SUMMARY

- 7 in 10 students participate with a service group affiliated with UAlbany.
- More than half of students voted in the most recent campus elections.
- More than half are active in social and advocacy issues.
- Almost half of UAlbany students have encouraged others to take action related to a social concern or issue.
- More than half of UAlbany students have realized their own role in providing solutions to issues and challenges in their communities.
- More than half of UAlbany students involved in Fraternity or Sorority have served an active role in solving a community issue or problem.
- Approximately three-quarters of UAlbany students connect what they are learning in class to what is happening outside the classroom.
- More than 8 in 10 students believe being able to interact with individuals with different backgrounds and perspectives will help after college.
- In general students that are members of the freshmen class or that live off campus participate less than average in service activities.
- In general students that are members of the junior class, fraternities or sororities, or student clubs and organizations tend to participate more than average in service activities.

By the Numbers:

- 32% of freshmen have taken at least one course that required volunteer hours as part of its curriculum.
- 42% of students served an active role in solving at least one community issue or problem.
- 71% of students made donations either locally or nationally.
- 47% helped raise money for a charitable cause.
- 29% joined a protest or demonstration concerned with a social issue or concern.
- 85% believe being able to interact with individuals of different backgrounds and perspectives will benefit them after college.
- 74% connect what they are learning in class to current events on a local, national, and global level.
- 65% plan on being an active part of the community they live in after college.

Participation in service or volunteer work:

- 69% taught me about people with different backgrounds and perspectives.
- 65% improved my communication skills.
68% made it easier to relate to different perspectives.
67% realized their role in providing solutions to challenges in the community.
66% contributed to my sense of who I am as a person.
67% improved my leadership skills.
66% helped me to take initiative.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & ACADEMICS

19% of UAlbany students chose their major because of its relationship to a social concern or issue. Below are some of the reasons they gave when asked to explain their choice:

- Some students expressed that they wanted to use their talents to shape help advocate for public support of issues that are important to them. One student wrote: “I am an English major, and as an English major I feel that one day I will be able to change views and opinions with my writing and openness.”
- Other students identified a passion for the environmental protect and encouraging conservation of our natural resources. One student expressed the desire to help protect the environment “I am studying mycology because I feel that there are cleaner, more efficient, and cheaper ways to remediate toxic wastes in soils (and other matters such as oil spills).”
- A goal expressed by some students was to increase their cultural awareness in order to aid them in their careers. One student wrote “I chose my major of Anthropology in order to learn about cultural differences & problems faced around the world & to pursue a career within International Relations.”

PARTICIPATION

Figure 1.1, 1.2, & 1.3 below illustrate the percentage of students participating in service groups either on campus, off campus or both. Figure 1.1 captures UAlbany Students, Figure 1.2 captures the national average, and Figure 1.3 captures the average for Large Public Institutions.
UAlbany → 70% participated with a group affiliated with UAlbany.

Nationally → 68% participated with a group affiliated with their institution.

Large Publics → 61% participated with a group affiliated with their institution.

Figure 2.1, 2.2, & 2.3 below illustrate the percentage of students participating in groups either on campus, off campus or both that are taking an active role solving an issue or problem in the community. Figure 2.1 captures UAlbany Students. Figure 2.2 captures the national average. Figure 2.3 captures the average from large public institutions.
UAlbany
→ 70% - participated with a group affiliated with UAlbany.
→ 47% - participated with a group off campus.

Nationally
→ 66% - participated with a group affiliated with their institution.
→ 51% - participated with a group off campus.

Large Publics
→ 61% - participated with a group affiliated with their institution.
→ 54% - participated with a group off campus.

23% of students have taken at least one course that required volunteer hours.
  - 23% - National Average
  - 32% - Freshmen
  - 15% - Sophomores

42% of students served an active role in solving at least one community issue or problem.
  - 42% - National Average
  - 50% - Student clubs or organization
  - 60% - Greek Life
  - 51% - Juniors
  - 34% - Sophomore
  - 35% - Freshmen
  - 35% - Living off campus

53% participated in a service oriented group.
  - 51% - National Average
  - 64% - Student Club or Organization
  - 80% - Greek Life
  - 58% - Living on Campus
  - 60% - Juniors
  - 42% - Living off Campus
  - 47% - Freshmen
  - 46% - Seniors

25% attended service trips.
  - 22% - National Average
• **31%** - Student clubs or organization
• **42%** - Greek Life
• **30%** - Juniors
• **20%** - Living off Campus
• **18%** - Freshmen
• **19%** - Seniors

45% participated in a one-time service project or event.

