10th Annual

Quality of Life Survey

Town Hall

April 23, 2019
Introduction
Survey Design and Analysis
Strategy to Improve Response Rate

- **Prizes**
- **Raffle Items**
- **Promotions**

- Tabling on Mudd 4th Floor
  - Tea and Donuts
  - Flyers
- Flyer on 4th Floor Projector
- Daily Email Reminders
  - SurveyMonkey
  - GSA
- Social Media
  - Instagram
  - Facebook
  - Personal Networks

**Prizes**:
- Raffle Items:
- Promotions:
Survey Design and Analysis

- Likert Scale
  - 1: strongly disagree
  - 2: disagree
  - 3: neutral
  - 4: agree
  - 5: strongly agree
- 105 questions (106 questions in 2018)
  - Multiple choice
  - Comment box
- Randomized options with questions
- Encoded logic based on answer selection
- Data visualization performed by data analysts
Key Results
Overview

Demographics
Representation: by Degree Program

2019 Student Body

2019 Survey Respondents

37% response rate
Representation: by Degree Program

2018 Survey Respondents

- Total: 1066
- M.S.: 70%
- M.S. to Ph.D.: 5%
- Ph.D.: 18%
- Eng. Sc.D.: 0.2%
- Certificate: 1%
- Not Answer: 6%

2019 Survey Respondents

- Total: 1033
- M.S.: 71%
- M.S. to Ph.D.: 6%
- Ph.D.: 16%
- Eng. Sc.D.: 0.3%
- Certificate: 2%
- Did not answer: 4%
Representation: by Department

APAM: Applied Physics and Mathematics
BMEN: Biomedical Engineering
CEEM: Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics
CHEN: Chemical Engineering
COMS: Computer Science
DSI: Data Science Institute
EAEE: Earth and Environmental Engineering
ELEN: Electrical Engineering
IEOR: Industrial Engineering and Operations Research
MECE: Mechanical Engineering

2019 Survey Respondents

- APAM: 6%
- BMEN: 9%
- CHEN: 5%
- CEEM: 9%
- COMS: 15%
- DSI: 7%
- ELEN: 12%
- IEOR: 24%
- MECE: 8%
- Prefer Not to Say: 1%
Representation: by Department

**2019 Student Body**

- MECE: 8%
- DSI: 8%
- Not Affiliated: 2%
- APAM: 6%
- BMEN: 7%
- CHEN: 5%
- CEEM: 7%
- ELEN: 14%
- EAEE: 3%
- COMS: 17%

**2019 Survey Respondents**

- Prefer Not to Say: 1%
- MECE: 8%
- DSI: 7%
- APAM: 6%
- BMEN: 9%
- CHEN: 5%
- CEEM: 9%
- ELEN: 12%
- EAEE: 4%
- COMS: 15%
Representation: by Department

2018 Survey Respondents

- IEOR: 21%
- CHEN: 5%
- CEEM: 7%
- ELEN: 15%
- EAEE: 4%
- COMS: 15%
- MECE: 8%
- DSI: 7%
- APAM: 8%
- Prefer Not to Say: 2%

2019 Survey Respondents

- IEOR: 24%
- CHEN: 5%
- CEEM: 9%
- ELEN: 12%
- EAEE: 4%
- COMS: 15%
- MECE: 8%
- DSI: 7%
- APAM: 6%
- Prefer Not to Say: 1%

12/73
Representation: by Semesters in SEAS

- 1 semester: 42%
- 2 semesters: 30%
- 3 semesters: 8%
- 4 semesters: 4%
- >4 semesters: 12%
- <1 semester: 4%

Responses: 988/1033
Gender and LGBTQ Identification

**Gender**
- Male: 59%
- Female: 38%
- Non-binary: 2%
- Prefer Not to Say: 1%

**LGBTQ**
- No: 85%
- Prefer Not to Say: 6%
- Yes: 9%

Responses: 883/1033

Responses: 878/1033
Overview

Satisfaction
Importance vs. Satisfaction

Strongly agree = 5
Strongly disagree = 1
78% of Students are Satisfied Overall

- **Strongly Agree = Very Satisfied**
- Strongly Agree: 19%
- Agree: 59%
- Neutral: 13%
- Disagree: 5%
- Strongly Disagree: 5%

Responses: 1033/1033
Academics

Degree Programs
# Satisfaction with Classes and Academics

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Responses: 1001/1033
Satisfaction with Classes and Academics

Responses: 988/1033
Satisfaction with Elective Courses

“My degree requirements allowed me to take enough elective courses to tailor my education”

Responses: 978/1033
## Convenience of Canvas Features

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</tbody>
</table>

Responses: 997/1033
Canvas: Comments

User Experience

- "Canvas is really nice. I can access everything, videos, lionmail, coursework all from my iPad. It makes my remote CVN class work possible..."
- “Would like ability to watch lectures at 1.5-2x speed through the mobile app.”
- “Can't view score distributions on Mobile app.”
- “If CVN videos could be made available to non-CVN students as well, that would greatly help.”
- “I love being a CVN student at Columbia University.”

