

WS 495 Diversity Survey Assessment

Two separate readers were assigned to review all of the responses for the course. The following are what each considers the most important statements made by students.

Reader 1

- Students ranged from Juniors to Seniors
- 75% of the students have taken and could identify HPP/GCC courses
- 5 students were from Hawaii, 2 students were from the mainland, 1 student was from Palau
- None of the students identified as Native Hawaiian

General Education Comments:

- Several students could identify a focus on diversity in the General Education courses they have taken, with a focus on Hawaiian or Indigenous studies

“Indigenous leadership covered a-d in its classes. Such a great experience and learning, I took it twice.”

“The HPP and GCC courses, especially, have provided more insight in sense of place a humanity-enriching appreciation for the various mixes of culture and its roots in Hawaii’s history. There’s no way to learn about the diversity in Hawaii without recognizing the many different people and their journeys/settling down in Hawaii with their own sense of roots. That also relates to sense of others and sense of self because through the learning environment I find that eventually, through some of the HPP and GCC courses you will look back to your own community (others) and within yourself to learn more (self) as you progress through your life. Although, I think it’ll help to establish a clearer understanding of GCC as it took me awhile to work through the confusion of its application.”

Many students did not comment on General Education courses, said that the points asked about did not apply or they don’t remember specifics of the course

- “I honestly don’t remember my General Ed courses. They were taken over 8 years ago and are not memorable.”

Major/Minor/Certificate comments:

More students were able to identify a focus on diversity in their major or minor courses they have taken, with a focus on Hawaiian or Indigenous studies

- “My minor courses very much overall facilitated sense of others and self. Especially my W.S. Philosophy and Political Science course in Island Feminism. They also facilitated a

sense of humanity and place, but I feel there are still places for improvement and clarity about the goal of those courses and what we should be taking away.”

- “These helped me with my major because they helped me better understand what I’m learning by connecting it to my home. Because Hawai’i has become such a diverse place, an entire range of personalities and identities have emerged and become a part of what the culture is here today. It helped me understand that our differences should be celebrated and not penalized, and that we all have and should have a safe place for us on campus.”
- “GWS has enlightened me about our intersectionality and made me aware of this perspective in my daily interactions.”
- “Sociology professors have impacted my life effectively. New track in Indigenous Feminism and GWS has offered many perspectives, allowed room for growth and supported Native Hawaiian materials.”
- “Much more diverse readings and materials than previous schools. My major and minor classes have been inclusive and understanding. I believe I have been better shaped coming to UH.”
- “With Anthropology and Women’s Studies, it helps establish grounding in one’s cultural/social surroundings to be more open-minded and accepting of others.”
- “I definitely feel that all three programs that I’m studying for helps achieve this following. With anthropology and women studies, it helps establish grounding in one’s cultural/social surroundings to be more open-minded and accepting of others. Then with the PIS certificate, it helps tie it all together close to home and bring in more diversity, away from the dominant negative Western connotations.”

A student from Palau mentioned the lack of mentioning her country of origin

- “All the classes I have taken so far make reference to Hilo, Hawaii or Hawaii in general. They have also mentioned by country of citizenship. Although, many of the professors forget or don’t even know my country. This is surprising as we have multiple students who have graduated from this institution. Many of which are senators, presidents, and other high ranking government officials. UH Hilo does appreciate different kinds of people, although it is slow to recognize gender issues. For example, pronouns are not considered a person’s choice yet and some professors fail to recognize the importance of self-identification.”

Regarding Co-curricular services, several students mentioned a lack of diversity in activities and support on campus:

- “I believe the LGBTQ+, African Americans, and more (“other” demographics) that are continually fighting for recognition and feel the catch phrase “most diverse campus” is false advertisement.”
- “Working for Ke Kalahea for a couple years somewhat facilitated the above. However, even within that staff there was a lack of diversity in terms of race and gender, and it reflected within the publication itself. Other than that I believe counseling and advising services need diversity work.”

- “I believe that the Hawaiian population is highlighted while any other demographic on campus such as LGBTQ, African Americans, women, we all have had to come together to raise awareness on the struggle of minimized populations on this campus. Administration has no transparency!!! They make decisions without any feedback from the people they effect.”

