

# SPEC Lab Impact Study

Please note that your answers will be kept anonymous and they will not be traced back to you in any way. In addition, the information below will not and cannot be used to evaluate your performance in the lab.

## 1. Data Literacy

- How comfortable are you with the following skills?  
(From Iva Bozovic)
  - Finding good information
  - Finding good sources of data
  - Data management
  - Data analysis
  - Data visualization
  - Using data as a tool in support of an argument
  - Translating data and results into words
  - Options: Very comfortable/Comfortable/Somewhat uncomfortable/Not at all comfortable/NA - I don't know
- During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?
  - Asked questions or contributed to course discussions in other ways
  - Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in
  - Come to class without completing readings or assignments
  - Asked another student to help you understand course material
  - Given a course presentation
  - Options: *Very often, Often, Sometimes, Never*
- During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?
  - Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments
  - Connected your learning to societal problems or issues
  - Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue
  - Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept
  - Connected ideas from your courses to your prior experiences and knowledge
  - Options: *Very often, Often, Sometimes, Never*

- During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?
  - Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information (numbers, graphs, statistics, etc.)
  - Used numerical information to examine a real-world problem or issue (unemployment, climate change, public health, etc.)
  - Evaluated what others have concluded from numerical information
    - Options: *Very often, Often, Sometimes, Never*
  
- During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?
  - Completed an assignment that used an information source (book, article, website, etc.) other than required course readings
  - Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.
  - Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)
  - Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)
  - Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality
  - Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic
  - Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read
  - Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study
  
- How much has your time in the lab contributed to your comfort with the following skills?
  - Finding good information
  - Finding good sources of data
  - Data management
  - Data analysis
  - Data visualization
  - Using data as a tool in support of an argument
  - Translating data and results into words
    - Options: A great deal/Somewhat/Not at all
  
- In what ways, if any, has your lab experience increased your skills in any of the areas listed above?
  - [Open response]

- How likely are you to use data in research assignments in your future coursework?  
(From Iva Bozovic)
  - Options: Very likely/Somewhat likely/Somewhat unlikely/Very Unlikely
- How likely are you to use data in research assignments in your future career?  
(From Iva Bozovic)
  - Options: Very likely/Somewhat likely/Somewhat unlikely/Very Unlikely
- How well prepared do you feel to use data in your career?
  - Options: Very prepared/Somewhat prepared/Somewhat unprepared/Very unprepared

## 2. Student interaction with peer-, near-peer, and faculty mentors

- During the current term, how often have you:  
(From NSSE)
  - Asked a fellow student to help you understand the steps for performing a task?
  - Explained the steps for performing a task to a fellow student?
  - Prepared for lab meetings by discussing or working through your task assignments with other students?
  - Worked with other students on lab projects or assignments?
  - Options: Very often/Often/Sometimes/Never
- During the current term, how often have you:  
(From NSSE)
  - Talked about career plans with a faculty member?
  - Worked with a faculty member on activities other than lab work?
  - Discussed research topics, ideas, or concepts with a faculty member outside of lab work?
  - Discussed your academic performance with a faculty member?
  - Options: Very often/Often/Sometimes/Never

- During the current term, how often have you:  
(From NSSE)
  - Talked about career plans with a graduate student?
  - Worked with a graduate student on activities other than lab work?
  - Discussed research topics, ideas, or concepts with a graduate student outside of lab work?
  - Discussed your academic performance with a graduate student?
  - Options: Very often/Often/Sometimes/Never
- How would you rate the quality of faculty-student interaction at USC?
  - Options: Excellent/Very Good/Good/Fair/Poor/NA
- How would you rate the quality of faculty-student interaction in the SPEC Lab?
  - Options: Excellent/Very Good/Good/Fair/Poor/NA
- How would you rate the quality of graduate-undergraduate student interaction at USC?
  - Options: Excellent/Very Good/Good/Fair/Poor/NA
- How would you rate the quality of graduate-undergraduate student interaction in the SPEC Lab?
  - Options: Excellent/Very Good/Good/Fair/Poor/NA

