# Z McLaughlin \& Associates National Undergraduate Study 

Sponsored By:


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Prepared by:
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## Methodology and Demographic Summary

| McLaughlin \& Associates conducted a national survey of 803 undergraduate students from August | School Type | Total | School Geo. | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 29th to September $5^{\text {th }}, \mathbf{2 0 2 2}$. All student participants were under the age of 25 and attend either a four-year private or public college or university on a full-time basis. This study's universe is the | Private | 33\% | East | 18\% |
| "conventional" four-year undergraduate, therefore excluding undergraduates who either attend a | Public | 67\% | Midwest | 21\% |
| two-year school, technical school, junior college or trade school, are over the age of 24 or attend on a | Class Year | Total | South | 36\% |
|  | Freshman | 19\% | West | 25\% |
| All interviews were conducted online and respondents were carefully selected and screened from a | Sophomore | 32\% | Top 5 Majors | Total |
| nationwide representative platform of individuals who elect to participate in online surveys. Data for | Junior | 25\% | Business | 23\% |
| National Center for Education Statistics Report (2018) to reflect the actual demographic composition | Senior | 24\% | Math/Enginer | 22\% |
| of four-year, full-time undergraduate students in the United States. According to the NCES Statistics, | Ethnicity | Total | Soc./Beh. Sc. | 19\% |
| there are approximately $8,156,367$ undergraduates who fall within these parameters. | White | 53\% | Humanities | 14\% |
| cause the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation rather than a | Black | 13\% | Arts | 14\% |
| probability sample, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated. However, a confidence interval | Hispanic | 19\% | Party ID | Total |
| of $95 \%$ was calculated in order to produce an error estimate of $+/-3.5 \%$ for the 803 respondents. This | Asian | 7\% | Republican | 17\% |
| polls takes into account the margin of sampling error. The error estimate increases for cross- | Age | Total | Democrat | 40\% |
| tabulations. Totals may not add up to exactly $100 \%$ due to rounding, refusals and the ability for | 18-19 | 33\% | Ind./Other | 32\% |
| respondents to give multiple answers to certain questions. All surveys may be subject to multiple | 20-21 | 43\% | Not Registered | 5\% |
| coverage error and measurement error. This study is the eighth iteration of our undergraduate | Over 21 | 24\% | Ideology | Total |
| research on behalf of the William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale. | Gender | Total | Liberal | 41\% |
| Nat'I Undergrad Study September 2022 $\quad$ McLaughlin \& Associates | Male | 42\% | Moderate | 32\% |
|  | Female | 55\% | Conservative | 20\% |

## Part One -

## The Constitution, First Amendment, Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity

Slightly less than half (49\%) say the U.S. Constitution is a very important document for our country compared to $36 \%$ who say it is an outdated document. This is the lowest "Important" response over four years and the first time it has dropped below $50 \%$.


Despite a decline in the perceived importance of the Constitution, students continue to believe by a significant margin of $80 \%$ to $12 \%$ that the First Amendment is an important amendment that still needs to be followed and respected rather than it being outdated and can no longer be applied in today's society.


A plurality, 45\%, continues to oppose speech code regulating speech for students and faculty, while $41 \%$ favors them. This is nearly identical to last year when $45 \%$ opposed them and $42 \%$ favored them.


By a 68\% to 25\% margin, students say their college or university generally does a good job encouraging free speech and intellectual diversity among students. This has tightened from last year when $79 \%$ said they were doing a good job.


## Greater than eight in ten (84\%) agree that incoming students and current college

 students need to be better educated on the value of free speech and the diversity of opinion on campuses.
## Agree/Disagree:

"Incoming students and current college students need to be better educated on the value of free speech and the diversity of opinion on campuses."


|  | Agree | Disagree |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Private School | 82 | 11 |
| State School | 85 | 6 |
| Underclassmen (Freshman/Sophomores) | 87 | 5 |
| Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors) | 81 | 11 |
| Liberal | 84 | 10 |
| Moderate | 84 | 8 |
| Conservative | 90 | 3 |
| White | 84 | 8 |
| Black | 83 | 9 |
| Hispanic | 86 | 8 |
| Asian | 87 | 7 |
| Men | 83 | 9 |
| Women | 85 | 7 |
| Major - Mathematics/Engineering | 80 | 9 |
| Major - Social/Behavioral Sciences | 85 | 13 |
| Major - Humanities | 81 | 5 |
| Major - Business | 83 | 8 |
| Major - Natural Sciences | 81 | 9 |
| Major - Arts | 91 | 10 |
| Major - Healthcare | 3 |  |

## A similar $83 \%$ agree that professors and administrators also need to be better educated on the value of free speech and the diversity of opinion on campuses.