• **48%** - National Average
• **54%** - Student clubs or organizations
• **53%** - Club sport or intramurals
• **70%** - Greek Life
• **51%** - Juniors
• **38%** - Freshmen

35% served as a tutor or mentor

• **37%** - National Average
• **42%** - Greek Life
• **40%** - Juniors
• **28%** - Sophomores
• **17%** - Freshmen

32% worked for a nonprofit or public service oriented company.

• **31%** - National Average
• **39%** - Greek Life
• **17%** - Freshmen
Figure 3.1 below illustrates the percentage of students that made donations either locally or nationally.

![Figure 3.1: Percentage of Students Making Charitable Donations](image)

UAlbany → 71% made donations either locally or nationally.

- 78% - Sophomores
- 65% - Living off Campus
- 60% - Freshmen
Figures 4.1 & 4.2 below illustrate the percentage of students that helped raise money for a charitable cause (excluding making donations themselves). Figure 4.1 compares UAlbany to National average as well as the averages for large public institutions. Figure 4.2 compares select populations of students on campus and compares them to the UAlbany average.

**Figure 4.1: Percentage of Students that Help Rasie Money for Charity (excluding making donations)**

National: 41%  
Large Public Institutions: 43%  
UAlbany: 47%

**Figure 4.2: Percentage of Students that Help Rasie Money for Charity (excluding making donations)**

- UAlbany Average: 47%
- Student Clubs and Organizations: 55%
- Club and Intramural Sports: 54%
- Greek Life: 60%
- Living Off Campus: 37%
- Freshmen: 40%
68% of UAlbany students are currently registered to vote.

Figure 5.1 below illustrates the percentage of students who indicated that they voted in the most recent national, state, and local elections. The figure shows a comparison to the National Average.
Figure 6.1 & 6.2 illustrate the percentage of students who indicated that they voted in the most recent campus elections. Figure 6.1 compares UAlbany to National average as well as the averages for large public institutions. Figure 6.2 illustrates select populations of students on campus and compares them to the UAlbany average.

29% joined a protest or demonstration concerned with a social concern/issue.

- **19%** - National Average
- **15%** - Large Public Average
- **23%** - Juniors
42% attended a formal lecture or discussion related to a particular social concern or issue.

- 42% - National Average
- 33% - Large Public Average
- 48% - Student Club or Organization
- 37% - Greek Life

49% encouraged others to take action related to a particular social concern or issue.

- 48% - National Average
- 45% - Large Public Average
- 57% - Juniors
- 44% - Club Sport or Intramurals
- 44% - Freshmen

57% are active in social and/or advocacy issues.

- 59% - National Average
- 56% - Large Public Average
- 62% - Freshmen
- 78% - Sophomores
- 67% - Juniors
- 45% - Greek Life
- 48% - Seniors

Learning & Development

Participating in volunteer and/or service work affiliated with the University at Albany has...

- helped me to learn about people with different backgrounds and perspectives – 69%
  - 70% - National Average
  - 67% - Large Public Average
  - 75% - Greek Life
  - 80% - Seniors
- helped me to learn to tailor my communication style to effectively express, listen, and adapt to others – 65%
  - 66% - National Average
  - 65% - Large Public Average
  - 73% - Greek Life
  - 60% - Freshmen
- made it easier for me to see things from other people’s perspective – 68%
  - 68% - National Average
  - 65% - Large Public Average
• helped me to formulate my own thoughts and ideas related to a particular topic or issue – 68%
  o 66% - National Average
  o 64% - Large Public Average
• made me realize my own role in providing solutions to various issues and challenges impacting my community – 67%
  o 61% - National Average
  o 59% - Large Public Average
  o 74% - Greek Life
  o 73% - Sophomores
  o 61% - Club Sports and Intramurals
  o 57% - Freshmen
• contributed to my sense of who I am as a person – 66%
  o 64% - National Average
  o 62% - Large Public Average
  o 74% - Greek Life
  o 72% - Study 10+ hours a week
  o 73% - Sophomore
  o 56% - Freshmen
• helped me to improve my leadership skills – 67%
  o 65% - National Average
  o 65% - Large Public Average
  o 72% - Student Club or Organization
  o 72% - Clubs Sports or intramurals
  o 74% - Seniors
  o 54% - Freshmen
• helped me to take initiative – 66%
  o 65% - National Average
  o 64% - Large Public Average
  o 71% - Sophomore
  o 72% - Seniors
  o 56% - Freshmen
• shown me how I can take on a larger role in helping communities face challenges – 66%
  o 64% - National Average
  o 62% - Large Public Average
  o 71% - Greek Life
  o 71% - Sophomores
  o 72% - Juniors
  o 53% - Freshmen
Making Connections

