



Campus Compact Annual Membership Survey

Survey open until December 18, 2015

[Terms and definitions](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Terms and definitions

Community engagement: For the purposes of this survey, the definition of *community engagement* follows the one used for the Carnegie Community engagement classification: The collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good.

Community-based learning: All credit--bearing learning experiences in which student action on behalf of community goals is a significant component of the learning process. Community--based learning includes practices such as service-learning and community--based research, along with other pedagogies through which students participate in advocacy, electoral processes, community dialogue, or other similar activities.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why should our institution complete the 2015 survey?

This is a special year for the Campus Compact membership survey as we celebrate our 30th anniversary. While maintaining longitudinal questions that have allowed us to measure the growth of the field over decades, the 2015 survey reflects modifications that create greater accessibility for researchers and alignment with other data collection instruments. Participation is more important than ever this year, as we examine not only connection with trends of the past but indicators of future direction.

Your institution's responses will be combined with those from the 1,100 campuses nationwide that comprise the Campus Compact network. You will be able to compare your institution's progress with state and national trends and better articulate the value of your work to elected officials, funders, and the media. We hope that you will use this survey to assist in your own institutional community engagement reporting and planning and as a preparation for other surveys and/or award applications.

2. Who should fill out the annual membership survey?

Campus Compact invites primary contacts (e.g., community engagement administrators) at member institutions to direct efforts to complete your institution's survey. You will need to collect data and receive assistance from a number of different people and offices to complete the questions.

3. Can we preview all of the questions before starting the survey?

Yes, you can print a PDF of the survey. Some state/regional Campus Compact offices have added location-specific questions to the survey, and you will not be able to preview those in the national survey PDF. Contact your state/regional office about state/region-specific questions.

4. Where do we access the online survey?

Refer to the survey link found on the Campus Compact website at www.compact.org.

5. May we submit our campus response in any other format?

Survey responses submitted in any other format cannot be accepted. Campus Compact is working with TreeTop Commons, LLC, to facilitate the gathering of survey responses from hundreds of institutions. This online survey format makes data collection efficient and cost effective.

6. Can we enter data, save, and return to the survey at a later time?

Yes. You may return to the survey **on the same computer** and continue completing your survey. If you go to a different computer you will need to start the survey over from the beginning.

Once you select the “submit” button on the last page of the survey, you will not be able to edit or return. Please make sure that you have completed all survey questions with the best available data before selecting the submit button.

7. How long will the survey take to complete?

Collecting the data will be the most time-consuming aspect of this survey. We encourage you to print the PDF version and gather all information before entering the online survey. If you have gathered all data, you can expect to spend 45-60 minutes completing the online survey.

8. Are these the same questions asked as in the previous 30 years of the survey?

The survey has evolved over time with the field. We have maintained central questions for their longitudinal value for decades. The 2015 survey reflects modifications that create greater accessibility for researchers and alignment with other data collection instruments. Participating in the survey this year is of particular value, as we celebrate the evolution of the field and consider the future.

For the first time you will not need to report on institutional demographic information. Basic characteristics of your institution will be pulled from the [Integrated Postsecondary Education System \(IPEDS\)](#) and integrated into your institution’s survey data.

9. What if we don’t know the answer to a particular question?

We encourage you to seek assistance and information from others at the institution.

10. What do we do if the survey won’t advance to the next page?

Check to see that all required questions have been answered on the page. A red error message can be found above each individual question that has been completed incorrectly or has been skipped. Make sure to respond to numerical questions with only numerical responses.

11. How do we know that our survey was submitted successfully?

Once you select the “submit” button on the last page of the survey, you will see an acknowledgment page. The system will not allow another response to your institution’s survey thereafter. In addition, you will receive a copy of your survey responses in an email confirming your submission.

12. How do our state/regional Campus Compact staff know if our survey is

complete?

All survey responses are date and time stamped. State/regional Campus Compact office staff receive reports periodically throughout the survey period indicating which institutions have completed the survey. Using this information, staff often follow up with individual institutions to support completion.

13. How do we get a copy of our institution's responses?

In advance of completing the survey online, we encourage you to print the PDF of questions and record your responses. Once you have submitted the online survey you will receive a copy in an email confirming your submission.

14. May we get a copy of the institution's response to last year's survey?

If your institution completed the survey last year, the person who submitted on behalf of the school received an email with a copy of institutional responses.

15. Are responses confidential?

Campus Compact will use the data collected through the annual survey to report information to the public in the aggregate only. Both national and state/regional summaries may be utilized to educate others about the collective efforts of our membership. The individual submitting the survey on behalf of an institution receives a copy of the survey that s/he can share with relevant contacts at that institution. Individual institution responses will be shared with state/regional Compacts to inform professional development and services they can provide to members in the area.

16. Who else on my campus has been asked to complete the survey?

Several people at your institution may have received the invitation to complete the survey. Campus Compact initially invites primary contacts (community engagement administrators) at member institutions to complete the survey, while the state and regional Compact offices also make contact to encourage completion. It is important to coordinate your institution's response, and to collaborate to complete the survey. In the event that multiple responses are received for a single institution, Campus Compact will contact those who have completed the survey to determine which response should be integrated.

17. Why are we entering information about the 2014-15 academic year, when the survey is titled 2015 Membership Survey?

Campus Compact recognizes that data collection takes time and collaboration. Therefore, we seek to collect annual survey data in the fall following each traditional academic year. The results of the survey will be made available in the spring of 2016.

18. What is meant by "academic year 2014-2015?" Does this include summer

sessions? What if the institution operates on trimesters?

Campus Compact expects that the data reported in the annual survey is representative of the 2014-2015 academic year as defined by your institution. It is most important that the same method for determining your academic year be utilized consistently over time so as to avoid double reporting on the annual survey.

19. May we include graduate students in our report?

Yes. The survey population includes both undergraduate and graduate students at your institution.

20. What if we don't know how Campus Compact defines a particular word used in the survey?

Campus Compact member institutions use terms differently from institution to institution. If you have questions, please see the terms in the definition section for clarification. Beyond these definitions, we ask that your institution interpret terms throughout the survey as they are utilized on your campus.

21. What if we have additional questions?

Contact Maggie Grove, Director of Operations, at mgrove@compact.org. She will provide a response to your questions within two business days of your email. Please be sure to include your email and phone number with your query.