	24.8%	29.7%	29.2%	2.0%
backgrounds	5.72	3.470	10.070	24.070	29.170	29.270	2.070
2009 Results							
Individuals with diverse gender identities	3.36	5.4%	18.1%	30.4%	23.8%	20.1%	2.2%
2009 Results							