Other students felt that the campus clubs and programs helped to foster a diverse community:

- “I think all of these were achieved by what the university’s doing, but a sense of others really hits the mark when it comes to the university’s performance. All of the activities and extra-curricular things really establish a sense of community among the students.”
- “Being part of a RISO has been great, wherein I have a community and sense of belonging. I have formed myself well with the education I have received. I am more aware of my surroundings and Hawaii. The classes have allowed me to meet others.”
- “I think RISO clubs and Global Exchange do very well in establishing/developing these concepts as it reaches out to the student body well. RISO clubs help involve students in participating close to activities/programs that influence/promote diversity and creating relationships. And with Global Exchange, it’s like the revers, helping students interested in other regions for leaning to prepare for the cultural and social difference that are to be expected.”

My observations:

Most of the students surveyed could identify taking an HPP/GCC course. Many of those students did not identify that GE courses touched on the points of diversity they were asked about. Students had more comments on their course work in various major, minor, or certificate programs, with most having positive experiences with exposure to diversity. Some students feel that campus is not as diverse in its co-curricular programs.

Reader 2:

Women’s Studies

Courses Taken that fulfills GCC and/or HPP:

- Cannot remember, don’t know what HPP or GCC stands for and what supposed to teach
- Feminist Philosophy
- Filipinos in Hawaii
- POLY 325 - Legal Geography
- Early Hawaiian Studies (online)
- Indigenous Leadership
- Indigenous Feminism
- Piko Hawaii
- POLY 348
- ANTH 389 – Cultural and Resource Management

- ENG 430 – Pacific Islands Literature
- HIST 316 – Pacific History I
- ANTH 385 – Hawaiian and Pacific Pre-History
- MARE 140 – Intro to Hawaiian Coral Reefs

	GE Courses	Major and Minor	Non Course Related
Sense of Place	Enriching appreciation for mixes of cultures and roots in history	<p>Minor courses somewhat – WS philosophy and Poly Sc. – Island Feminism</p> <p>These helped me with my major because they helped me understand by connecting to my home.</p> <p>Some material because of unique isolate environment</p> <p>Most learning from outside school</p> <p>All classes reference Hilo or Hawaii in general</p>	<p>Hawaiian population highlighted</p> <p>Limited resources for all cultures</p>
Sense of Humanity	Enriching appreciation for mixes of cultures and roots in history	<p>Minor courses somewhat – WS philosophy and Poly Sc. – Island Feminism</p> <p>Hawaii has become such a diverse place, multiple identities have emerged and become part of the culture here today</p> <p>GWS enlightened about intersectionality and created awareness in daily interactions</p> <p>More diverse readings than previous schools</p> <p>Many of my professors don't even know my country and fail to recognize self-identification</p>	Have to come together to fight
Sense of Others	Courses look at own community and others	<p>Major in Comm. Somewhat facilitated</p> <p>Minor courses very much – WS philosophy and Poly Sc. – Island Feminism</p> <p>GWS – connected in humanity</p> <p>Major and minor classes inclusive and understanding</p> <p>Slow to understand gender issues</p>	<p>This really hits the mark when it comes to the universities performance. All activities and extra-curricular things establish sense of community among the students.</p> <p>DNA</p>
Sense of Self	Courses look at own community and others	<p>Major in Comm. Somewhat facilitated</p> <p>Differences should be celebrated and not penalized.</p>	More by working with other cultures and experiences

		<p>Minor courses very much – WS philosophy and Poly Sc. – Island Feminism</p> <p>GWS – fight for what is right, representation</p> <p>I have been better shaped coming to UHH</p>	
Other comments	<p>Shitty time to take away from classes to recall classes from years ago</p> <p>Don't remember, not memorable</p> <p>Taken at HCC – NA</p> <p>Does not apply – 3x</p> <p>Indigeneous leadership excellent, took twice</p> <p>Astronomy class failed</p>	<p>Zero transparency – 2x</p> <p>Sociology professors have impacted my life – new track in Indigenous Feminism and GWS offered perspective and supported Native Hawaiian materials</p> <p>Definitely feel that Anthropology, GWS, and PIS cert. Helps with all of these ties it close to home away from dominant negative Western connotations</p>	<p>LGBTQ & Af. Am. Continually fighting – 2x</p> <p>UCB has worst internet connection – 2x</p> <p>Working at Ke Kahela – yes, but lacking diversity in staff</p> <p>Counseling and Advising needs diversity work</p> <p>Advising not helpful</p> <p>I think all of these were achieved</p> <p>RISO – great, community and sense of belonging – 2x</p> <p>Global Exchange – learn to prepare for other cultures and social differences to be expected</p>