

Revised Synopsis of Proposal, 5/3/09
A Pilot Study of Student Attitudes toward Higher Education Survey

1. The sources of data will be surveys to be administered to high school students and their teachers, who are scheduled for campus tours on March 6, 2009. The high school students are enrolled in Advanced Placement Human Geography courses at their respective high schools. The anticipated number of high school students is 150. The age, sex, and ethnic backgrounds are unknown.
2. The students will participate on a campus tour offered by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Given the non-invasive nature of the survey items, parental permission and student assent will not be sought. The survey items are an addendum to the recruitment data collected by Undergraduate Admissions. The students will visit, with their teachers and parent chaperons, the Texas State campus as part of Undergraduate Admissions campus tours and information presentation activities.
3. Prior to arrival at Texas State, the students' teachers will be emailed an 11-item survey that asks whether or not the students plan to attend college. The survey items are as follows:
 1. Have you ever visited Texas State University-San Marcos?
 2. What do you want to study when you go to college?
 3. What types of jobs do you think geographers have once they graduate from college?
 4. I enjoy learning about geography.
 5. Geographers have good jobs.
 6. I plan to take the AP Human Geography exam.
 7. My family wants me to attend college.
 8. When I finish high school, I plan to attend community college.
 9. If I go to college, I will be the first person in my immediate family to attend college.
 10. I think our field trip to Texas State will be educational.
 11. I think our field trip to Texas State will be fun.

After the students' departure, the students will be asked to respond to the following items:

1. Name (**optional**)
2. Year (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior)
3. Ethnic data (**optional**)
4. What do you want to study when you go to college?
5. What types of jobs do you think geographers have once they graduate from college?
6. What would you tell your friends about your field trip to Texas State? Please circle your response to the statements below.
7. I enjoy learning about geography
8. Geographers have good jobs.
9. I think our field trip to Texas State was educational.
10. I think our field trip to Texas State was fun.

Pending IRB approval, these questions will be emailed on a form to teacher, who will be requested to distribute the forms to their students, and instructed that completion of the form is entirely optional.

The teachers will be asked to provide feedback about the field trip to Texas State in an open-ended format. Items to be emailed to the teachers include:

1. What are your recommendations to improve the sessions your students attended?

2. What sessions were particularly beneficial to your students? Why?
3. Which sessions would you want to offer to future students?
4. Do you have any other comments to assist the Texas Geography Research Symposium committee in developing future sessions for visiting Advanced Placement human geography students?
4. There are no potential risks involved with this pilot study, because personal information will be collected voluntarily and the survey items are non-invasive. If students provide their names voluntarily, the names will be coded and removed from record.
5. There are no anticipated benefits involved with this pilot study.
6. No compensation will be offered to the students.
7. Dr. Lawrence Estaville is the supervising faculty member for this pilot study