

Academic Senate Office

Date: February 6, 2019
To: All Faculty
From: Tamara J. Smith
RE: Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE)

This spring, Mt. San Jacinto College is participating in three related national surveys: Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), Survey of Online Student Engagement (SOSE), and Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE). All three survey projects are part of the Center for Community College Student Engagement and the Program in Higher Education Leadership out of the University of Texas at Austin.

The CCSSE and SOSE ask questions that assess institutional practices and student behaviors that are correlated highly with student learning and student retention. Research shows that the more actively engaged students are, the more likely they are to persist in their college studies and to achieve academic success. Identifying what our students do “in” and “out” of the classroom, knowing their goals, and understanding their external responsibilities can help us create an environment that enhances academic outcomes. The CCFSSSE is an online survey which elicits faculty perceptions of their teaching practices and student educational experiences.

We plan to use CCSSE, SOSE, and CCFSSSE results to promote institutional improvement. The surveys are to be completed between March and April. It is vital that our faculty have a voice in these efforts. The ability to view faculty and student survey responses side-by-side can help us identify areas of strength as well as challenges and areas for improvement.

The process for selecting courses and faculty to be surveyed is as follows: The MSJC Institutional Research Office provides the Center for Community College Student Engagement with a Course Master Data File containing all classes eligible for college and/or institutional credit. The Course Master Data File serves as the sampling frame for the CCSSE and SOSE student surveys as well as providing the faculty data required for CCFSSSE participation. The Center for Community College Student Engagement’s research team pulls the random sample of courses to be surveyed and sends it to our college. Only a random sample of faculty will have classes selected for the in-class CCSSE and all instructors will receive an email invitation to complete the CCFSSSE. Online sections will be included in the SOSE. All responses to online surveys (CCFSSE and SOSE) go directly to the Center for Community College Student Engagement. Completed in-class (paper) surveys will be mailed to the Center for Community College Student Engagement for processing and analysis.

The Center for Community College Student Engagement analyzes the responses to the CCSSE, CCFSSSE, and SOSE and provides a report to MSJC. CCFSSSE responses are anonymous, and the Center will not provide colleges with information that could result in individual faculty members being identified, so please be completely candid in your responses. The institutional report will be available after July 31, 2019.

The attached documents answer frequently asked questions for the CCSSE, SOSE, and CCFSSSE. I appreciate your cooperation and participation in this exciting initiative.

Respectfully,

Tamara J. Smith

Executive President, MSJC Academic Senate

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Vice-President, MSJC Academic Senate