

**Measurement and Research Services
Texas A&M University**

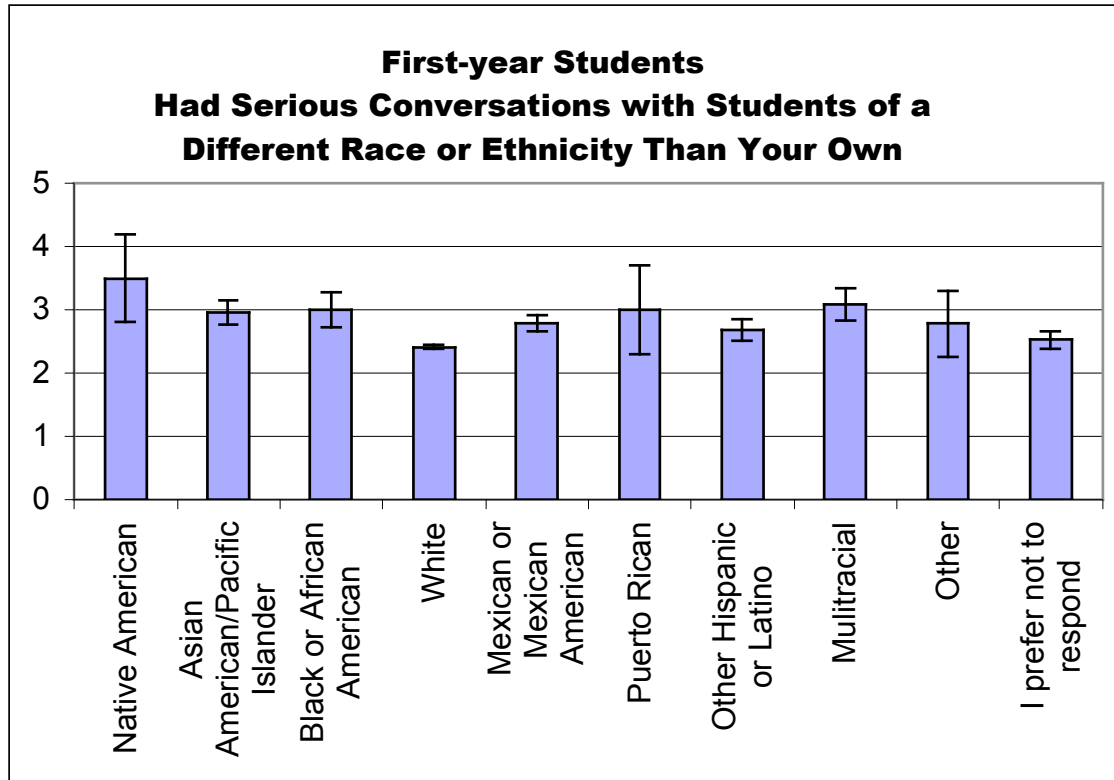
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NSSE 2005: Observed ethnic difference in responses

Measurement and Research Services conducted an analysis by ethnicity on each of the questions on the NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) 2005 results for Texas A&M. Out of more than 70 comparisons, two questions yielded significant ethnic differences for freshmen students and only one question yielded significant ethnic differences for both freshmen and seniors.

The results are:

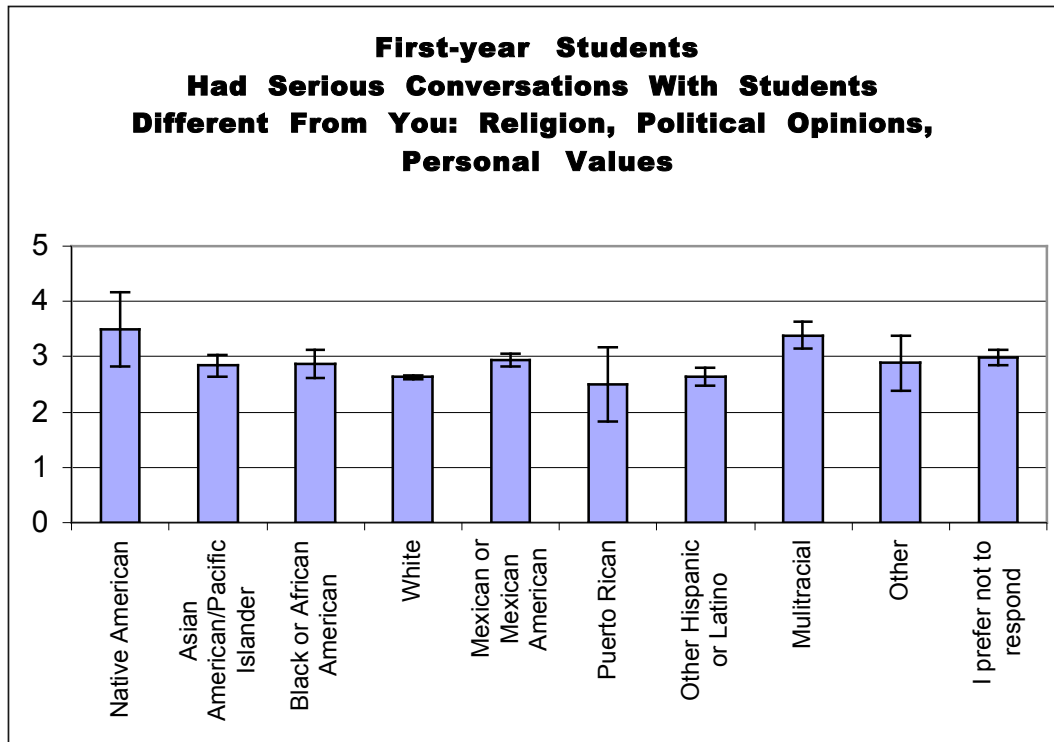
- Among freshmen, white students had fewer serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity
- Among freshmen, white students had fewer serious conversations with students who were different in religion, political opinions, or personal values
- African American freshman and seniors were lowest in quality of relationships with other students
- While quality of relationship with other students remained the same or increased from freshmen to seniors of other ethnic groups, quality declined for African Americans



