



Motivate Lab



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

Getting to Know your Students: Results from the Student Mindset Survey

The University System of Georgia and Motivate Lab are collaborating on a data-collection effort. These data are the first step in creating a plan to create a productive academic mindset throughout Georgia’s higher education system. By collecting extensive qualitative and quantitative data from students, we can better understand the student perspective and tailor supports to meet their needs.

Part of this effort was the implementation of a Student Mindset Survey. Included in these documents are preliminary analyses of the Student Mindset Survey from the Fall 2017 semester. Over 3,700 incoming first-year students completed the survey in August and September of 2017.

Sample from Fall 2017 Student Mindset Survey

Sector	Overall Response		First-Generation College Students	Under-represented-Minority Students	Pell Grant Recipient
	Frequency	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Research University	978	26%	29%	31%	30%
Comprehensive University	484	13%	27%	28%	35%
State University	1,445	39%	48%	45%	40%
State College	817	22%	67%	40%	44%
Total	3,724	100%	46%	38%	37%

The survey includes measures related to:

- **Efficacy:** belief that one can accomplish a task
- **Grit:** perseverance and passion for long-term goals
- **Growth mindset:** belief that one can improve through effort, persistence, and strategy use
- **Belonging:** belief that one is connected to and respected by peers, cared for by teachers and mentors and fits in with the culture
- **Purpose and Value:** belief that schoolwork it’s valuable because it’s personally relevant
- **Motivations for attending college:**
 - Independent Reasons (e.g., I am motivated to attend college because I want to become an independent thinker.)
 - Interdependent reasons (e.g., I am motivated to attend college because I want to help my family out after I’m done with college.)

Provided in the attached documents are average scores on each of these constructs broken down by:

- **Generational status** (first-generation college students, continuing-college students)
- **Underrepresented-minority status**
- **Gender**
- **Sector** (research universities, comprehensive universities, state universities, state colleges)

Significant differences between groups and the magnitude of that effect (i.e., effect size) are also noted.

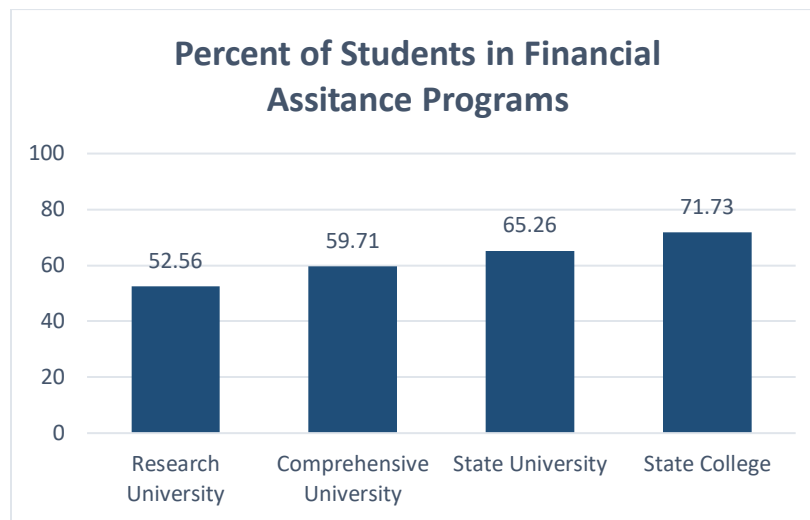


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Motivate Lab collected additional data related to socioeconomic status. These data will also be connected to student demographic data and academic outcomes to examine how the availability of resources (e.g., family income, homelessness) vary by different subgroups and relate to critical academic outcomes. Of note, over 60% of students reported receiving assistance from one or more financial assistance program¹.



Next steps

In March, we will connect USG students’ responses with transcript data and examine how different learning mindsets relate to outcomes such as grades and retention. A second administration of the survey implemented at the end of the fall semester will be connected to both the initial survey administered at the beginning of the semester and students’ academic records. This will allow us to examine how students’ learning mindsets change over time and relate to important academic outcomes. We will administer a survey at the start of the fall 2018 semester to all incoming first-year students. We’re interested in what mindsets students come to school with, how that changes over time, and how we can best support them. The more students we hear from, the better our understanding of students’ mindsets will be.

As Georgia schools continue to implement Momentum Year policies, we will also observe how these practices relate to changes in students’ learning mindsets. Motivate Lab is excited to continue partnering with and learning from the University System of Georgia, including your institution. Together, we can understand students’ learning mindsets and how to support them both in and out of the classroom.

¹ Financial assistance Programs Include: The Pell grant, SNAP (food stamps), WIC (nutritional assistance for pregnant women and children), TANF (public cash assistance – formerly called ADC or ADFC), SSI (supplemental security income), SSDI (social security disability income), Medicaid of Public health insurance, Child care assistance, Unemployment compensation/insurance, Utility assistance, Housing assistance, Transportation assistance, Tax refunds, Veterans benefits (Veteran’s Administration benefits for a servicemen’s, widow’s, or survivor’s pension, service disability or the GI bill), Foster Care Education and Training Voucher (ETV) funds or support from Independent Living Program Coordinator (ILP), High School Homeless Liaison using McKinney-Vento homeless assistance funds.