

*Female and male, conservative and liberal, of different faiths and ages...*

***Listening to Students'  
Thoughts on Gender, Politics, Religion, and Age***

**Listening to Students'  
Thoughts on Gender ...**

***“It’s cool. The campus is pretty even when it comes to gender.”***

—Female

***“It’s a great experience. I don’t see a gender difference in terms of equality.”***

—male

***“Being a female in college is fine. Going to college to earn a degree and potentially make less than men make in my career path bothers me.”***

—Female

***“I believe it’s all about what you make of it. Female or male doesn’t make my experience any different.”***

—Female

***“As a male, I felt uncomfortable about feminist culture. They label men too much. I had a teacher go on forever about how men are rapists. It felt really uncomfortable.”***

—Filipino/male/20

***“It can be hard sometimes especially with the major im in because its mainly males.”***

—hispanic, female, 18 years old, 1<sup>st</sup> year student.

***“As a male student I definitely notice more female students than male.”***

—Male, African-American, 27, Transfer

***“As a female I feel that my voice is heard & encouraged.”***

—Caucasian, female, junior, 20

***“The fact that I am a male makes me feel proud because most of my classes are full of females. Feels like there are more females than males.”***

—Hispanic male student & worker

***“It feels okay, but sometimes I feel like I see few people who look like me in the classrooms. Since I’m hoping to major in (a STEM field), it’s really hard being in a class that is full of boys who talk a lot, they sometimes make me feel like I’m not smart enough to be in the major.”***

—African, Female, 19, New to College

***“Some students still fail to recognize gender equality.***

***Truly, the only negative aspect of my experience here has been some harassment from male students (who were promptly put back in their place w/out having to file a report)....”***

—19/white/female/honor roll student

***“There are great opportunities in campus for female students from clubs to sororities.***

***I have never suffered from sexist remarks @ Sac State and I have been taught at this school that women are cherished in this community.”***

—Female

***“For me being a male here makes me work smarter because there are more females here so I want to represent the males well.”***

—a male

***“There’s that glass ceiling to break in the working world, but I know times are changing and things are getting better for women at work. I know me getting my degree is progress for women.”***

—20, female

***“I am so tired of stereotypes about dumb men from the women, after a while it gets old. In college we’re supposed to be enlightened and not stuck to old stereotypes.”***

—24

***“It feels really empowering to want to obtain a degree at a university and to compete with males in the workforce.***

***I think that the school provides everything you need so that after we graduate we will be ready for the workforce.***

***(I like) Equal opportunity”***

—Female

**Listening to Students'  
Thoughts on Politics and Religion ...**

***“It’s great to be a student here. Sometimes I feel a strong bias towards liberal teachers and their political views, but they are subdued here which is nice. It’s a great learning environment.”***

—Female, 24, Journalism

***“I have found my passion in politics here, democrat party to be precise.”***

—a male

***“I’ve taken classes from some clearly left leaning professors who I can respect and they’ve presented some great material that I really liked, others, not so much.”***

—24 year old Filipino, Conservative

***“I feel like our university is overwhelmingly liberal and ignorant.”***

—22-year-old, white female

***“I came from a conservative household and area, so coming here is very refreshing. I am learning the other side and it is a whole other way to look at issues.”***

—18, female, new to college

***“I have noticed that most students here are very democratic. I was raised in a republican based household and my view tend to be conservative. I feel that if I were to express my belief a lot of students will then have hate towards me.”***

—A female, 18 years old & white

***“Difficult. Sac State is in the capitol city of the most liberal state in the union. Perspectives on government and guns let me know that I am surrounded by socialist morons.”***

—American

***“I feel at home with the politics here, which is a welcome change because I come from a conservative small town.”***

—19

***“Being conservative, I feel as if I am a minority here. Not because there isn’t an equal amount of conservatives, but because the teaching and clubs on campus are all so liberal and push their side so strongly. You don’t have a freedom of speech if you have these views or religious views.”***

—Conservative White Male

*“As for having conservative views: it can be frustrating at times when professors clearly take political sides on issues and seek to persuade students or bash the opposition. I find that most of academia has more liberal values which is represented in coursework and classroom conversations. It can make people who don’t share the same viewpoint feel defensive, singled out, or attacked. It would be nice if classrooms were less biased and more tolerant of disagreements and debate.*

*I think the college experience is more enriching/fruitful if differences of opinion and debate are tolerated, and even encouraged (in a healthy and civil manner)*

*I took a... class here last semester and the teacher clearly misrepresented conservatism and the bible. I’m not sure if he was uninformed, misinformed, or deliberately speaking negatively about views opposite of his own. However in a class that in its very description takes pride in the difference/diversity in America, one would expect more tolerance/appreciation for differences/diversity.*

