

American River College Institutional Campus Climate Survey

DRAFT for Discussion

What is an Institutional Campus Climate survey?

"...the current attitudes, behaviors and standards of faculty, staff, administrators and students concerning the level of respect for individual needs, abilities and potential." - S. Rankin, Penn. State.

"'Campus climate' refers to the general atmosphere experienced by the students, faculty, staff and administration of FRC, primarily in terms of their overall comfort, their sense of safety and belonging, and whether they feel valued, treated fairly with respect and without discrimination. FRC recognizes the importance of diversity, inclusion, and providing a safe learning and working environment for all students and employees. – Feather River College."

Why is an Institutional Campus Climate survey being conducted at ARC?

The regular ongoing assessment of campus climate informs numerous college plans and planning processes, including 1) Police/security, 2) Safety, 3) Institutional Equity, 4) Disproportionate Impact, 5) Educational & Facilities Master Plan, 6) Accreditation Self-Evaluation, and 7) Strategic Plan. That is, these assessments typically support multiple information needs on campus. That said, a particularly pressing need at ARC is for assessing climate as it relates to ARC's strategic goals #3 and #4.

Goal #3. Exemplary Teaching, Learning & Working Environment - The College ensures an equitable, safe, and inclusive teaching, learning, and working environment. Culturally relevant curriculum, innovative, high-quality instructional methods and technologies, exemplary academic and student support services, and comprehensive and integrated professional development create the best conditions for teaching and learning. The College promotes liberation and honors the dignity, humanity, and contributions of all members of our community.

Goal #4. Vibrancy and Resiliency - The College promotes a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and transparent communication. Proactive, effective, and efficient operational systems and governance and data-informed approaches to planning, decision-making, and resource allocation provide a high level of service to our students, community, and to one another.

Typical Climate Survey Topics/Themes

In reviewing a selection of both 2yr and 4yr institutional campus climate surveys, the following topics and themes are those common to most. Such instruments are typically broadly, rather than narrowly focused, in order to assess a wide variety of climate perspectives on campus. For each topic shown below, a very small number of many potential questions (that could be asked) are listed, drawn from selected campus climate surveys currently in the public domain. ARC may choose to focus on a small number of these topic areas.

Place and Inclusion

Ex: How strong a sense of community is there at ARC? Open and inclusive campus? Do you feel welcome? How much do {Faculty} {Admin} {staff} care about you / your achieving your goals? Are there clubs and activities of interest? What sense of inclusion do you feel in the {classroom}, {support services}, {clubs}? Feelings of isolation? How {happy}, {satisfied}, {comfortable} are you at ARC? My {teachers} {support staff}, {fellow students} respect {me}, {my opinions}? How many faculty, staff, or administrators are willing to talk with you about your problems or issues?

Sense of Community

Support Services

Ex: How {available} {comfortable} {effective} is support for {academics} {personal crisis} {academic planning}?

Equity, Discrimination, Social Justice

Ex: How often to you hear {crude} {negative remarks} {offensive jokes} from {fellow students} {faculty} {staff} about other {genders} {physical appearance} {attractiveness} {intelligence of another gender, race, etc.} {sexual orientations} {race/ethnicities} {faiths}? In class, in lab, in another setting on campus? These things were said to you, emailed to you, texted to you? {Instructors} {Staff} {Admin} treat students of diverse backgrounds with equal respect? Perception of diversity as it relates to {Instructors} {Staff} {Admin}? Equity-mindedness...

Sexual Assault & Misconduct

Ex: Have you been assaulted on campus; did you report it; satisfied w/ campus police response? Are misconduct policies clear, easily found? Have you ever experienced any of the following... {various options of touching, kissing, etc. without consent}? How often do you see {drugs}, {alcohol}, {fighting/bullying}, {theft}, {vandalism}, {weapons} on campus?

Safety/ Campus Police

Ex. Perceptions of safety on campus, responses from campus police; Places on campus you feel unsafe;

Facilities

Ex. Condition, appropriateness, welcoming?

Wayfinding...

Transportation...

Accessibility...

Quality of instruction, Faculty, Teaching & Learning

Ex. Perception of quality of instruction, textbooks, knowledgeable faculty, ability of faculty to impart knowledge, fair grading, appropriate modalities, use of technology? Inclusiveness as it relates to the classroom, readings, other assignments, activities? Cultural relevance as it relates to readings, other assignments, activities? Instructors treat students of {diverse backgrounds} {different genders} with equal respect?

Openness of communication with Faculty, Staff, and Administration

Ex. Typically containing questions regarding availability, openness, responses to queries, friendliness of faculty, staff, administrators.

Program & Services Participation

Ex: In which of the following clubs, programs, & services did you participate? Awareness of the following programs and services.

Sustainability

Ex. Perceptions as to ARC's focus on earth friendly practices and sustainability.

Student Motivation and Responsibility

Demographic Questions

Needed to crosstab with the above questions in order to identify gaps and disproportionate impacts.