How have IUPUI's alumni engaged with their community? A report on community involvement from the IUPUI Undergraduate and Graduate Alumni Surveys

Introduction

The IUPUI Alumni Survey began in 1992, and revised undergraduate and graduate versions were administered in 2011. Alumni who received an Associate's or Bachelor's degree from any Indiana University or Purdue University school located on the IUPUI or IUPUC campus (N = 4,867) received an e-mail invitation to participate in the undergraduate survey, and 511 completed the survey for a response rate of 10.5%. For the graduate survey, 401 of the 2,735 alumni who received a Masters, Doctoral-Research, or Doctoral-Practice degree from any Indiana University or Purdue University school located on the IUPUI or IUPUC campus completed the survey for a response rate of 14.7%.

Among the major revisions for both surveys were the addition of several items designed to elicit information about (1) participation in and satisfaction with community involvement opportunities while enrolled at IUPUI, (2) current engagement with their community, and (3) the impact an IUPUI education had on alumni desire to become involved in their community. These items were designed jointly by the Office of Information Management and Institutional Research and the Center for Service and Learning. The following Research Brief provides a summary of undergraduate and graduate responses to these items. The results provide information about how alumni engaged in community service activities while enrolled at IUPUI, as well as if they continue to be involved after graduation.

Section 1: Service Learning at IUPUI

At least eight out of ten respondents at each degree level indicated being satisfied or very satisfied with opportunities to engage in community service at IUPUI. Almost 89% of respondents with a Doctorate indicated that they were very satisfied or satisfied, which was greater than the percentages for any other degree levels (Table 1). Forty-nine percent of respondents who received a Bachelor's degree indicated that they had done community service or volunteer work as part of a course, and 31% had done community service or volunteer work through IUPUI, but outside of course requirements or organized service activities (Table 2).

Table 1
Satisfaction with IUPUI Experience [a]

Please indicate how satisfied you are with each of the following aspects of your IUPUI experience	N	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Mean	STD
			Percentages				
Opportunities to engage in community service							
Associates	35	2.9	17.1	65.7	14.3	2.91	0.66
Bachelors	470	1.5	16.2	55.5	26.8	3.08	0.70
Masters	298	2.3	16.1	60.7	20.8	3.00	0.68
Doctorate	79	2.5	8.9	51.9	36.7	3.23	0.72

[a] 4-point scale in which "Very Satisfied" = 4, "Satisfied" = 3, "Dissatisfied" = 2, and "Very Dissatisfied" = 1.

Table 2
Participation in Experiences at IUPUI

Which of the following did you do before you graduated from IUPUI?	N	Percent indicating they did this activity before graduating from IUPUI
Community service or volunteer work as part of a course		
Associates	36	44.4
Bachelors	471	48.8
Community service or volunteer work through organized service activities at IUPUI (e.g., United Way Day of Caring, MLK Day of Service, Jags in the Streets, Race for the Cure, etc.)		
Associates	36	25.0
Bachelors	470	34.5
Community service or volunteer work through IUPUI, but outside of course requirements or organized service activities		
Associates	36	36.1
Bachelors	470	31.3
Community service through another organization not connected to IUPUI		
Associates	36	52.8
Bachelors	470	50.2
Posted a blog or comment, shared links, or recruited friends on a political or community issue through Twitter, Facebook or other social media		
Associates	36	33.3
Bachelors	470	29.4

Table 2 (cont.)
Participation in Experiences at IUPUI

Which of the following did you do before you graduated from IUPUI?	N	Percent indicating they did this activity before graduating from IUPUI
Writing or discussing something on the blackboards in Democracy Plaza (under the BS/SPEA building)		
Associates	36	5.6
Bachelors	470	15.5
Community involvement through a campus organization, club or athletics		
Associates	36	22.2
Bachelors	470	41.7
Community involvement as part of a scholarship or Federal Work Study		
Associates	36	5.6
Bachelors	469	15.4

Section 2: Current Community Service Activities

At least two out of ten Associates, Master's, or Doctorate respondents indicated they were very active in their communities (Table 3). Slightly less than 20% of Bachelor's degree recipients said they were very active in their communities.

