

UW System Student Perceptions Survey

Study Title: Student Views on Freedom of Speech

Researcher Names:

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Participant Invitation:

You are invited to participate in the research study described below. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you may stop participating or withdraw from the study at any time and for any reason. If you choose to not participate or if you stop participating, there will be no negative consequences to you. Your decision to participate or not in this study will not change your relationship with the researchers or with the University of Wisconsin campus at which you are enrolled.

Who Can Participate:

You are invited to participate if you are an undergraduate student at one of the thirteen UW System campuses.

Study Description:

The goal of this project is to survey undergraduate students at the thirteen UW System campuses about campus free expression, viewpoint diversity, and self-censorship. The research aims to provide a systematic and objective description of UW System student respondents' perceptions and views. The research team will summarize and interpret students' responses but will not offer any university policy or legislative recommendations.

What You Will Be Asked to Do:

In the survey, you will be asked to respond to a variety of closed-ended rating scale survey items. The items on the survey are divided into the following sections: (1) attitudes about engaging with diverse viewpoints; (2) perceptions of the campus atmosphere regarding diverse viewpoints; (3) experiences with self-expression and self-censorship; and (4) knowledge of First Amendment rights. Some items will ask questions or pertain to hypothetical scenarios related to topics that some people may find controversial or uncomfortable (e.g., abortion, violence related to speech, etc.). The end of the survey includes demographic information (such as your year of study, age, gender identity, etc.), so the researchers can describe the demographic composition of the final sample. Once you submit your responses, your participation in the research is complete.

Time Commitment:

The survey will take approximately 13-15 minutes. The average completion time is under 15 minutes.

Participation Risks:

The researcher(s) do not believe this study will cause you any discomfort or other risk beyond what you would normally experience in your daily life.

What Will Be Done to Minimize Participation Risks:

The survey does not include any personally identifying information or questions. Your responses will remain confidential. You can complete the survey at any time (within the deadline for responses) and location of your choosing. ***In the survey, there is no forced responding; that is, you are not required to respond to any question.***

Participation Benefits:

One benefit to participating is that we can provide you with a small monetary incentive. Upon completing the survey, a third-party company will send a \$10 electronic gift card to the email address at which you received the survey invitation. Please note that you may skip any question and still continue in the survey. Receipt of the gift card is contingent upon survey completion.

Who Will Have Access to Your Data:

Only the lead data analyst, Dr. Bleske-Rechek (UWEC), will have access to the raw data for purposes of cleaning the data and ensuring the deidentification of responses prior to data analysis. The clean, deidentified dataset for analysis will be kept under password protection and accessible only to members of the research team. That working data file, which will contain your survey responses, will not be connected to your identity (such as the email address at which you received the survey invitation).

Data Protection and Future Use:

All data will be kept in password protected files controlled by the lead data analyst, April Bleske-Rechek. The data do not have foreseeable use beyond the completion of the project, which includes dissemination of the results.

Mandated Reporting Requirements:

None

If You Have Questions About the Study, Please Contact:

Tim Shiell, Menard Center for the Study of Institutions and Innovation, 232 ComTech, x1490, shiellt@uwstout.edu

If You Have Concerns About the Study or Your Rights as a Participant, Please Contact the Primary Source of IRB Approval for this Project:

Institutional Review Board Chair
University of Wisconsin-Stout

Robert S. Swanson Learning Center #107 715-232-4042
irb@uwstout.edu

Your Right to Withdraw:

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You may choose to not participate, or to stop participating at any time, without any adverse consequences to you. However, if you choose to participate and later wish to withdraw from the study, there may be no way to identify your data after it has been submitted due to the difficulty identifying an individual survey response.

UW-Stout IRB Approval Statement:

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Wisconsin-Stout's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB has determined that this study meets the ethical obligations for human subjects research as required by federal law and UW-Stout policies.

By moving to the next screen, you are indicating that you agree to participate in this study, and that you understand that you may stop your participation at any time.

Please click the arrow to begin the survey.

The first questions ask about how likely you are to consider viewpoints you disagree with when you think about specific issues. There are no right or wrong answers. Please answer as honestly as you can.

How likely are you to consider viewpoints you disagree with...