## Part Two -

## Expression in the Classroom

Nearly six in ten (58\%) say they have often felt intimidated in sharing their ideas, opinions or beliefs in class because they were different than those of their professors, while $38 \%$ have not often felt intimidated. This is a noteworthy shift from past years and the highest ever recorded response of perceived intimidation.

Have you felt intimidated in sharing your ideas, opinions or beliefs in class because they were different than those of your professors?


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| Trend Line | $9 / 15$ | $9 / 16$ | $9 / 17$ | $10 / 18$ | $10 / 19$ | $9 / 20$ | $9 / 21$ | $9 / 22$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Often | $49 \%$ | $53 \%$ | $44 \%$ | $53 \%$ | $50 \%$ | $53 \%$ | $50 \%$ | $58 \%$ |
| Not Often | $50 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $53 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $43 \%$ | $45 \%$ | $38 \%$ |


|  | Often | Not Often |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Private School | 60 | 35 |
| State School | 58 | 39 |
| Underclassmen (Freshman/Sophomores) | 60 | 36 |
| Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors) | 57 | 40 |
| Liberal | 57 | 40 |
| Moderate | 59 | 38 |
| Conservative | 67 | 30 |
| White | 59 | 37 |
| Black | 56 | 38 |
| Hispanic | 57 | 42 |
| Asian | 58 | 40 |
| Men | 59 | 40 |
| Women | 59 | 36 |
| Major - Mathematics/Engineering | 64 | 34 |
| Major - Social/Behavioral Sciences | 60 | 36 |
| Major - Humanities | 57 | 39 |
| Major - Business | 59 | 38 |
| Major - Natural Sciences | 57 | 39 |
| Major - Arts | 62 | 31 |
| Major - Healthcare | 58 | 37 |

A higher 63\% have often felt intimidated in sharing their ideas, opinions or beliefs because they were different than their classmates or peers, while $34 \%$ have not often felt intimidated. Again, this is this highest ever recorded response of perceived intimidation.


When given a list of hot-button issues, students are again most likely to cite politics (48\%) as a topic they are uncomfortable speaking about or are off limits for discussion. This response is 10-points higher than last year. Only one in five (19\%) say no topic is off limits for discussion in the classroom, down nine-points from last year.


# Part Three Insensitive \& Offensive Speech 

Almost half (48\%) disagree that offensive political opinions - whether in the classroom or on social media - should be reported to school administrators, while 43\% agree. The "disagree" response is identical to last year.

| Trend Line | $\mathbf{9 / 2 1}$ | $\mathbf{9 / 2 2}$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Agree | $39 \%$ | $43 \%$ |  |
| Disagree | $\mathbf{4 8 \%}$ | $48 \%$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |

A bare majority (51\%) agree that there are certain issues that school administrators or professors should prohibit from being debated on campus, while 41\% disagree.


The majority (54\%) disagrees that political comments they disagree with can be harmful to their mental health, while $38 \%$ agree.


# Part Four Hate Speech 

For the first time, a plurality now disagrees that hate speech, no matter how racist or bigoted it is, is still technically protected under the First Amendment as free speech. Forty-four percent (44\%) agree, which is the lowest response to date.


Forty-four percent (44\%) agree that it is sometimes appropriate to shout down or disrupt a speaker on campus, while 47\% disagree. This is the highest "agree" response to date.


Greater than four in ten (41\%) now agree that if someone is using hate speech or making racially charged comments, physical violence can be justified to prevent this person from espousing their hateful views. This is another record high response.


Almost half ( $48 \%$ ) agree that violence in response to offensive speech is not a new phenomenon and some speech can be so offensive in certain cases that it merits such harsh punishment like the death penalty.

## Agree/Disagree:

"Violence in response to offensive speech is not a new phenomenon. In some cultures, some types of offensive speech even merit the death penalty. Some speech can be so offensive in certain cases that it merits such harsh punishment."


## Part Five -

## Diversity and Race Issues

Two-thirds (67\%) agree that their college or university should require that all professors and administrators make statements in favor of diversity, equity and inclusion as a condition of employment.

## Agree/Disagree:

"My college or university should require that all professors and administrators make statements in favor of diversity, equity, and inclusion as a condition of employment."