Mean scores are presented in Table 1. The responses are based on a four-point scale where 1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = often, 4 = very often.

Table 1. Mean responses to "Had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own."

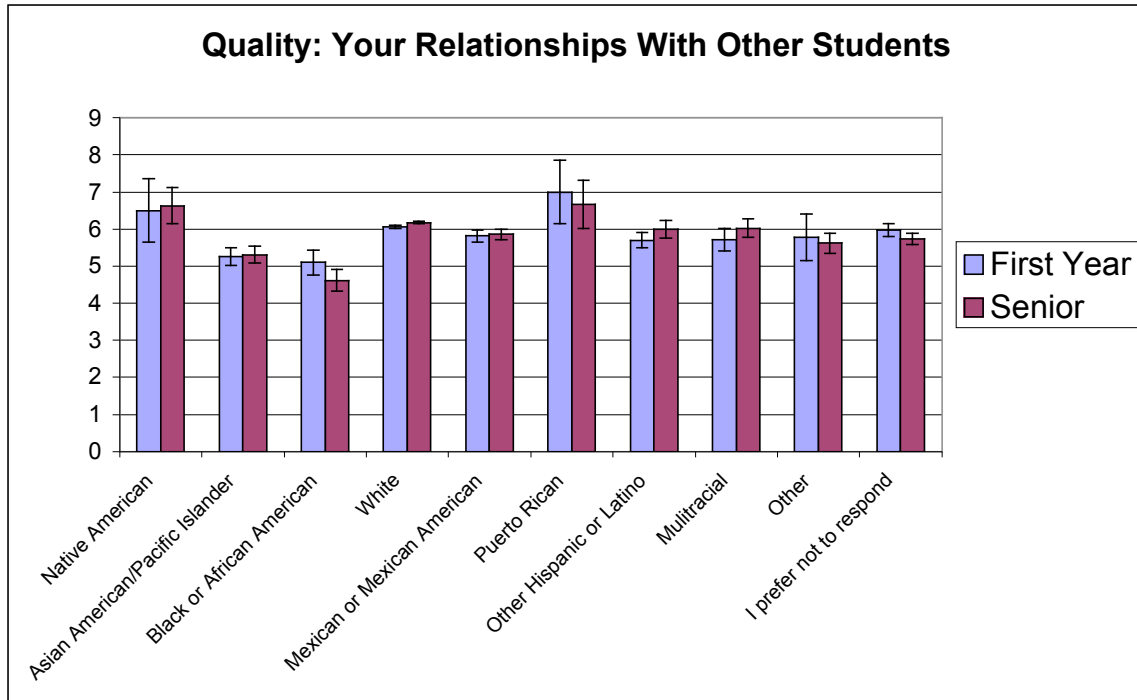
Ethnicity	First year	N
Native American	3.5	2
Asian American/Pacific Islander	2.96	25
Black or African American	3	14
White	2.41	800
Mexican or Mexican American	2.79	58
Puerto Rican	3	2
Other Hispanic or Latino	2.68	36
Multiracial	3.09	17
Other	2.79	10
I prefer not to respond	2.53	49



Mean scores are presented in Table 2. The responses are based on a four-point scale where 1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = often, 4 = very often.

Table 2. Mean responses to "Had serious conversations with students different from you in religion, political opinions, personal values."

Ethnicity	First year	N
Native American	3.5	2
Asian American/Pacific Islander	2.84	25
Black or African American	2.87	14
White	2.64	800
Mexican or Mexican American	2.94	58
Puerto Rican	2.5	2
Other Hispanic or Latino	2.63	36
Multiracial	3.39	17
Other	2.89	10
I prefer not to respond	2.99	49



Mean scores are presented in Table 3. The responses are based on a seven-point scale where 1 = Unfriendly, unsupportive, sense of alienation, and 7 = Friendly, supportive, sense of belonging.

Table 3. Mean responses to "Quality: your relationships with other students."

	First Year	N	Senior	N
Native American	6.5	2	6.62	6
Asian American/Pacific Islander	5.25	25	5.31	26
Black or African American	5.1	14	4.6	16
White	6.05	800	6.1	886
Mexican or Mexican American	5.82	58	5.86	60
Puerto Rican	7	2	6.67	4
Other Hispanic or Latino	5.70	36	5.99	22
Multiracial	5.70	17	6.02	20
Other	5.78	10	5.62	21
I prefer not to respond	5.98	49	5.74	60