

SCORE Study: Social and Community Service Experiences of Former Division II Student-Athletes

Interaction with Diverse Racial/Ethnic Groups

The Study of College Outcomes and Recent Experiences (SCORE) survey of more than 5,400 former Division II student-athletes at about 30 years of age included two sets of items on interactions with students from *a racial/ethnic group other than your own*. One was a measure of positive interactions and included items on shared personal feelings and problems, intellectual discussions outside of class, and social interactions. The second measured interaction difficulties. Former Division II student-athletes reported, on average, having a moderate exposure to these so-called positive interactions with students of a different racial/ethnic group. The most frequent positive interaction that former student-athletes reported was socializing or partying with students from other racial/ethnic groups; 58 percent reported doing this often. Few former student-athletes reported having so-called interaction difficulties, and they were much more likely to report having guarded interactions than tense or hostile ones.

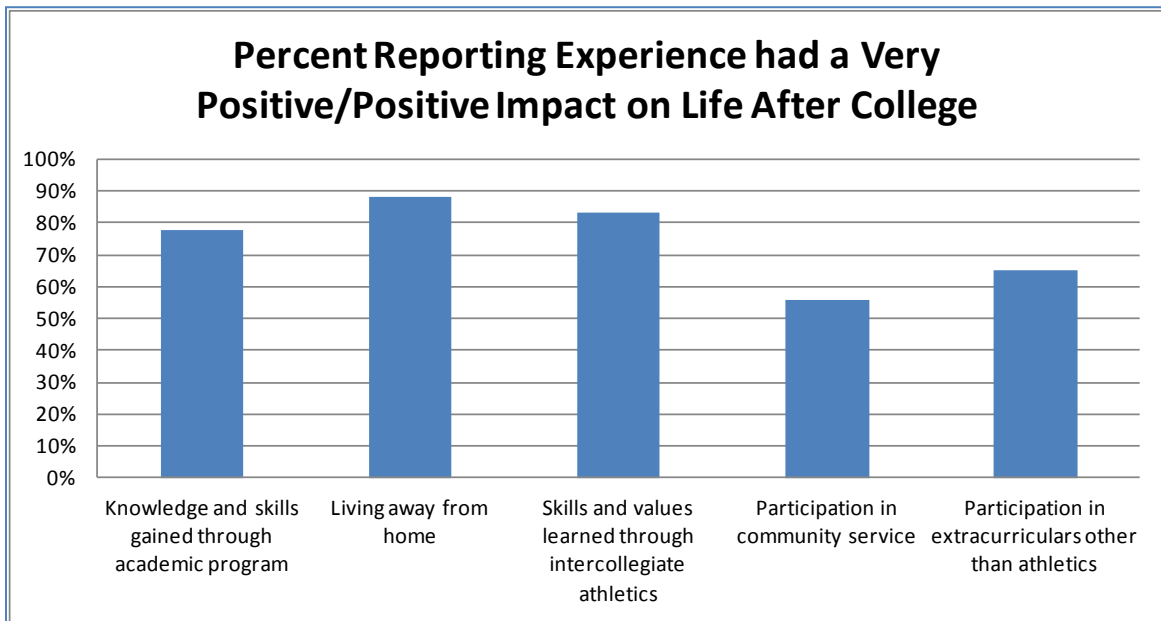
When examining these experiences by race and sport, it appears exposure could be a key factor in how former student-athletes responded. Those student-athletes who participated in a team sport (with more potential for frequent across-group interactions) were significantly more likely than individual-sport athletes to report both more frequent positive interactions and more interaction difficulties. Minority student-athletes were even more likely to report both positive interactions and interaction difficulties than were white student-athletes.

With regard to current interactions, approximately 70 percent reported that they interact with people from other racial/ethnic groups on most days (41 percent indicated they do so daily). There is a moderate correlation between the frequency of positive interactions with people of a different racial or ethnic group while in college and frequency of interactions later on as adults. Among those who socialized frequently with students of a different racial or ethnic group while in college, 76 percent report interacting frequently as adults.