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|  | Agree | Disagree |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Private School | 66 | 23 |
| State School | 67 | 22 |
| Underclassmen (Freshman/Sophomores) | 66 | 22 |
| Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors) | 68 | 22 |
| Liberal | 72 | 20 |
| Moderate | 64 | 24 |
| Conservative | 63 | 28 |
| White | 63 | 27 |
| Black | 73 | 12 |
| Hispanic | 68 | 21 |
| Asian | 82 | 9 |
| Men | 61 | 31 |
| Women | 71 | 16 |
| Major - Mathematics/Engineering | 66 | 23 |
| Major - Social/Behavioral Sciences | 75 | 15 |
| Major - Humanities | 70 | 20 |
| Major - Business | 62 | 25 |
| Major - Natural Sciences | 71 | 23 |
| Major - Arts | 67 | 19 |
| Major - Healthcare | 67 | 19 |

A similar 65\% agrees that new employees at any company, business or organization should be required to sign statements from their employers in favor of diversity, equity and inclusion as a condition of employment.

## Agree/Disagree:

"New employees at any company, business, or organization should be required to sign statements from their employers in favor of diversity, equity, and inclusion as a condition of employment."
80


25

|  | Agree | Disagree |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Private School | 70 | 23 |
| State School | 63 | 25 |
| Underclassmen (Freshman/Sophomores) | 64 | 24 |
| Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors) | 67 | 25 |
| Liberal | 73 | 19 |
| Moderate | 64 | 26 |
| Conservative | 55 | 42 |
| White | 64 | 27 |
| Black | 71 | 15 |
| Hispanic | 62 | 26 |
| Asian | 75 | 23 |
| Men | 62 | 30 |
| Women | 68 | 21 |
| Major - Mathematics/Engineering | 71 | 24 |
| Major - Social/Behavioral Sciences | 65 | 23 |
| Major - Humanities | 74 | 20 |
| Major - Business | 59 | 29 |
| Major - Natural Sciences | 71 | 18 |
| Major - Arts | 66 | 18 |
| Major - Healthcare | 66 | 22 |

Almost seven in ten support the creation of an office dedicated to protecting free speech on campus, while $19 \%$ oppose it.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Many colleges and universities have an office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. } \\
& \text { Would you support the creation of an office similarly dedicated to protecting } \\
& \text { free speech on campus? }
\end{aligned}
$$



|  | Favor | Oppose |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Private School | 73 | 17 |
| State School | 67 | 20 |
| Underclassmen (Freshman/Sophomores) | 70 | 17 |
| Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors) | 68 | 21 |
| Liberal | 68 | 21 |
| Moderate | 74 | 15 |
| Conservative | 70 | 23 |
| White | 67 | 22 |
| Black | 69 | 19 |
| Hispanic | 70 | 16 |
| Asian | 85 | 7 |
| Men | 73 | 20 |
| Women | 77 | 17 |
| Major - Mathematics/Engineering | 69 | 18 |
| Major - Social/Behavioral Sciences | 70 | 16 |
| Major - Humanities | 71 | 18 |
| Major - Business | 65 | 19 |
| Major - Natural Sciences | 67 | 22 |
| Major - Arts | 69 | 22 |
| Major - Healthcare | 19 |  |

By a 50\% to 42\% margin, students believe America is inextricably linked to white supremacy and most minorities remain excluded from the American promise of equality rather than believing America is moving forward and the promise of equality continues to be extended to more people. This is statistically similar to last year when the margin was $49 \%$ to $42 \%$.


Almost eight in ten (78\%) agree that systemic racism is a big problem in society today and white people still contribute to it, whether they realize it or not, while $16 \%$ disagree. This is seven-points higher than last year.


## Part Six - <br> Gender Issues

One in four (27\%) usually state their preferred gender pronouns when introducing themselves in a formal setting, while most (66\%) do not.

When introducing yourself in a formal setting, do you usually state your preferred gender pronouns?


|  | Yes | No |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Private School | 33 | 59 |
| State School | 24 | 69 |
| Underclassmen (Freshman/Sophomores) | 28 | 64 |
| Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors) | 26 | 68 |
| Liberal | 38 | 57 |
| Moderate | 23 | 72 |
| Conservative | 12 | 77 |
| White | 26 | 67 |
| Black | 38 | 54 |
| Hispanic | 23 | 72 |
| Asian | 31 | 59 |
| Men | 24 | 69 |
| Women | 27 | 66 |
| Major - Mathematics/Engineering | 34 | 59 |
| Major - Social/Behavioral Sciences | 26 | 66 |
| Major - Humanities | 31 | 63 |
| Major - Business | 27 | 65 |
| Major - Natural Sciences | 27 | 62 |
| Major - Arts | 44 | 52 |
| Major - Healthcare | 25 | 71 |

A majority (51\%) agrees that their college or university should require that students, professors and faculty state their preferred gender pronouns when introducing themselves, while $40 \%$ disagree.


