

Sense of Belonging at GHC

October 2023

Since the 2020 graduate survey, Grays Harbor College has been asking students about their sense of belonging at GHC.

- *Grays Harbor College strives to create a 'sense of belonging' for all individuals. This means they feel accepted, respected, included, supported by others, and connected to the college. Please indicate the extent to which you felt a sense of belonging at Grays Harbor College.*

The answer scale is from 1-*Not at all* to 3-*A lot*. Students could also answer *Not Applicable/Don't know*, but those responses are not included in the calculation of the average score.

The question has been asked on the annual in-house graduate survey, the 2022 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), and the in-house all-student survey in winter of 2023. GHC will include the question on the 2024 CCSSE and 2024 graduate survey.

Average Response

The overall average scores have ranged from 2.51 to 2.67, which places the scores between *somewhat* (2) and *a lot* (3). The overall average scores dropped beginning with 2022, a possible side effect of the pandemic and a lack of opportunities for in-person interaction on campus.

Historically Underserved	2023 Grad Survey	Winter 2023	2022 Grad Survey	2022 CCSSE	2021 Grad Survey	2020 Grad Survey
HU-SoC	2.57	2.43	2.52	2.41	2.87	2.53
Non-HU-SoC	2.54	2.60	2.51	2.55	2.61	2.60
Unknown	2.33	2.47	2.56			
Overall	2.54	2.55	2.51	2.52	2.66	2.58

Historically Underserved Students of Color (HU-SoC) includes students who have indicated a race or ethnicity of American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, Latino or Hispanic, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Since GHC is a small college, listing individual race or ethnicity categories can produce personally identifiable information. HU-SoC is used as an aggregate to protect demographic groups with small counts.

When looking at average score broken out by HU-SoC, there is not a consistent pattern across years. For the 2023, 2022, and 2021 graduate surveys, the average score for HU-SoC respondents was equivalent to or greater than the score from Non-HU-SoC respondents. However, for the winter 2023 survey, the 2022 CCSSE survey, and the 2020 graduate survey, the average score was slightly lower for HU-SoC respondents. All average responses fall between *somewhat* (2) and *a lot* (3), but the range for HU-SoC responses is from 2.41 to 2.87, while the range for non-HU-SoC is from 2.51 to 2.61.

The number of HU-SoC respondents is smaller than the number of non-HU-SoC respondents, and has been around 30 students for the graduate surveys. A smaller population of responses often leads to bigger swing in the average responses from year to year. Overall, when breaking out by HU-SoC, average responses do indicate a general sense of belonging.

Historically Underserved	Gender	2023 Grad Survey	Winter 2023	2022 Grad Survey	2022 CCSSE	2021 Grad Survey	2020 Grad Survey
HU-SoC	Female	2.47	2.43	2.52	2.65	2.85	2.58
	Male	2.75	2.33	2.50	1.89	2.91	2.29
Non-HU-SoC	Female	2.56	2.60	2.61	2.60	2.61	2.61
	Male	2.48	2.65	2.30	2.47	2.59	2.57
Unknown	Combined	2.33	2.47	2.56			
Overall		2.54	2.55	2.51	2.52	2.66	2.58

The table above looks at the average response by the intersection of HU-SoC and gender.

As with the previous tables, almost all the average responses fall between *somewhat* (2) and *a lot* (3). The major exception is male, HU-SoC students on the 2022 CCSSE. The average score there was 1.89, between *not at all* (1) and *somewhat* (2), but closer to somewhat.

There were also 3 average responses that fell below of the 2.4 to 2.6 range observed in other responses: male HU-SOC students on the winter 2023 survey and 2020 grad survey, and male non-HU-SoC students on the 2022 graduate survey.

Survey Differences

When comparing survey results, be aware of the following differences in the population surveyed and administration methods:

Survey	Surveyed Population	Administration Method
Winter 2023 Survey	All students, including ELA, High School Equivalency, pre-college, associate, & bachelor-level coursework, in winter 2023	Wholly Online (manual surveys were available, but none were returned.)
2022 CCSSE Survey	All students over the age of 18 taking pre-college, 100- or 200-level courses in winter 2022.	Wholly online.
2023 & 2022 Graduate Surveys	All students completing a college-level degree or certificate.	Online & Manual Survey
2021 & 2022 Graduate Surveys		Wholly Online