	Not at all likely	A little likely	Somewhat likely	Very likely	Extremely likely
... when you think about abortion?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...when you think about climate change?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...when you think about Covid 19 vaccines?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...when you think about funding for bridges and roads?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...when you think about gun control?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...when you think about immigration?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...when you think about police misconduct?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...when you think about racial inequality?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...when you think about religion?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...when you think about sexual assault?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...when you think about transgender issues?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If someone expresses views that you find offensive, how much does it matter to you if they intended to offend you or not?

- Not at all
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - Quite a bit
 - A great deal
-

If someone expresses views that you find offensive, how likely are you to consider that person prejudiced?

- Not at all likely
 - A little likely
 - Somewhat likely
 - Very likely
 - Extremely likely
-

How much do you feel that people who express views that you find offensive are causing harm to those they offend?

- Not at all
- A little
- Somewhat
- Quite a bit
- A great deal

How much do you feel that expressing views that you find offensive can be seen as an act of violence toward vulnerable people?

- Not at all
- A little
- Somewhat
- Quite a bit
- A great deal

If some students feel that certain views expressed on campus cause harm to certain groups of people, how much do you think that university administrators should ban the expression of those views?

- Not at all
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - Quite a bit
 - A great deal
-

If some students feel that certain views expressed on campus cause harm to certain groups of people, how much do you think that university administrators should allow the expression of those views?

- Not at all
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - Quite a bit
 - A great deal
-

If a required reading or assignment for a class includes views that some students feel cause harm to certain groups of people, how much do you think that the instructor should drop the reading/assignment as a requirement?

- Not at all
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - Quite a bit
 - A great deal
-

If a student says something in class that some students feel causes harm to certain groups of people, how much do you think that the instructor should stop that student from talking?

- Not at all
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - Quite a bit
 - A great deal
-

If a topic being discussed in class includes views that some students feel cause harm to certain groups of people, how much do you think that the class should stop discussing the topic?

- Not at all
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - Quite a bit
 - A great deal
-

If an instructor says something in class that some students feel causes harm to certain groups of people, how much do you think that the students should report the instructor to university administrators?

- Not at all
 - A little
 - Somewhat
 - Quite a bit
 - A great deal
-

If a student says something in class that some students feel causes harm to certain groups of people, how much do you think that the students should report that student to university administrators?

- Not at all
- A little
- Somewhat
- Quite a bit
- A great deal

Student groups often invite people to speak on campus.

If some students feel a speaker's message is offensive, how much do you think that university administrators should disinvite the speaker?

- Not at all
- A little
- Somewhat
- Quite a bit
- A great deal

If some students feel a speaker's message is offensive, which of the following do you think are acceptable things for those students to do to deal with the situation?

Is it acceptable for students to...

	Yes	No
...ignore the speaker or avoid attending the presentation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...contact the event organizers to express concerns about the speaker's message?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...protest outside the event?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...attend the presentation and ask challenging questions?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...attend the presentation with signs that insult the speaker?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...attend the presentation and continually make noise so the speaker cannot be heard?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...attend the presentation and physically force the speaker from the stage?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The next questions ask about the atmosphere at your current university.

In your opinion, at your current university...

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
...how interested are students in discussing controversial topics?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...how interested are students in having their views challenged by others?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...how willing are students to express views that other people may disagree with?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...how willing are students - with views <u>like</u> yours - to express their views freely?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...how willing are students - with views <u>different from</u> yours - to express their views freely?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

At your current university, how comfortable do you feel expressing your views on controversial topics?

- Not at all comfortable
 - A little comfortable
 - Somewhat comfortable
 - Very comfortable
 - Extremely comfortable
-

At your current university, how comfortable do you feel expressing your views on each of the following topics?

	Not at all comfortable	A little comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Very comfortable	Extremely comfortable
Abortion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Covid 19 vaccines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Funding for bridges and roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gun control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Immigration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Police misconduct	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Racial inequality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexual assault	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transgender issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In the next questions, we are interested in your classroom experiences.

Since you became a student at your current university, in classes where viewpoint diversity is relevant for the class, how often do you feel your instructors...

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	Extremely often
... <u>encourage</u> students to explore a wide variety of viewpoints?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... <u>discourage</u> students from exploring a wide variety of viewpoints?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... create a classroom climate in which students with unpopular views would feel <u>comfortable</u> expressing them?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... create a classroom climate in which students with unpopular views would feel <u>uncomfortable</u> expressing them?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Have you ever felt pressured by an instructor at your current university, either in class or an assignment or exam, to agree with a specific political or ideological view being expressed in class?