*I generally really enjoy the professors at Sac State even though I may disagree with them politically. Overall, the instructors work hard, deliver informative lectures, and care about their students success.”*

—a 24 year old white female with conservative views

*“(I like) The fact that we are very inclusive. Even during the 2016 election at the fountain protests, I felt very included despite the difference experienced here by those with different political beliefs.”*

—Asian: Chinese & filipino, 22 yrs old

*“Some teachers try to force their views (ideological, religious, political, etc.) on me and other students. They also tell us what we should think, do, and say. This is not the role of a teacher—a teacher should be objective and impartial when presenting info. to the class.”*

—an 18 year-old female, of Caucasian, African, Ashkenazi Jewish, Asian, and Hispanic race

*“I’ve been able to participate in leadership, and fought to have a prayer room here at CSUS.”*

—Arab American/Muslim

*“As a Catholic, I was very happy to know that Ash Wednesday masses were being held on campus. It made me feel pride in my faith and allowed me to see fellow students who share the same faith as me because growing up I didn’t have many Catholic friends, so I felt like an outsider.*

*Sac State has a very inclusive campus. There is a balance of events going on for everyone.”*

—Chamarro (Pacific Islander)/Filipino, Catholic, 1<sup>st</sup> year

*“I wish more people would get the chance to hear a person talk about Christian points of view. Too many times the only examples brought up are extremists or distortions.”*

—An Older White Male Veteran who is returning to school

***“My experience is more open than I expected – I am both atheist and bisexual and I have been surprised at how many people share my viewpoint and/or do not mind the lifestyle I chose to live”***

—white, 18 year-old, bisexual, atheist female

***“(I don’t like) the people around the fountain that like to yell religious things really bothers me because they really just get in people’s face. I’m a Christian myself but I don’t yell or try to make other people feel bad.”***

—Female, hispanic, 21, New Student

***“I am grateful for the Newman Center, a catholic based community here at Sac State. There I continue to practice my faith, and I met some of my best friends.”***

—a transfer student

***“I am involved in a couple of campus ministry groups, and I really enjoy being part of groups that share my interests and beliefs.”***

—a 22 year old black female

***“Sometimes we talk about things that I may not agree with or have strong feelings about but part of the educational process is allowing oneself to have an open mind about everything we learn.***

***I enjoy how some teachers are sensitive to the fact that students do have different beliefs and those beliefs should be respected buy everyone.”***

—Christian female

***“I feel as though a lot of times, I have to remain silent, because I am a Christian. There is a stigma around Christianity and faiths in general. Where if you disagree with Liberal and progressive movements on campus you are seen as a bigot or intolerant, leading into social ostricization within the classroom.”***

—Christian/male/athlete

***“I love the environment at Sac State for the most part. I find it challenging to connect because I don’t fit in well, but I find my fellow students to be patient with my different life experience and viewpoint. I have some trouble because my faith is often mocked. There is a great deal of prejudice.”***

—52 year old, Mixed Race Family, Lesbian, Veteran, Christian

***“Professors seem to respect other religions, but not Christianity. For example, using ‘Jesus Christ’ as a profanity. Have respect for all religions. Be empathetic to all people’s beliefs.”***

—male, 33, straight, returning student, psychological depression, anxiety, OCD, physical challenges. A returning student, too.

*“Being a Black Muslim in a white Supremist Christian world can be a challenge but I seek to bring a new ‘perspective’ to this campus on Islam. I believe the classroom is everywhere so if I’m able to be a teacher in the midst of my student sojourn I can better help and heal the society we live in. In the end its all about Peace and I believe we should live our lives according to this standard.*

*I would like my school to get acquainted with the beauty of being a Muslim. Those who know the faith and truly practice the faith are not violent, hate mongering people. Because of this, I hope my character as an upright individual will be a testament to what Islam is all about and hopefully it will cease the conceptions people have on the faith.”*

—Black Muslim, 24 yrs old

*“I feel comfortable for the most part. However I feel that being catholic in this environment may have people shun me or something.*

*I like...openness to different cultures and groups and the open campus environment. It has helped me become more independent.”*

—Mexican-American Catholic

*“Oppressive - Tired of being proselytized to by Christians.*

*One time there was some kind of bigoted preacher speaking in front of the library who was quite annoying.”*

—Atheist

*“As a Christian at CSUS I feel I have found a community of friends who I can be myself with and who relate to my perspective on life due to my faith. I am also involved in other clubs and activities and am around people/friends who don’t share my faith or agree with my beliefs. I’m glad that at CSUS I have the opportunity to be around both groups and learn from each.*