Use by Instructors/TAs

- “Have a schedule of all lectures and materials for those lectures similar to the business school.”
- “Really useful if the instructor uses it to its full potential. Best LMS I have used.”
- “Features related to TA work need to be expanded like assignment of students to TAs and able to download only a subset of the assignment submission files...”
SSOL: Comments

Billing
- "Account and billing is clunky and frequently contains errors. Some charges and credits appear at different times, so it's hard to be sure what I really owe."
- "I cannot check online the amount of remaining money in my FlexAccount and Dining Dollars."
- "If SSOL could remind me of paying tuition three days before the due, it would be better."

Courses and Transcripts
- "...The course planning is hardly possible in SSOL. You cannot sign up or mark courses as favorite. The course info given on SSOL does not always match the bulletin or vergil info."
- "Please add access to unofficial transcripts that we can access immediately without having to request them! For degree audit report, maybe have a worksheet that shows what is remaining to get to your degree."
- "Why is course registration closed at night? And does the process of obtaining my transcript take so long? SSOL seems to really need an overhaul."
Academics

Academic Integrity
Code of Honor

- Academic Code of Honor passed in March 2014 by COI, EGSC, and ESC
- Presented to incoming students at Orientation in August 2014
- Added the online Academic Integrity Module in August 2015

“We, the engineering graduate students of Columbia University, pledge to uphold the values of integrity, honesty, and dignity in the pursuit of common scholastic goals, both at Columbia and beyond.”
Academic Integrity Policies

Responses: 927/1033
If you have violated an Academic Integrity policy, “Which of the following are reasons why?”

- Not Applicable 80%
- Reasons 20%
- Classmates not disciplined 30%
- Heavy courseload 49%
- Policies misunderstood 21%
Peer Reporting in Academic Integrity

“Do you believe that peer reporting should play a role in enforcing Academic Integrity policies?”

**2018 Survey**
- Yes: 56%
- No: 33%
- Not Sure: 11%

**2019 Survey**
- Yes: 46%
- No: 27%
- Not Sure: 27%

Responses: 955/1075

Responses: 923/1033
“Need a middle ground for reports. Right now it's very serious and quickly escalated, which makes anyone reluctant to initiate. Suppose instead a prof could automatically reduce by one letter grade if cheating strongly suspected...”

“Answers to problem sets from previous years should be a study resource for students, not a forbidden document that serves as an answer key. If professors don't want students to copy answers from previous years' problem sets, they should make new problem sets each year.”

“Take-home quiz/exams take self regulation and people do not adhere to them.”

“Please have a separate, intensive orientation about academic integrity for international students. It seems that expectations were not made clear to many students.”

“Create a culture of integrity and pursuit of knowledge instead of grades. Right now everybody just wants an A and will do anything to get it.”

“...I would enforce confidential reporting of peers to check this and more severe repercussions.”
Professional Development

Professional Development and Leadership (PDL)
# Satisfaction with PDL Modules

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<td>CHEN</td>
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The responses indicate a high level of satisfaction across different modules, with a majority of respondents neither agree nor disagree or agree with the statements. The data is broken down by module, with core and elective courses showing similar trends.
Career Development

Job Search
Center for Career Education (CCE) Resources

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Responses: 981/1033
# Relevant Companies at Career Fairs

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Responses: 969/1033
Career Services through CCE: Comments

Representation across fields
- “There is a huge lack of actual engineering positions on handshake. Most of the positions are pseudo-engineering (e.g. working at a bank doing some math)... I would love to see more recruiting from consulting firms, government offices, and defense contractors.”

Low numbers
- “Not a whole lot of options for mechanical engineering, with energy systems concentration”, “More Biotech”, “I can't see more companies in the Civil Engineering field...”;“More than 60% of mech grad students are specializing in robotics and not one core robotic company has come.”
- “Very disappointing that Columbia University is not able to secure some of the top consumer product companies to lead a recruiting workshop or attend the career fair.”
- “That’s good. Except there are not many big companies.”

PhD specific
- “CCE doesn't know what to do with PhDs who don't want to go into either academia or consulting. I want to go into actual engineering and they are at a complete loss. Career fairs don't have many engineering firms in attendance. There are rarely any local employers who are not NYC government or MTA.”
Career Services through CCE: Comments

Career Fairs
- “There should be a separate career fair for undergraduate and graduate students…”
- “Do career fairs by Dept rather than for the entire school, and use a venue large enough for everyone so that we do not waste time queuing just to even enter the venue.”
- **International Students’ Experience:** “…It’s utterly disappointing to work hard towards a career fair and then be turned down from applying purely due to visa restrictions. The university has to do more to ensure that employers visiting campus bring merit to the students.”