Yes

No

How often have you felt pressured by an instructor at your current university, either in class or on an assignment or exam, to agree with a specific political or ideological view being expressed in class?

Rarely

Sometimes

Often

Extremely often

Since you have been a student at your current university, have you ever expressed your views about a controversial topic in class?

Yes

No

Since you have been a student at your current university, how often have you expressed your views about a controversial topic in class?

Rarely

Sometimes

Often

Extremely often

Please think about the times you expressed your views about a controversial topic in class. Which of the following are reasons you have expressed your views on a controversial topic in class?

Did you express your views because...

	Yes	No
...you generally express your views in class, regardless of the topic?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you wanted to earn participation points for expressing your views?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you really cared about the topic?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you felt like you knew enough about the topic to express your views?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you were in a class that was open to or encouraged discussion?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you wanted to share something about your identity or experiences?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you wanted to argue against a view from other students that you thought was offensive?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you wanted to argue against a view from the instructor that you thought was offensive?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you wanted to show your agreement or disagreement with the views of other students?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you wanted to impress the instructor?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Since you have been a student at your current university, have you ever wanted to express your views about a controversial topic in class, but decided not to?

Yes

No

Since you have been a student at your current university, how often have you wanted to express your views about a controversial topic in class, but decided not to?

Rarely

Sometimes

Often

Extremely often

Please think about the times you decided not to express your views about a controversial topic in class. Which of the following are reasons you did not express your views on a controversial topic in class?

Did you not express your views because...

	Yes	No
...you generally do not express your views in class, regardless of the topic?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you did not earn participation points for expressing your views?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you really did not care that much about the topic?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you felt like you did not know enough about the topic to express your views?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you were in a class that was not open to or did not encourage discussion?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you did not want to share anything about your identity or experiences?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you were worried that other students would disagree with you?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you were worried that other students would dismiss your views as offensive?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you were worried that the instructor would dismiss your views as offensive?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you were worried the instructor would give you a lower grade because of your views?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...you were worried someone would file a complaint that your views were offensive?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The next questions are about your experiences with free expression behaviors.

Since you have been a student at your current university, have you ever disagreed out loud with one of your instructors about a controversial topic?

Yes

No

Did you receive any negative institutional consequences, such as a warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion, for disagreeing out loud with one of your instructors about a controversial topic?

Yes

No

Since you have been a student at your current university, have you ever disagreed in writing, such as on a written assignment, with one of your instructors about a controversial topic?

Yes

No

Did you receive any negative institutional consequences, such as a warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion, for disagreeing in writing with one of your instructors about a controversial topic?

Yes

No

Since you have been a student at your current university, have you ever expressed your views on a controversial topic on social media?

Yes

No

Did you receive any negative institutional consequences, such as a warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion, for expressing your views on a controversial topic on social media?

Yes

No

Did you experience any negative social consequences, such as reputational damage or loss of a friend, for expressing your views on a controversial topic on social media?

Yes

No

Since you have been a student at your current university, have you ever expressed your views on a controversial topic to other students while in a campus space outside the classroom, such as in a campus dining hall or residence hall?

Yes

No

Did you receive any negative institutional consequences, such as a warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion, for expressing your views on a controversial topic to other students while in a campus space outside the classroom?

Yes

No

Did you experience any negative social consequences, such as reputational damage or loss of a friend, for expressing your views on a controversial topic to other students while in a campus space outside the classroom?

Yes

No

Since you have been a student at your current university, have you ever expressed your political, social, or religious views to the public in writing, such as by hanging up flyers, writing a letter to the editor of the school newspaper, or writing on classroom markerboards or sidewalks?

Yes

No

Did you receive any negative institutional consequences, such as a warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion, for expressing your political, social, or religious views to the public in writing?

Yes

No

Did you experience any negative social consequences, such as reputational damage or loss of a friend, for expressing your political, social, or religious views to the public in writing?

Yes

No

Since you have been a student at your current university, have you ever expressed your political, social, or religious views by assembling or protesting with others on campus, such as on the campus quad or student center?

Yes

No

Did you receive any negative institutional consequences, such as a warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion, for expressing your views by assembling or protesting with others on campus?

