

Honors Research Project Proposal Form

Project Title:	The Curious Case of Student Engagement with Learning at Cal Poly
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Department:	Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Professor of Chemistry
College:	Science and Mathematics
Description of the project:	<p>Using institutional survey data, particularly the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) that was administered in 2008, this project will seek to describe and explain the distinctive aspects of student engagement with learning at Cal Poly for the purpose of improving upon them. Cal Poly is in the middle of its' accreditation self study and student engagement is one of the important elements of it. Our accrediting body wants to see that the institution uses data for the purposes of improvement.</p> <p>The NSSE data set is the cornerstone of this study since it provides a comparison between the Cal Poly student experience and students at 749 other institutions across the nation. Fortunately the data already has the statistical analysis completed (although further analysis disaggregating by various demographic features is possible). Other data sets will be used to inform the picture that emerges from the analysis of the NSSE data. These include: Faculty survey of student engagement (FSSE); "Your College First Year" (YFCY) and the WASC student survey which will be administered at the end of February.</p> <p>In addition to analyzing all the available institutional data, it may be necessary to gather additional data in order to explain some of the institutional data. Focus groups and surveys will be required.</p> <p>Finally, unique ways to present the data to faculty, staff and students will be explored. These presentations of the data and its analysis are critical to the development of an action plan for improvements.</p>

Number of
Honors
students
needed, and
their majors:

All majors, all skills sets are welcome to participate in the project.
Come and help your institution while you learn about data and its role
in higher education!