



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Buckle up!

Steering Commuter Students to Success

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE
OFF-CAMPUS & COMMUTER STUDENT SERVICES

Introductions





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- **Name**
- **Institution**
- **Position/Role**
- **Do you work with commuter students?**
- **Why this session?**



Learning Outcomes:

- Be able to identify needs of commuter student population
- Be able to formulate strategies for commuter student engagement
- Learn about commuter student retention and what has been done to address this issue
- Learn how you can contribute towards increasing commuter student retention and engagement



Who are Commuter Students?



Key First-Year Commuter Student Challenges:

- Transition
- Engagement
- Building Community/Network
- Trusting/Relying on Services
- Participating in university life



Activity!

- In small groups, discuss how you currently work with commuter students.
- Have you tried to address commuter challenges in your work before?
- How can you keep the first year commuter student in mind while planning for the future?

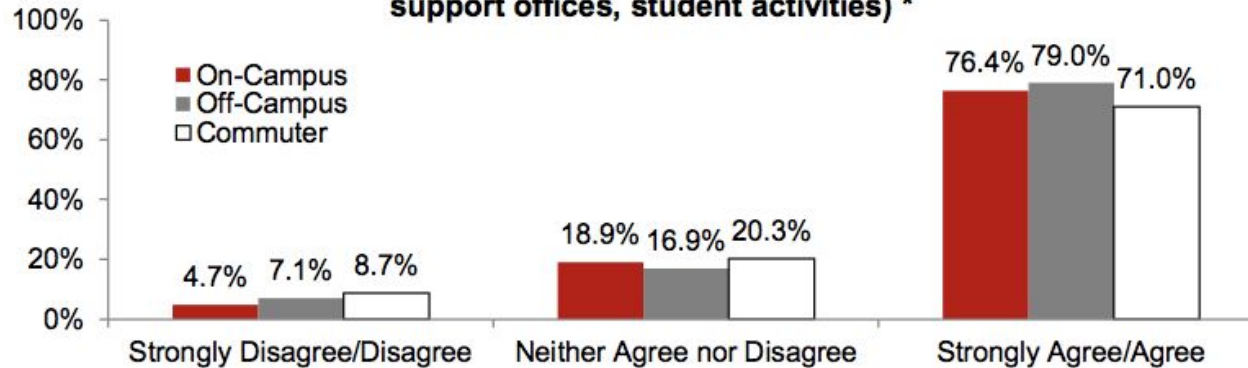


Addressing Commuter Challenges

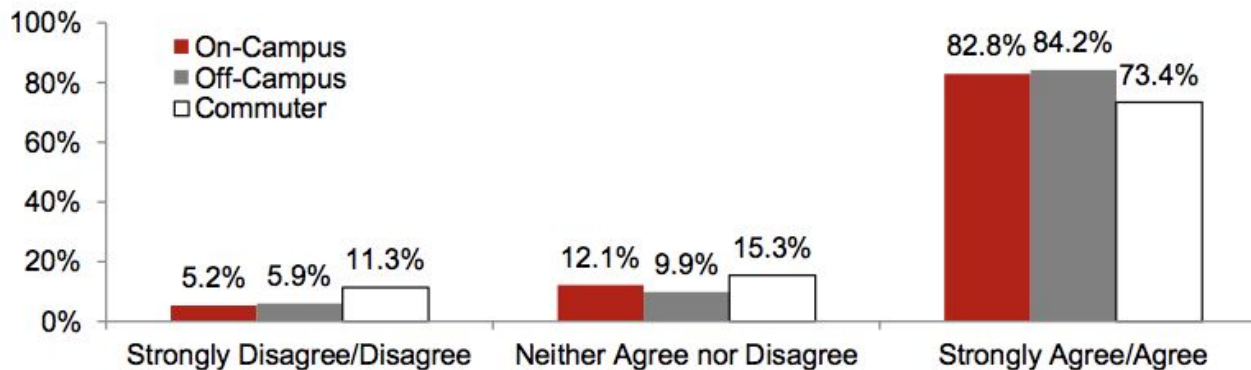


What Does the Research Say?

Programs and services at Ohio State meet my needs (for example, support offices, student activities) *