Yes

No

Did you experience any negative social consequences, such as reputational damage or loss of a friend, for expressing your views by assembling or protesting with others on campus?

Yes

No

The next questions are about your knowledge of the First Amendment.

Since you have been a student at your current university, have you been taught anything about the First Amendment in your classes?

Yes

No

Since you have been a student at your current university, how much have you been taught about the First Amendment in your classes?

A little

Some

Quite a bit

A great deal

Imagine each of the following events happening to students at your current university. For each event, indicate whether you think the event violates the student's First Amendment rights as you understand them.

	Yes, this violates the student's rights	No, this does <u>not</u> violate the student's rights	Not sure
The residence hall director removes a political sign from a wall inside a student's dorm room	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TikTok suspends a student's account because the student posted an anti-vaxx video	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A university policy bans student protestors from blocking access to buildings on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Campus housing limits which movies students can watch in the privacy of their dorm room	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A student's private employer says the student cannot hand out flyers about their campus organization at work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Imagine people engaging in the following behaviors at your current university. For each behavior, indicate whether you think the behavior is protected by the student's First Amendment rights as you understand them.

	Yes, this behavior is protected	No, this behavior is <u>not</u> protected	Not sure
A student distributes pro-hate group leaflets on a street corner near the campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A student threatens another student with physical violence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
An instructor criticizes an elected official on their personal Twitter account	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A group of students tells another student in a face-to-face interaction that their views are not welcome on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A student accuses a university administrator of taking bribes on Instagram when the student knows the accusation is false	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A group of students tells another student over social media that persons of their race or ethnicity are not welcome on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Does the First Amendment allow your university to ban hate speech on campus?

- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
-

Does the First Amendment allow your university to ban threats, intimidation, or harassment on campus?

- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
-

In your opinion, how much are your First Amendment rights protected at your university?

- Not at all
- A little
- Somewhat
- Quite a bit
- A great deal

And finally, we have some questions about you. Please remember, there is no forced responding. You are not required to respond to any question you would rather not answer.

What is your year of study?

▼ First year ... Fifth year or more

Which UW System university do you currently attend?

▼ UW-Eau Claire ... UW-Whitewater

How long have you been a student at your current university? Is this your...

▼ First year ... Fifth year or more

What is your current enrollment status?

- Full-time student
 - Part-time student
-

Are you an international student?

- Yes
 - No
-

What is your primary area of academic study? If you are still exploring, please let us know.

How old are you?

What is your biological sex?

Male

Female

Not listed; please tell us: _____

What is your gender identity? (Check all that apply.)

- Agender
 - Cisgender man
 - Cisgender woman
 - Gender fluid
 - Genderqueer
 - Non-binary (and I DO identify as transgender)
 - Non-binary (and I DO NOT identify as transgender)
 - Trans man
 - Trans woman
 - Two spirit
 - Not listed; please tell us:
-

What is your race or ethnicity? (Check all that apply.)

American Indian or Alaskan Native

Asian

Black or African American

Hispanic or Latino

Middle Eastern or North African

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

White

Not listed; please tell us:

What is your sexual orientation?

Aromantic

Asexual

Bisexual

Gay

Lesbian

Pansexual

Queer

Straight/heterosexual

Not listed; please tell us: _____

What is your religious affiliation?

- Agnostic
 - Atheist
 - Buddhist
 - Catholic
 - Hindu
 - Jewish
 - Muslim
 - Protestant
 - Unaffiliated
 - Not listed; please tell us: _____
-

Which political party do you most identify with?

- Democratic Party
 - Green Party
 - Libertarian Party
 - Republican Party
 - Socialist Party
 - Independent
 - Unaffiliated
 - Not listed; please tell us: _____
-

What is your political leaning?

- Very liberal
- Somewhat liberal
- Moderate; middle of the road
- Somewhat conservative
- Very conservative
- Not listed; please tell us: _____

Do you have any comments or questions about this survey, or the topics addressed in this survey? Please provide your feedback below.

That's it! Thank you very much for your participation. Please click to the next screen for the end-of-survey message. When you submit your responses, the third-party company will automatically send you an email that contains a link to your \$10 gift card.

Thanks again!

If you have any questions or comments about this project, please contact Tim Shiell, Menard Center for the Study of Institutions and Innovation, 232 ComTech, x1490, shiellt@uwstout.edu.