

Results of the 2009 CHAS Campus Climate Survey

Community Forum

April 9, 2010

Office of Institutional Research

What is CHAS?

- Founded in 2000, The Consortium on High Achievement and Success (CHAS) is composed of 30 private, select liberal arts colleges and small universities dedicated to promoting high achievement, leadership and personal satisfaction of students on member campuses, with a focus on promoting success among students of color. CHAS develops programs to engage the whole student academically, socially and culturally. CHAS is hosted by Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Survey Administration

- Administered in October and November of 2009
- The survey included samples of both white and non-white students.
- The invitation to participate came from the survey administrator at Trinity College.
- Students who had not responded were sent three reminders

Response

- Hamilton: Sample of 500 selected randomly (some oversampling of students of color and unknown students): 223 responded for a 45% response rate
- 17% of respondents were non-white*, 62% of respondents were women
- The overall response rate among the other participating schools was 41% (33% non-white, 63% women)

* Includes respondents who identified as Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic, Native American, or Other on the survey

Response

Comparison group: N=6,858, Response rate =41%

Bates College

Bucknell College

Clark University

Connecticut College

Dartmouth College

Hamilton College

Haverford College

College of the Holy Cross

Oberlin College

Reed College

Sewanee

Skidmore College

Sarah Lawrence College

Swarthmore College

Trinity College


Union College

Vassar College

CHAS Reporting of Survey Results

- CHAS provided a report template and means and frequencies of results. They did not conduct analyses of statistical differences between groups.
- Hamilton's IR Office obtained the raw data set, conducted tests to identify differences, and added those results to the CHAS template.
- Large difference in number of respondents makes it somewhat difficult to find statistical differences between single institution and comparison group.

Key:

 = Significant difference between Non-White and White responses within Hamilton or comparison group at $p \leq .05$

**= Significant difference in Non-White respondents between Hamilton and comparison group at $p \leq .05$

*= Significant difference in Non-White respondents between Hamilton and comparison group at $p \leq .10$

Section 1. Satisfaction

Table 1.1. Would you recommend this institution to a student with a similar background?

<i>Ethnicity</i>	Hamilton College	Comparison Group	NW Sig. Diff.
Not White	81%	86%	
White	96%	94%	

Table 1.2. Have you thought about taking time off?

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Thought about taking time off	25%	25%	38%	34%	
Voluntarily taken time off	6%	2%	5%	6%	
Required to take time off	0%	1%	2%	1%	
Never thought about it	69%	75%	61%	64%	

Table 1.3. Mean Satisfaction with Overall Experience
 (1 = Very Dissatisfied, 3 = Neutral, 5 = Very Satisfied)

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Your overall college experience	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.3	
(Scale) Social Life	3.4	3.9	3.6	3.8	**
(Scale) Diversity, Respect & Community	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.6	*
(Scale) Academic Life: Faculty and courses	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.1	
(Scale) Safety	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.0	
(Scale) Administration and Services	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.6	

Table 1.4. Mean Satisfaction with Academics & Faculty

(1 = Very Dissatisfied, 3 = Neutral, 5 = Very Satisfied)

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Academic Life: Faculty and courses					
Your own academic performance	3.3	3.9	3.5	3.9	
Your academic life	3.6	4.0	3.8	4.1	*
Overall quality of your courses	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.4	
Accessibility of faculty	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5	
General Education requirements	4.1	4.4	4.0	4.0	
Your faculty advisor	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	
Amount of contact with faculty members	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.3	
Range of disciplines (fields) available	3.6	4.2	3.8	4.0	**
Range of specific courses offered	3.2	4.0	3.7	3.9	
Ability to enroll in the courses you want	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	

Table 1.5. Mean Satisfaction with Administration and Services

(1 = Very Dissatisfied, 3 = Neutral, 5 = Very Satisfied)

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Administration and Services					
Admin responsiveness to student concerns	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	
Library resources & services	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.3	
Computer services & facilities	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.2	
Extent of faculty participation in campus social events	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	
On-campus housing	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.9	
Food Service	3.4	3.8	3.3	3.4	
Dean of Students Office	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6	
Counseling Center	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	
Career Counseling Office	3.9	3.4	3.6	3.6	*
Course registration process	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.6	
Registrars Office	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.7	
Student Accounts Office	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.6	
Financial aid program	4.1	3.4	3.9	3.6	
Health Center	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.6	**
Campus Safety Office	3.3	3.5	3.8	3.8	**
Off-campus shuttle service	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.5	**

Table 1.6. Mean Satisfaction with Social Life
 (1 = Very Dissatisfied, 3 = Neutral, 5 = Very Satisfied)

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Social Life					
Your social life	3.5	4.0	3.7	4.0	
Your residential experience	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.9	
Social life on campus	3.3	4.0	3.6	3.9	
Extra-curr speakers, cultural offerings, events	3.6	4.2	3.9	4.0	**
Opps to participate in extracurricular activities	3.9	4.4	4.1	4.2	*
Access to off-campus cultural, rec opps	2.9	3.4	3.3	3.5	**
Variety of social options	3.1	3.7	3.3	3.6	
Number of social options	3.1	3.8	3.4	3.6	
Quality of activities sponsored by Student Activities Office	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.7	*
Behavior of other students in the residences	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.7	

Table 1.7. Mean Satisfaction with Diversity, Respect and Community

(1 = Very Dissatisfied, 3 = Neutral, 5 = Very Satisfied)

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Diversity, Respect and Community					
Sense of community on campus	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	
Ethnic/racial diversity	2.8	3.4	3.2	3.4	**
Climate for minority students	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.4	**
Respect students show for each other	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.9	*

Table 1.8. Mean Satisfaction with Safety

(1 = Very Dissatisfied, 3 = Neutral, 5 = Very Satisfied)

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Safety					
Safety on campus	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.1	
Security in your residence hall	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.0	

Section 2. Experiences with and Participation in Campus Life

Table 2.1. Percent who have witnessed or experienced racial/ethnic harassment.