Services
- “I think generally there is a good effort put in regarding helping students find prospective employers.”
- “Company visits for students, Participation in companies-sponsored training events on their premises and video conference calls, networking events for students at companies sites (This will help increase alumni participation), partnership with fintech companies for students to get training sessions on vendor software…”
- **Awareness:** “Consider being more visible. A lot of resources at CCE are simply not known by students, such as suit rental, interview rooms, etc.,” “I am not aware of many of these resources…maybe a workshop to help us navigate these would be useful.”
Career Development

Networking
Networking Resources

68% of students actively developing alumni contacts

Responses: 961/1033
School and Department Career Activities

Responses: 981/1033
68% of Students Likely Involved as Alum

- Likely to be involved: 68%
- Neutral: 23%
- Not likely to be involved: 9%

Responses: 970/1033

I don't find the current networking events appealing: 54%
I'll be relocating to another part of the country or abroad: 26%
I'm not aware of opportunities to stay involved: 11%
Other: 9%

Responses: 93/1033
Health and Safety
“I feel safe on campus”
Usefulness of Health Services

Responses: 607/1033  Responses: 604/1033  Responses: 757/1033
Use of Counseling and Psychological Services

Responses: 938/1033

- Yes: 17%
- No: 83%

- Do not need them: 56%
- Busy: 20%
- Do not think they would help: 9%
- Unaware of the service: 8%
- Unaware of confidentiality: 4%
- Embarrassed: 3%
Deferred Dental Work

“Have you ever deferred needed dental work while at Columbia due to lack of dental insurance?”

Responses: 937/1033
Student Life
Overall Sense of Community: by Gender

Responses: 883/1033
## Overall Sense of Community: by Department

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<tr>
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<th>Disagree</th>
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Responses: 883/1033
Enjoyment of EGSC and GSA Events

Responses: 995/1003
# Acclimation as a Result of Orientation

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</tbody>
</table>

Responses: 955/1033
Student Life: Comments

Orientation
- “Encourage department-focused orientations with ice-breakers.”, “... mandatory health insurance information sessions”, “Include a Campus Tour!”.
- “Better swag to welcome students so that they feel proud to be here in Columbia.”, ”Resources for families with children, childcare options”.

Social Events
- “Staff create a great atmosphere the students however seem less outgoing and social.”
- “Need events where I can bring my wife and child”, “...I would attend much more if there were ways to do this.”
- ”Drink limit makes pricing not worth it. Not going to spend money to go to event with such strict limit. All friends in other schools don't have this limit. ”, “A 2 drink maximum is detrimental to events longer than an hour and a half”.

Library and Facilities
Frequency of Library Usage

Responses: 951/1033

Hours per week:

- Watson Library:
  - 0-1: 59
  - 1-2: 12
  - 2-3: 8
  - 3-4: 7
  - >4: 14

- Butler Library:
  - 0-1: 51
  - 1-2: 18
  - 2-3: 11
  - 3-4: 7
  - >4: 12

- Science and Engineering Library:
  - 0-1: 45
  - 1-2: 22
  - 2-3: 14
  - 3-4: 7
  - >4: 11

- Other University libraries:
  - 0-1: 72
  - 1-2: 9
  - 2-3: 6
  - 3-4: 4
  - >4: 9

- Avery Library:
  - 0-1: 82
  - 1-2: 7
  - 2-3: 5
  - 3-4: 3
  - >4: 3

- Non-University libraries:
  - 0-1: 90
  - 1-2: 3
  - 2-3: 3
  - 3-4: 1
  - >4: 2
Usefulness of Resources in the SEL

- **Printing and scanning facilities**
  - Strongly disagree: 2
  - Disagree: 4
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 24
  - Agree: 42
  - Strongly agree: 28

- **Individual Study Place**
  - Strongly disagree: 2
  - Disagree: 5
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 27
  - Agree: 41
  - Strongly agree: 24

- **Group Study Place**
  - Strongly disagree: 3
  - Disagree: 5
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 32
  - Agree: 38
  - Strongly agree: 21

- **Hours of operation**
  - Strongly disagree: 3
  - Disagree: 6
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 34
  - Agree: 37
  - Strongly agree: 19

- **Computer terminal**
  - Strongly disagree: 4
  - Disagree: 7
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 35
  - Agree: 38
  - Strongly agree: 16

- **Reference materials**
  - Strongly disagree: 4
  - Disagree: 8
  - Neither agree nor disagree: 42
  - Agree: 35
  - Strongly agree: 13

Responses: 951/1033
Library: Comments

Timing
- “Library is closed on holidays, and why does library open on 9 am and not 6/7 am?”
- “Engineering library should be open for 24 hours.”

