

Association Between Amount of Time Spent on Campus and The Number of Friendships Made at CCNY

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Introduction

- The development of social connections is crucial to the overall health of people.
- Unfortunately, the sudden need for social distancing and virtual learning made a simple task such as meeting one's classmates much more difficult (Juvonen J. et al. 2022).
- Friendships made in college are characterized by their ability to be retained (Bronkema R. & Bowman N. 2017).

Research Question

- Is there an association between the amount of time students spend on campus and the number of friendship they have?

Hypothesis

- If students spend more time on campus, there will be an increase in the number of friends they have.

Purpose

- Twenty-five college students at CCNY were surveyed to identify the amount of time spent on campus, as well as the number of friendships they have.

Methods

- After the research question and hypothesis were made, a survey was sent out to groups of students.
- The survey was sent directly to students from diverse backgrounds and academic departments to minimize the likelihood of bias.
- The survey was completed by 25 CCNY students. It was then distributed to the professors in various departments.
- The study revealed a wide variation in the number of friendships among college students. This finding could help develop effective interventions that encourage social connectivity among students.
- The results were analyzed using the most relevant factors related to the number of friends students made on campus

Results

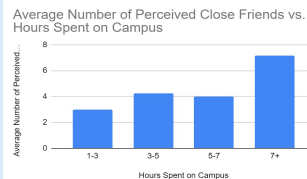


Figure 1: How the average number of hours students spend on campus correlates with the number of close friends students feel they have at CCNY

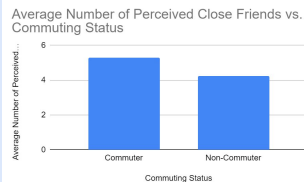


Figure 2: How the commuting status of students correlates with the number of close friends students feel they have at CCNY

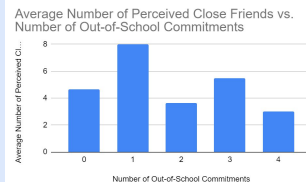


Figure 3: How the number of out-of-school commitments students have correlated with the number of close friends students feel they have at CCNY

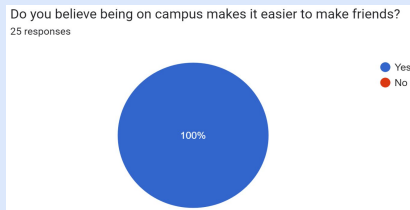


Figure 4: Direct results of the survey question "Do you believe being on campus makes it easier to make friends?"

Discussion

- Our study shows on average that a tendency to spend more time on campus correlates to the amount of friendships and close friendships made and maintained, supporting our initial hypothesis.
- Being closer to campus or living on campus, means the greater ability to spend time on campus and form connections.
- In non-commuter schools, where the student body lives on campus, students may report more close friendships and friendships on account of spending nearly all their time on campus and in constant closeness to other students.
- Our survey found that students in clubs and organizations, overall, had more friendships than those who were not.
- Study suggests that student proximity to school (hours spent on campus, clubs/organizations participated in, and fewer off-campus responsibilities) lead to students more quick developing friendships and maintaining those relationships over time.

References

- Bronkema RH, Bowman NA. 2017. Close Campus Friendships and College Student Success. *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice*. 21(3):152102511770420. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1177/1521025117704200>.
- Juvonen J, Lessard LM, Kline NG, Graham S. 2022. Young Adult Adaptability to the Social Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Protective Role of Friendships. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*. 51(3). doi:<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-022-01573-w>.