



#RealCollege Survey 2019 Frequently Asked Questions for Individual Colleges and Universities

1. What is the purpose of this study?

The #RealCollege survey is aimed at revealing the daily experiences of college students and how they meet their basic needs. The survey will be conducted at colleges nationwide by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice (Hope Center). The resulting report will inform colleges, and the communities where those colleges are located, about the prevalence of student food and housing insecurity and other issues #RealCollege students face. We hope that this information will help bring additional resources to struggling students and provide information about which students are most likely to need food and housing support in order to complete their diplomas. In addition, this project will help advance innovative policy solutions.

2. What is the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice?

The [Hope Center](#) is a nonprofit action research center focused on rethinking and restructuring higher education and social policies, practices, and resources to create opportunities for all students to complete college degrees. We are located at Temple University in Philadelphia.

We are at the forefront of efforts to raise awareness and increase knowledge of college students struggling with food and housing insecurity. Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, Professor of Higher Education Policy and Sociology at Temple University, founded the Center.

3. What does the survey cost?

There is no charge to the institution. Colleges will need to provide \$1,000 for student incentives to assist in obtaining higher response rates.

4. When will the survey take place?

Colleges will field the survey during the first four weeks of your fall term. Analysis and writing will begin in November 2019. The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice will release and publicize the main report in late April 2020 and deliver short reports to colleges in late spring 2020.

5. What are participating colleges in this study expected to do?

Colleges interested in participating in the study should complete the Acknowledgement of Participation, which explains institutions' responsibilities:

- a. Send recruitment emails to enrolled students for participation in the study in the first four weeks of classes during the fall of 2019. Schools will send an email once per week for four weeks. The Hope Center will provide the email text before the fall term begins.
- b. Provide \$1,000 in student incentives. This money is to be used as ten \$100 prizes which will be awarded in a random incentive drawing for students who wish to participate in the survey. Students who wish to be entered into the incentive drawing will be asked to provide a contact email address. The Hope Center will share the contact email addresses of the student winners. Colleges will then contact students and disburse incentives.
- c. In order to participate in this study, each college's IRB office will agree to either defer to the Temple University IRB human subjects approval or complete their own IRB process.

6. Why do colleges need to contribute money for this project?

The investment of \$1,000 by each participating college is to boost student participation in order to ensure the most accurate estimates of food and housing insecurity. All funds go to the students.

7. What will colleges receive for participating?

Each college will receive a summary report for its students' survey responses and a copy of the national report. These reports will be delivered in late spring 2020.

8. Will there be help available during survey administration?

The Hope Center will provide technical assistance to participating colleges throughout recruitment, registration, and survey administration.

9. Do we need to submit this survey to our IRB?

As noted above, Temple University IRB has approved this study. We recommend that, if possible, your local IRB office defer to Temple University's determination.

10. Do we need to collect any data for this study?

No. The Hope Center will collect the survey data via its online platform.

11. How is student confidentiality being protected?

Students will complete the survey on a secure online survey platform. Survey data will be securely transferred to the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, where it will be stored on secure servers managed by Temple University information technology specialists. Only Hope Center researchers involved in this study will have access to survey data. Main reports and school reports will contain summary measures of student responses.

12. How will the incentives work?

In order to be entered into the incentive drawing, students will be asked to provide an email address at the end of the survey. Students are *not* required to provide an email in order to complete the survey, although only those who provide an email address can be eligible for the incentive drawing. After the survey period ends, researchers at the Hope Center will use a random drawing to select ten incentive winners at each college. Participating institutions will be notified of the winning students. Colleges will then disburse the award funds. Colleges will not be provided with any survey data for those winning students.

13. How do we sign up?

Please visit our [website](#) to enroll. The deadline to enroll is July 31, 2019, although if your institution will go through its own IRB process, we recommend enrolling earlier. If you have questions before signing up, see below.

14. If we have questions, who can we contact?

Please feel free to contact the research team at the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice by email at hopesrvy@temple.edu.