### 3. Level of comfort with mentors

- How comfortable are you raising potentially sensitive issues with a faculty member (e.g., finances, performance in courses, etc.)?
  - Options: Very comfortable/Somewhat Comfortable/Not at all comfortable
- Have you raised sensitive issues with a faculty member?
  - Options: Yes/No
  - b. Was the faculty member able to help you resolve the issue or connect you with the appropriate resources?
    - Options: Yes/No/Somewhat

- How comfortable are you raising potentially sensitive issues with a graduate student (e.g., finances, performance in courses, etc.)?
  - Options: Very comfortable/Somewhat Comfortable/Not at all comfortable
- Have you raised sensitive issues with a graduate student?
  - Options: Yes/No
- b. Was the graduate student able to help you resolve the issue or connect you with the appropriate resources?
  - Options: Yes/No/Somewhat

#### 4. Sense of belonging to a learning community

- How often do you receive recognition or praise for doing good work?
  - Options: Very often/Often/Sometimes/Never
- Do your PIs and your teammates seem to care about you as a person?
  - Options: Yes/No/Somewhat
- Rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements concerning the SPEC Lab.
 

(From Nora and Crisp, 2007/2008, *Journal of College Student Retention*; Crisp, 2009, *Journal of College Student Development*)

My PI:

  - Encourages me to use him or her as a sounding board to explain hopes, ideas, feelings
  - Expresses confidence in my abilities to succeed academically
  - Requires me to reflect on competencies needed in achieving my future goals
  - Assists me in mapping out realistic strategies to achieve my academic goals
  - Encourages me to consider educational opportunities beyond my current plans
  - Shares personal examples of difficulties they have had to overcome
  - Makes me feel that I belong in college
    - Options: Strongly Agree/Agree/Neither Agree nor Disagree/Disagree/Strongly Disagree

## 5. Interest in and preparation for graduate school and post-bac endeavors

- How interested were you, if at all, in attending graduate school or pursuing a research career prior to joining the SPEC Lab?

○ Options: Very interested/Somewhat interested/Not at all interested

- How interested are you, if at all, in attending graduate school or pursuing a research career?

○ Options: Very interested/Somewhat interested/Not at all interested

- b. If you now have an increased interest in attending graduate school or pursuing a research career, what factors have influenced you?

[Open response]

- Rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements concerning the SPEC Lab.

(Lopatto, 2003, *Council on Undergraduate Research Quarterly*)

Membership in the SPEC Lab has helped me...

- Enhance my professional or academic credentials
- Clarify a potential career path
- Understand the research process in my field
- Study a topic in depth
- Develop a continuing relationship with a faculty member
- Learn to work independently
- Overcome obstacles in the research process
- Understand how scientists think
- Understand how professionals work on real problems

○ Options: Strongly Agree/Agree/Neither Agree nor Disagree/Disagree/Strongly Disagree/NA

## 6. Demographics

- Please select your year at USC
  - First-year student
  - Sophomore
  - Junior
  - Senior

- Please select your primary academic discipline
  - Humanities
  - Social Sciences
  - Natural Sciences
  - Undecided
  
- Please list your major:
  
- What is the highest level of education you ever expect to complete?
  - Some college but less than a bachelor's degree
  - Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)
  - Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)
  - Doctoral or professional degree (Ph.D., J.D., M.D., etc.)
  
- What is the highest level of education completed by either of your parents (or those who raised you)?
  - Did not finish high school
  - High school diploma or G.E.D.
  - Attended college but did not complete degree
  - Associate's degree (A.A., A.S., etc.)
  - Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.)
  - Master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc.)
  - Doctoral or professional degree (Ph.D., J.D., M.D., etc.)
  
- Which racial group(s) do you identify with? These categories from the U.S. Census might not accurately describe you, but please let us know which is closest to your racial identity.
  - White
  - Black or African American
  - American Indian or Alaska Native
  - Asian
  - Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
  
- Which gender do you identify with?
  - Female
  - Male
  - Other, please specify:
  
- For how many semesters have you been in the SPEC Lab?
  - Zero. This is my first semester.
  - One
  - Two
  - Three

- Four
- Five
- Six
- Seven

## 7. Improving the Lab

- What is the most important thing that the lab gets right?

[Open response]

- What is an area where the lab still falls short? If you have any suggestions for how we can improve in this area, please let us know, but simply helping us diagnose areas in which we need to improve is also appreciated.

[Open response]