85% believe that being able to interact with individuals with different backgrounds and perspectives will help after college.

- 90% - National Average
- 87% - Large Public Average

66% connect what they are learning in class to the activities and programs they are involved in.

- 70% - National Average
- 68% - Large Public Average

74% connect what they are learning in class to local, national, and global news and events.

- 74% - National Average
- 71% - Large Public Average
- 66% - Greek Life

72% often use the content I am learning in class outside the class room.

- 77% - National Average
- 74% - Large Public Average

65% plan on being an active part of the community in which they live after college.

- 73% - National Average
- 71% - Large Public Average
- 70% - Student Club or Organization
- 70% - Greek Life
- 71% - Juniors

METHODOLOGY & DEMOGRAPHICS

Findings are based on the 2011 Civic Engagement survey completed by 360 University at Albany students between April 6 and May 15, 2011. The survey was administered electronically through StudentVoice by the Office of the Vice President for Student Success at UAlbany.

Respondents were:

- Mostly women (62% women, 36% men).
- Diverse (65% white, 7% African American/Black, 8% Asian/Pacific Islander, 9% Hispanic/Latino).
- Representative of different class years (17% freshman, 25% sophomore, 30% juniors, 28% seniors).
- Full-time students (94% full time students).
- Live primarily on-campus (63% on-campus residence, 22% off campus with friends/roommates, 9% off campus with parent/guardian)
- **Active in student clubs/organizations** (60% involved in at least one, 40% not involved)
- **Not Active in Sports** (31% involved in at least one intramural group, club sport, or organized fitness activity, 69% not involved)

**QUESTIONS**

Please direct any questions concerning this assessment brief to:

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APPENDIX A: PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS (48 participating institutions)

1. Alfred University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey - Benchmark
2. Augustana College (South Dakota) - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
4. Binghamton University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
5. Butler University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
6. College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
7. Colorado College - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
8. Colorado State University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
9. Denison University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
10. DePauw University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
11. Eastern Connecticut State University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
13. Evergreen State College - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
14. Georgetown University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
15. Georgia College & State University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
16. Gonzaga University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
17. Grinnell College - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
18. Kalamazoo College - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
20. Louisiana State University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
21. Loyola University Chicago - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
22. Macalester College - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
23. Massachusetts College of Art - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
24. Mount St. Mary's University IPEDS: 163462 - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
25. Northwestern University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
26. Otterbein University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
27. Pratt Institute - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
28. Sam Houston State University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
29. School of the Art Institute of Chicago - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
30. Seton Hall University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
31. Southern Methodist University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
32. Spring Hill College - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
33. Towson University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
34. Transylvania University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
35. University at Albany - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
36. University of Alabama - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
37. University of Alaska Anchorage - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
38. University of Illinois at Chicago - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
40. University of North Carolina Asheville - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
41. University of North Carolina at Greensboro - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
42. University of Puget Sound - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
43. University of Utah - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
44. University of Wisconsin Oshkosh - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
45. University of Wisconsin-Platteville - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
46. Villanova University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
47. Weber State University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
48. William Paterson University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
APPENDIX B: PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS INCLUDED AS LARGE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS (13 institutions)

1. Binghamton University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
2. Colorado State University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
3. Eastern Michigan University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
4. Louisiana State University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
5. Sam Houston State University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
6. Towson University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
7. University at Albany - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
8. University of Alabama - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
10. University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Civic Engagement Student Survey Spring 2012
12. University of Utah - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey
13. Weber State University - Consortium: Civic Engagement Student Survey