Nearly three in four (74\%) agree that there are natural and inherent differences between men and women, while 17\% disagree.

## Agree/Disagree:

"There are natural and inherent differences between men and women."


|  | Agree | Disagree |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Private School | 75 | 16 |
| State School | 74 | 18 |
| Underclassmen (Freshman/Sophomores) | 74 | 17 |
| Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors) | 75 | 18 |
| Liberal | 69 | 25 |
| Moderate | 80 | 13 |
| Conservative | 84 | 12 |
| White | 71 | 22 |
| Black | 76 | 12 |
| Hispanic | 79 | 14 |
| Asian | 82 | 12 |
| Men | 79 | 18 |
| Women | 74 | 15 |
| Major - Mathematics/Engineering | 82 | 14 |
| Major - Social/Behavioral Sciences | 69 | 21 |
| Major - Humanities | 70 | 23 |
| Major - Business | 80 | 17 |
| Major - Natural Sciences | 68 | 23 |
| Major - Arts | 65 | 23 |
| Major - Healthcare | 81 | 11 |

When given a choice, $49 \%$ say allowing transgender college athletes to participate in a sports league designated for
a gender that is different from their assigned gender at birth is an issue of fairness and disadvantages other athletes. Four in ten (40\%) say transgender athletes should be able to participate in whichever gender class they feel more comfortable in.

Which of the following comes closer to your opinion on allowing transgender college athletes to participate in a sports league designated for a gender that is different from their assigned gender at birth?

Transgender athletes should be able to participate in whichever gender class they feel more comfortable in. OR

> This is an issue of fairness. And while I may support transgender rights, this disadvantages other athletes because there are biological differences between men and women.

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|  | Comfortable | Disadvantages |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Private School | 37 | 50 |
| State School | 42 | 49 |
| Underclassmen (Freshman/Sophomores) | 43 | 47 |
| Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors) | 37 | 52 |
| Liberal | 53 | 36 |
| Moderate | 34 | 59 |
| Conservative | 14 | 81 |
| White | 39 | 53 |
| Black | 40 | 43 |
| Hispanic | 39 | 52 |
| Asian | 45 | 45 |
| Men | 29 | 64 |
| Women | 47 | 41 |
| Major - Mathematics/Engineering | 40 | 52 |
| Major - Social/Behavioral Sciences | 45 | 44 |
| Major - Humanities | 53 | 40 |
| Major - Business | 30 | 60 |
| Major - Natural Sciences | 34 | 52 |
| Major - Arts | 55 | 38 |
| Major - Healthcare | 32 | 58 |

Students are sharply divided on legislation restricting discussion about gender identity and sexual topics for children under 10 years old in public schools, with 45\% favoring it and 44\% opposing it.

As you may know, certain states have recently passed legislation restricting discussion about gender identity and sexual topics for children under 10 years old in public schools. Do you favor or oppose this?


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|  | Favor | Oppose |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Private School | 46 | 43 |
| State School | 45 | 44 |
| Underclassmen (Freshman/Sophomores) | 46 | 42 |
| Upperclassmen (Juniors/Seniors) | 44 | 45 |
| Liberal | 38 | 57 |
| Moderate | 52 | 34 |
| Conservative | 57 | 35 |
| White | 47 | 44 |
| Black | 55 | 29 |
| Hispanic | 37 | 51 |
| Asian | 51 | 41 |
| Men | 55 | 35 |
| Women | 40 | 48 |
| Major - Mathematics/Engineering | 37 | 35 |
| Major - Social/Behavioral Sciences | 42 | 51 |
| Major - Humanities | 52 | 49 |
| Major - Business | 40 | 37 |
| Major - Natural Sciences | 39 | 49 |
| Major - Arts | 47 | 50 |
| Major - Healthcare | 36 |  |

# Part Seven Miscellaneous Issues 

Students divide on whether they would prefer to live under a capitalism economic system (31\%) or socialist economic system (33\%). The plurality (35\%) was unsure.


Almost half (49\%) would personally be willing to give up a position or job opportunity for another individual who is less privileged than them, including $16 \%$ who would be "very willing." Nearly four in ten (39\%) would be unwilling to do so.


The majority (56\%) considers themself privileged, while 31\% do not.

## Do you consider yourself privileged?



Just $38 \%$ of students approve of the job President Biden is doing, including only $9 \%$ who "strongly approve" and 29\% who "somewhat approve." Half (50\%) disapprove, including 32\% who disapprove because he is too old, not progressive enough and would prefer another person to lead the Democratic

Party. Another 18\% disapprove and support Republicans.


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