Space
- “More group study spaces would be greatly appreciated”
- “The group study rooms in the Science and Engineering Library are not soundproof, but many students don’t realize it. It’d be great if some sort of sign was posted.”
- “Not enough rooms to book for interviews or group sessions (only 2?!)”

Services
- “The librarians are great!”, “Interlibrary loan is responsive, which is nice.”
- **Food/Drink policy:** “Usually work in a different library so we can eat. Engineering is hard enough without also being hungry while studying :(
- “Please increase the number of color printers!”
Satisfaction with Facilities

Overall cleanliness of classrooms in the Mudd building -
Coverage of wireless internet in Mudd and CEPSR -
Speed of wireless internet in Mudd and CEPSR -
Cleanliness of laboratory and office space -
Carleton Commons -
Speed of wired internet in Mudd and CEPSR -
Accessibility of Mudd on the weekends -
Quality of technical support provided by CUIT -
Availability of engineering specific software in libraries/computer labs -
Quality and maintenance of equipment in labs -

Responses: 942/1033
## Satisfaction with Facilities

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<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
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<tr>
<td>Availability of Eng specific software that can be installed on your pc</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
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<td>University Gym</td>
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<td>Elevators in Mudd building</td>
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<td>Availability of group study space</td>
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<td>Columbia Makerspace</td>
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<td>Availability of reservable student group space</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Availability of transportation to the CUIMC campus on the weekends</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>32</td>
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Responses: 942/1033
Improved Satisfaction with Blue Java

Responses: 736/1033
Satisfaction with Gender-neutral Bathrooms

Responses: 942/1033

Survey Gender Makeup

- Female: 38%
- Male: 59%
- Non-binary: 2%
- Prefer Not to Say: 1%
Housing
Location of Residence

Responses: 931/1033

International House 27%
UAH 27%
Off-campus 69%

Housing Location 32%
Housing Cost 32%
Unavailability of Columbia Residential Units 46%

Responses: 562/1033
Helpfulness of Columbia with Housing Issues

Responses: 244/1033
Satisfaction with Columbia Residential

**Application Process**
- Strongly disagree: 8%
- Disagree: 11%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 13%
- Agree: 53%
- Strongly agree: 15%

**Transfer Process**
- Strongly disagree: 9%
- Disagree: 9%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 43%
- Agree: 32%
- Strongly agree: 7%
# Satisfaction with Residential Management

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<th>Disagree</th>
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<tr>
<td>Helpfulness of building superintendent</td>
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<td>Helpfulness of door attendant</td>
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<td>Cost</td>
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</table>

Responses: 246/1033
Engineering Graduate Student Council (EGSC)
EGSC Executive Board 2019

Sai Mali Ananth (President)
Brittany Marshall (Vice President)
Ashritha Eadara (Treasurer)
Michael Sutton (Senator)
Joni Mici (Career and Alumni Chair)
Liliana Calix (Interschool Chair)
Sowmya Garg (Communications Chair)
Mark Barbet (Social Chair)
EGSC 2018: Your Student Government

- 100% facilities fee covered for all PhD and MS leading to PhD students starting Fall 2018.
- Administration addressing late payments for students by resolving issues in internal processes.
- Increase in **PhD student involvement** in EGSC and community
  - Participate in departmental PhD student open houses to boost PhD involvement in EGSC
  - Summer PhD socials
  - “*Engineering your PhD*” week with PDL in August
  - Constitution: amended for at least 1 PhD department representative per department
- Increased number of interschool events including socials and board game nights etc.
- Successfully re-instated mixers at Carleton Commons so that social events are more accessible to the graduate community.
- **Outreach**: Robotics for high school kids and volunteering at New York Cares.
- Supported Food Pantry at Columbia to assist SEAS graduate students facing food insecurities.
- Increased EGSC recognition and support from 10 to **13** student groups- new department groups like Graduate Biomedical Engineering and Graduate Electrical Engineering.
EGSC 2019: Your Student Government

Advocacy

- Creating process for EGSC Department Representatives to meet their department administration and advocate for their students.
- Assisted Dean’s Office in hiring new Associate Director of Wellness for Columbia Engineering.
- EGSC participation at departmental PhD Open Houses and Admitted MS Student Open House.
- Quality of Life Survey - 37% response rate with new prize strategy and marketing.
- Spring 2019 Professional Development Scholarship - 26 applications, highly competitive.
- Increased representation: EGSC now a part of CPO, Department Liaison meetings. Leadership met PDL and CCE teams.

New Events

- With the support of Graduate Student Affairs, several successful initiatives: CBS-EGSC Hackathon, International Coffee House, SEAS PhD Mixer, Mid-semester social at Monarch Rooftop, EGSC-GSAS-SIPA Social, Carleton Social, LinkedIn headshots, Harry Potter Trivia Night, Spring Break Gaming, etc.!
Thank you!