Volunteerism

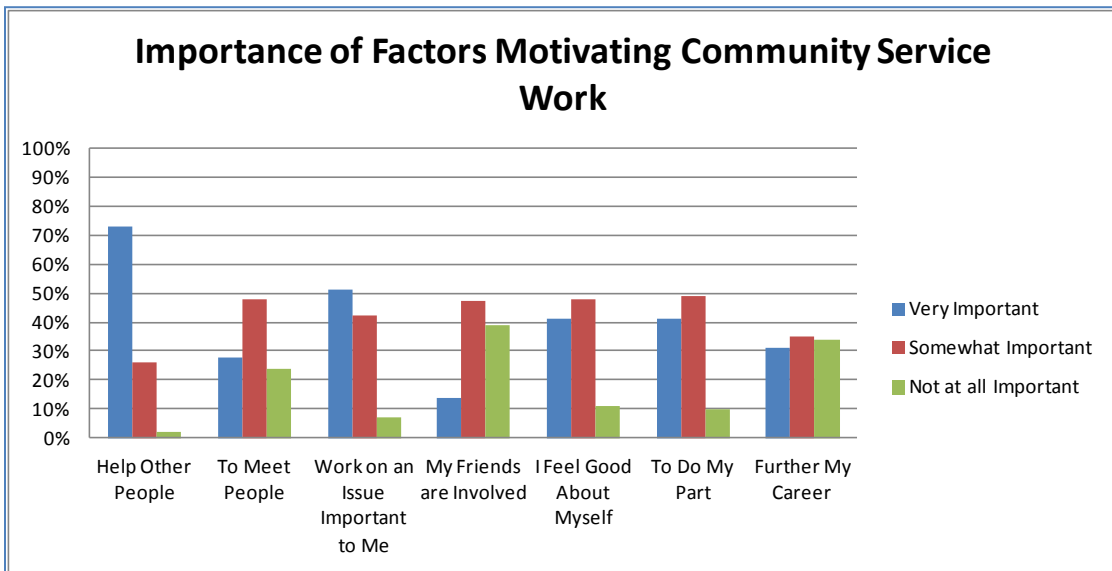
Service to the community is one of the six key attributes in the Division II Strategic Positioning Platform. While the SCORE survey did not explicitly ask the former student-athletes about the nature of their community service in college, they were asked what impact participation in community service generally had in preparing them for life after college. As Figure 1 shows, more than half thought that community service had a positive effect. However, a higher percentage of former student-athletes reported a positive impact on life after college from skills gained through academics, living away from home, athletics participation and other extracurricular activities. Very few reported that any of these college experiences had a negative impact on their later lives (about 2 percent).

Figure 1: Impact of college experiences on life after college



These former Division II student-athletes currently volunteer in very high numbers. Ninety percent reported that they have participated in some type of community service since leaving college. Forty-three percent of volunteers reported that they do so *frequently*, while another 38 percent reported they do so *occasionally*. Not surprisingly, there is a significant relationship between a belief that college community service had a positive impact in preparing them for life after college and volunteerism as an adult. Among those who currently volunteer at least occasionally, 61 percent reported that community service in college had a positive impact on them. Former student-athletes are most likely to volunteer for sports/recreational organizations or school/educational organizations. Just over one-quarter of the group reported that they coach school-aged children or non-professional adults. Reasons cited as motivators to participate in volunteer activities include civic duty, social opportunities and career opportunities (see Figure 2).

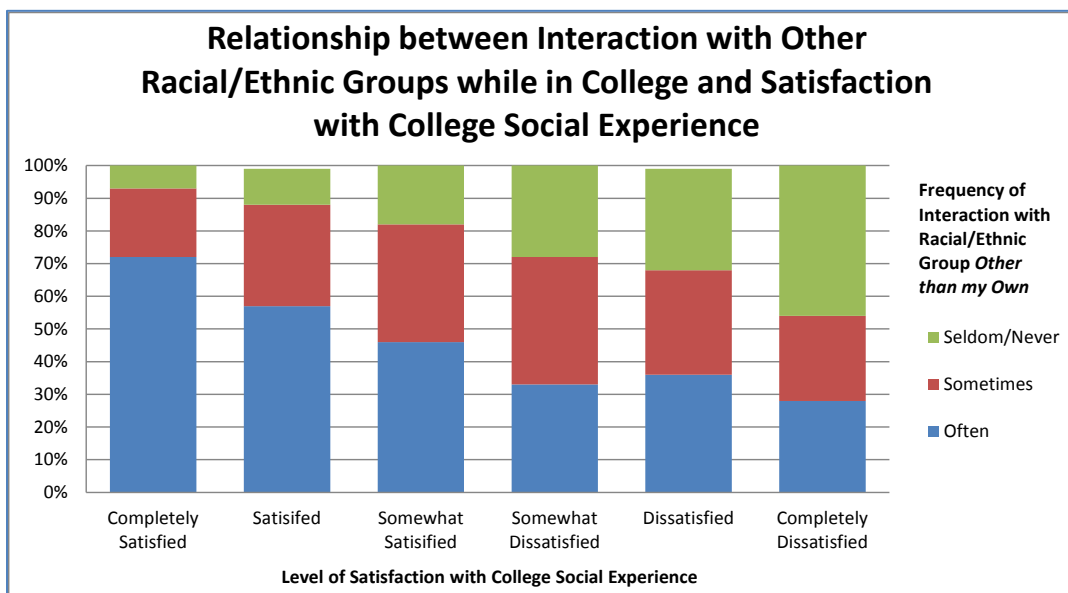
Figure 2: Motivations for community service work among former Division II student-athletes



Satisfaction with College Social Experience

Overall, 91 percent of former Division II student-athletes reported some level of satisfaction with their college social experience, with 74 percent reporting that they are *completely satisfied*. As can be seen in Figure 3, there is a strong relationship between socializing with other racial and ethnic groups while in college and satisfaction with the college social experience.

Figure 3: Percent reporting satisfaction with social experience by frequency of interaction with other racial/ethnic groups



Summary

Division II student-athletes enjoy the social aspect of the college experience, and it affords them unique opportunities to interact with a diverse group of peers. Three-quarters of former Division II student-athletes could not be more satisfied with their college social experience. They reported a moderate level of positive interaction with students of a different racial/ethnic group, and socializing or partying was the most frequently reported positive interaction. Those who had positive interactions with people of a different racial or ethnic group while in college interact more frequently with different groups later on as adults. Four in five former Division II student-athletes volunteer in the community occasionally or frequently, and one in four gives back by coaching a youth or amateur adult sports team.