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
<i>Experienced...</i>					
racial/ethnic harassment	3%	1%	7%	1%	
racial/ethnic discrimination	11%	3%	13%	2%	
racial/ethnic insensitivity	37%	10%	37%	11%	
<i>Witnessed...</i>					
racial/ethnic harassment	26%	13%	18%	7%	
racial/ethnic discrimination	40%	13%	26%	11%	**
racial/ethnic insensitivity	61%	53%	54%	42%	

Table 2.2. Have you “Often” or “Very Often” ____ with someone from a different background than your own...

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Studied	88%	46%	79%	51%	
Ate meals	93%	60%	86%	65%	
Socialized	97%	67%	90%	74%	
Made close friendships	71%	49%	81%	57%	

Table 2.3. How much interaction have you had with students from each of the following groups during this academic year? (“Often” or “Very Often”)

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Different race/ethnicity	89%	62%	88%	70%	
Foreign students	82%	57%	70%	57%	
Different sexual orientation	49%	41%	62%	68%	
Different religious & political beliefs & values	87%	85%	81%	77%	
Different economic background	87%	84%	85%	80%	

Table 2.4. While at college have you shared a dorm room or apartment with someone whose racial/ethnic background was different from yours? (Yes)

	Hamilton College	Comparison Group	NW Sig. Diff.
Non-white	96%	86%	**
White	44%	45%	

Table 2.5. Participation in Activities (“Somewhat” or “A Lot”)

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Work Study program	48%	25%	51%	34%	
Study abroad	22%	25%	21%	24%	
Student publications	24%	26%	24%	22%	
Student or campus government	5%	8%	20%	15%	**
Research with faculty member	32%	23%	24%	22%	
Religious groups and activities	33%	26%	28%	27%	
Political organization or club	26%	34%	29%	29%	
Performing arts/music	38%	49%	43%	43%	
Off-campus study in U.S.	11%	7%	13%	11%	
Intramural sports	50%	48%	35%	37%	**
Internship	54%	43%	43%	35%	
Intercollegiate sports	17%	43%	26%	37%	
Independent study for credit	19%	12%	17%	16%	
Fraternities or sororities	8%	34%	14%	16%	
Ethnic student organizations	50%	12%	62%	15%	
Community service	82%	73%	62%	58%	**

Table 2.6. How many hours a week do you work for pay? (Mean)

Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
NW	W	NW	W	
8	4	6	5	

Table 2.7. Discussions with Faculty

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
(Often) Asked your instructor for information related to a course you were taking	78%	62%	61%	59%	**
(Often) Discussed your academic program or course selection with a faculty member	63%	53%	53%	51%	
(Often) Discussed your career plans and ambitions with a faculty member	59%	32%	35%	32%	**
(Often) Socialized with a faculty member outside of class (had a snack, etc.)	33%	21%	21%	18%	

Table 2.8. I feel there are expectations about my academic performance because of my race

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Very much	13%	1%	12%	2%	
Somewhat	50%	17%	41%	13%	
Not at all	37%	82%	47%	86%	

Table 2.9. Are you doing better or worse academically than you expected?

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Better	16%	12%	12%	15%	
As good as expected	43%	69%	55%	68%	
Worse	41%	19%	33%	17%	

Section 3. Stress

Table 3.1. On how many of the past seven days did you get enough sleep so that you felt rested when you woke up in the morning? (Mean # of days)

	Hamilton College	Comparison Group	NW Sig. Diff.
Non-white	2.9	3.2	
White	3.5	3.4	

Table 3.2. Overwhelmed and out of place

1 = Never, 4 = Very Often

		Hamilton College	Comparison Group	NW Sig. Diff.
Felt overwhelmed by all you had to do	Non-white	3.0	2.8	**
	White	2.9	2.8	
Felt out of place or that you just didn't fit in on your campus	Non-white	1.9	2.1	
	White	1.9	1.8	

Table 3.3. Sources of Stress

1 = This has not affected me, 4 = Very stressful

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Managing course workload	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.0	
Family, intimates, friends	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.4	*
Concerns about your finances	2.4	1.9	2.4	2.1	
Concerns about your future plans	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6	

Section 4. High School

Table 4.1. Which of the following best describes the type of high school you last attended?

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
Public high school	76%	55%	62%	60%	*
Parochial high school	0%	7%	7%	7%	
Other private high school	24%	38%	31%	33%	

Table 4.2. What percentage of the student body were students of color in your high school?

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
0-10%	29%	58%	28%	48%	
10-25%	3%	27%	21%	29%	
25-50%	11%	8%	16%	14%	
50% or more	58%	6%	35%	9%	**

Table 4.3. Was your high school more or less ethnically diverse than this school?

	Hamilton College		Comparison Group		NW Sig. Diff.
	NW	W	NW	W	
More diverse	50%	21%	43%	27%	
About the same	21%	31%	20%	26%	
Less diverse	29%	48%	37%	47%	

Summary

- Hamilton non-white students are more likely to be from public, more diverse high schools.
- Hamilton non-white students are less satisfied with social life, especially extra-curricular and cultural opportunities.
- Hamilton non-white students are less satisfied with curricular offerings but are more engaged with the faculty.