Table 3
How active are you currently within your community? [a]

	N	Not at all Active	Somewhat Active	Very Active	Mean	STD
			Percentages			
Associates	35	31.4	48.6	20.0	1.89	0.72
Bachelors	472	22.9	58.1	19.1	1.96	0.65
Masters	319	15.7	58.3	26.0	2.10	0.64
Doctorate	80	8.8	66.3	25.0	2.16	0.56

[a] 3-point scale in which "Very Active" = 3, "Somewhat Active" = 2, and "Not at all Active" = 1.

Section 3: Impact of IUPUI

Twenty-six percent of the Bachelor's respondents indicated that their educational activities contributed quite a bit or very much to their current involvement in political, social, or community issues (Table 4). More than 27% of the Master's degree recipients who responded to the survey reported their educational experiences contributed quite a bit or very much to their current involvement in political, social or community issues.

Table 4
How much did your educational activities at IUPUI contribute to your current involvement in political, social, or community issues?

	N	Very Little	Some	Quite a bit	Very Much	Mean	STD
			Percentages				
Associates	35	51.4	25.7	11.4	11.4	1.83	1.04
Bachelors	473	41.4	32.6	18.4	7.6	1.92	0.95
Masters	319	35.4	37.0	19.7	7.8	2.00	0.93
Doctorate	80	26.3	53.8	15.0	5.0	1.99	0.79

[a] 4-point scale in which "Very Much" = 4, "Quite a bit" = 3, "Some" = 2, and "Very Little" = 1.

More than 70% of the respondents who received a Bachelor's degree reported that they were very effective in working with people of different races, ethnicities, and religions. More than 68% said they were very effective in developing a personal sense of values and ethics (Table 5).

Table 5
Impact of IUPUI on Undergraduate Student Learning [a]

Indicate how effectively you can perform each of these skills using the scale below	N	Not at all Effective	Somewhat Effective	Effective	Very Effective	Mean	STD
			Percentages				
See the relationships among local, national, and global issues							
Associates	36	8.3	11.1	41.7	38.9	3.11	0.92
Bachelors	471	1.7	13.6	41.0	43.7	3.27	0.76
Work effectively with people of different races, ethnicities, and religions							
Associates	35	5.7	5.7	25.7	62.9	3.46	0.85
Bachelors	469	1.5	3.2	24.9	70.4	3.64	0.62
Develop a personal sense of values and ethics							
Associates	36	5.6	0.0	33.3	61.1	3.50	0.78
Bachelors	470	1.7	4.9	25.3	68.1	3.60	0.66

[a] 4-point scale in which "Very Effective" = 4, "Effective" = 3, "Somewhat effective" = 2, and "Not at all effective" = 1.

More than 39% of respondents at each degree level indicated they were very effective at using the knowledge they gained in college to address social issues or problems, and at least 42% of respondents at all degree levels indicated that they were very effective at understanding contemporary social issues (Table 6).

Table 6
Impact of IUPUI on Undergraduate and Graduate Student Learning [a]

Indicate how effectively you can perform each of these skills	N	Not at all Effective	Somewhat Effective	Effective	Very Effective	Mean	STD
			Percentages				
Exercise my responsibilities as a citizen (e.g., voting, actively participating in community and political issues)							
Associates	34	8.8	14.7	26.5	50.0	3.18	1.00
Bachelors	470	4.9	12.6	35.7	46.8	3.24	0.86
Masters	312	4.8	10.3	42.3	42.6	3.23	0.82
Doctorate	80	5.0	3.8	31.3	60.0	3.46	0.80
Use the knowledge I gained in college to address social issues or problems							
Associates	35	14.3	11.4	31.4	42.9	3.03	1.07
Bachelors	469	6.4	14.9	39.0	39.7	3.12	0.89
Masters	312	1.3	17.9	40.4	40.4	3.20	0.77
Doctorate	80	5.0	12.5	40.0	42.5	3.20	0.85
Understand contemporary social issues							
Associates	36	8.3	5.6	41.7	44.4	3.22	0.90
Bachelors	469	2.3	11.1	41.8	44.8	3.29	0.76
Masters	312	1.9	12.8	43.3	42.0	3.25	0.75
Doctorate	80	2.5	8.8	41.3	47.5	3.34	0.75

[a] 4-point scale in which "Very Effective" = 4, "Effective" = 3, "Somewhat effective" = 2, and "Not at all effective" = 1.