*Amongst my professors and peers, I’ve been able to have discussions about my faith in Jesus and usually it’s civil. I remember writing a critical thinking essay on the topic of my stance on Christianity and my professor (though she was not a Christian) allowed me to express my faith without personal judgment. I appreciated that.*

*CSUS has many organizations and clubs that students can plug into to be involved in college other than just academically. I think everyone has an equal opportunity to have a better experience by plugging into a community they feel comfortable and accepted in.*

*When talking to some students from a club I’m involved in who are not Christians, sometimes I feel looked down upon or not accepted because of what I believe. And sometimes their disapproval is overtly and unnecessarily expressed by pressuring me to participate in activities I don’t feel comfortable doing—because it goes against my faith.”*

—A Christian

**Listening to Students'  
Thoughts on Age ...**

***“It is hard to be a college student because there are so many expectations & stress in my own age.”***

—a young woman

***“At times I have experienced age discrimination on campus. I am proud of who I am as a person and the challenges that I have met and overcome to attend CSUS. However, I do not appreciate a culture of young students who create barriers to my learning experience.”***

—an older transfer student

***“No matter the age I get to meet different people and it helps me network through college so far.”***

—I am a Asian female student and currently 18 years old turning 19 this year. With the challenges of being the first in my family to go to college, I am new to this experience of college.

***“It’s a great place to learn. Most of my colleagues are around the same age, I’m not in a class full of 18 year olds.”***

—white/older adult

***“Being new to college does make it difficult to make friends on campus...due to the age difference.”***

—New to College, Male, Hispanic

***“Being an ‘older’ student I feel my perspective is unique. I chose not to get involved in groups, clubs, friends, etc., so I could focus on graduating and my education. Now that I am graduating my mindset is focused, determined and geared toward that goal.”***

—commuter student, female, has been in college for 6 years.

***“Being young puts a crutch on me being that the stereotype would be me partying all the time”***

—Asian and new to college

***“As an ‘older’ student I want to tell younger students to stop wasting their time & take school seriously.”***

—Mexican Female Vet



***“There are several other older students here. I do not feel out of place and because there is such a huge demographic of students everyone seems to respect the environment. The students are mindful and mature outside of class.”***

—older Parent Returning to School

***“There are days that I feel younger students make too many excuses and lack accountability. I feel that if we’re to speak out against liberal ideas + ask that people to work or serve before getting privileges that I would be treated negatively.”***

—An Older White Male Veteran who is returning to school

***“Being older than a large portion of the students is a bit intimidating but there is so much diversity in race/ethnicity and age here that makes it seem not so bad.”***

—Returning Student

***“Its interesting to be around so many young people.”***

—Returning to School

***“We use our youth to our advantage. Whether it be your energy, laziness and technology use. Being young, I have more willingness to explore what classes to take and what interests I have in a major.”***

—21 years old

***“I feel like as students begin to get older in school they are not really acknowledged anymore.”***

—a fifth year student.

***“Seeing individuals who are at this campus who are older than me continuing their education is encouraging.”***

—Chinese American of 18 years of age

***“Being an older student was in many ways a benefit to me. The students appreciated that I am older and the faculty appreciated that I was older—we had that connection.”***

—female, older student, returning to school, first generation college student, 3 car accidents (disabilities), visual processing disorder, dyslexia, ADHD

***“I am often excluded from classroom conversation, activities, and lecture relevance because of my age.”***

—Veteran, NonTraditional Returning, FTM, Gender Non-Conforming.

***“As an eighteen year old, I like being in classes where the ages vary – it allows me to see and learn different aspects and viewpoints of life.”***

—new to college, filipino female

***“It’s hard being an older adult and attending college. With age comes many responsibilities like working full time, paying mortgage or being a wife and taking care of a household.”***

—Age, Veterans (spouse.)

***“At a young age, I feel the pressure by students, faculty, and family to graduate as soon as possible and get into the working world. It feels like no one wants to let me take it slow. They only want me to get in and get out.”***

—No student specifics given

***“I love Sac State. I appreciate the wisdom that my age brings to my studies. It is not very often that I feel out of place in learning.”***

—old, parent, returning to school – with college age kids

***“To be a student with an age perspective here, there are times when I feel like my potential is useless because there are priority towards older students because they are perceived to be more capable of doing an array of things.”***

—Age-18 years old.

***“Just being so young you have a lot to learn and as time goes on I learn more and more”***

—African American & white, 18 years old

***“It is never too late to try to reach your academic potential.”***

—in her 30’s