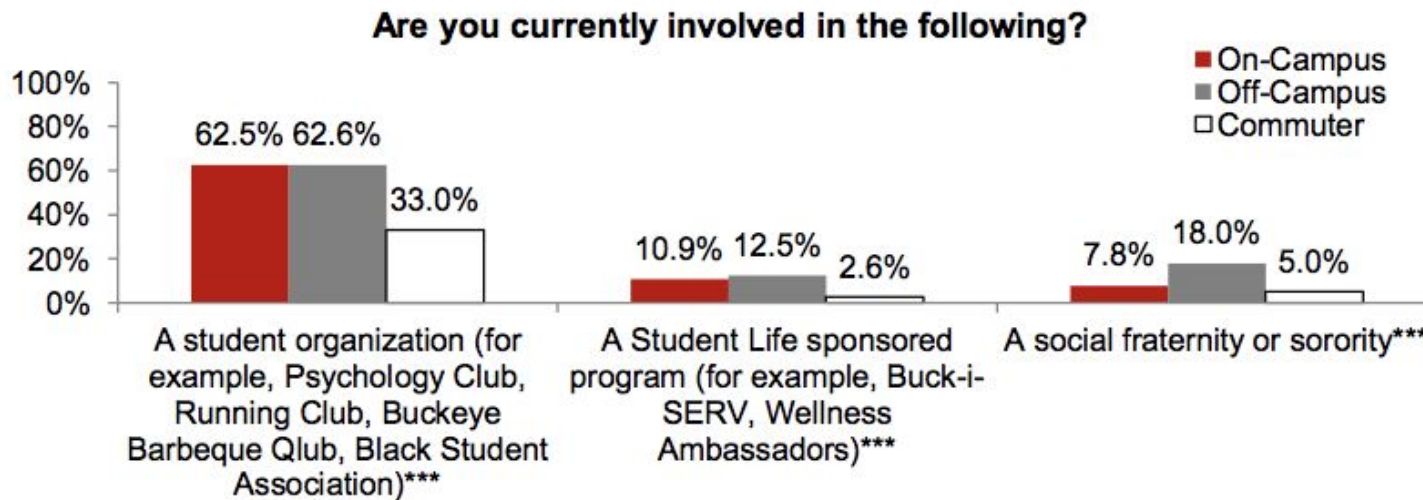


I feel a sense of belonging to Ohio State **





What Does the Research Say?



What type of student organizations are you involved in?	On-Campus	Off-Campus	Commuter	Statistically Significant
Academic/Departmental/Professional Organizations	64.1%	77.3%	86.1%	***



What Does the Research Say?

“Despite the commuter students’ lack of involvement in enriching educational experiences, they were academically engaged when it came to their studies.”
(Burlison, 2015)



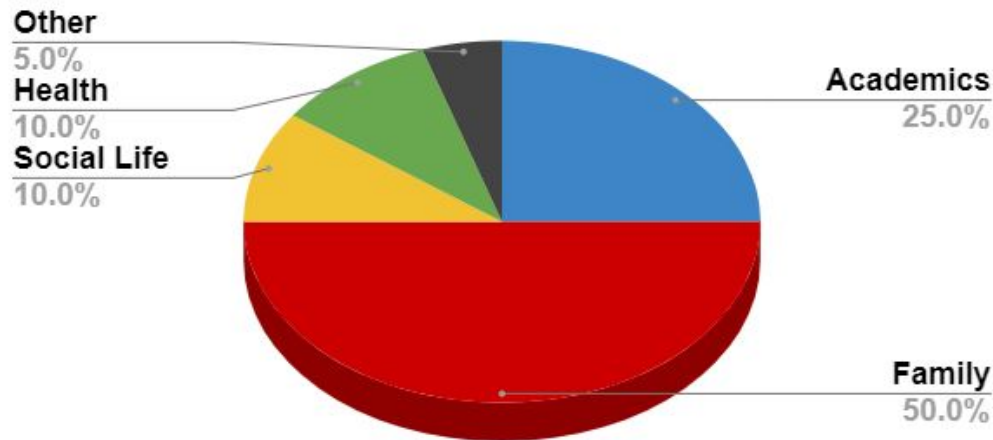
“Results also indicated that, although many commuter students’ time is constrained by work and family matters, they put forth just as much effort as resident students in areas that relate directly to what goes in the classroom.” (Jacoby & Garland, 2004)



What Does the Research Say?

“Balancing family roles and responsibilities presents difficult challenges for both traditional and nontraditional commuter students” (Burlison, 2015)

Commuter Student Priorities- Sample Student





What Does the Research Say?

“Rational myths include the continued utilization of programs and interventions designed for residential students with commuter student populations under the assumption that the effect on learning will be equivalent” (Dugan, 2008)





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The Work We Do



Commuter Liaison Responsibilities

- Office Hours
- Outreach Hours
- Commuter Mentor Program
- Community Projects



The Commuter Mentoring Program



Commuter Engagement Events

- Orientation
- Commuter Preview Day
- Events - Meeting them where they are
- Commuter Lounge/Kitchen/Lockers





What the future holds



Evolution of Commuter Mentoring Program

- Opt-In Vs. Opt-Out Program
- More group events
- Educating faculty and staff
- Different forms of outreach
- Commuter Appreciation Day





How Can You Continue Supporting Commuter Students?



References

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Jacoby, B. & Garland, J. (2004). Strategies for enhancing commuter student success. *Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory and Practice*, 6(1), 61-79.

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Questions?