

# Q&A:

## Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership 2010 - Who? What? Why? And How?

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*The following questions were asked by participants during the MSL 2010 informational webinars on June 12 and June 26, 2009.*

**Q: Is comparative the sample option available to both campuses who have populations over 4000 or under 4000 students?**

**A:** Yes, schools with under 4000, would select their entire population and then indicate within that sample, the students they would like to represent their comparative sample. These students would be marked as being in BOTH the random sample (entire population) and the comparative sample. The comparative sample flag will be provided in your dataset so you may select which cases from your data you wish analyze.

**Q: Can you select multiple comparative groups if each group is less than 500 and the total is not more than 500?**

**A:** Yes. In your school reports, however, all your comparative samples will counted as one when being compared in the reports. Doing a separate custom analysis between your individual comparative groups can be done for an additional fee. Each comparative group will still be individually identifiable at the end of the study in your schools final dataset, however, if you wish to do your own comparisons.

**Q: With regards to the 20 additional custom questions for the coalition, are these for the entire coalition or is each school in the coalition allowed 20 custom questions?**

**A:** These 20 questions are 'Coalition Wide' custom question. The coalition can collaborate to create these 20 questions that will be asked across all campuses participating in the coalition. This allows for valuable custom cross-campus comparisons of measures specific to your coalition. Each school will also be allowed their own 20 custom questions that is asked to only their students.

**Q: Is there an example of a progress report to review?**

**A:** Yes, it is located on the website at <http://leadershipstudy.net/ir-current-news.html#6609webinars> .

**Q: Regarding the data in the Change Over Time table, how are the Prior to College measures taken to make a comparison to the measure while in college.**

**A:** We use a quasi pre-test measure. We ask a student at one give point in time to reflect back on their prior to college experiences and leadership capacity; and then we ask about the experiences now.

**Q: Is there any sort of training available on how to implement the social change model?**

**A:** At many of the conferences (ACPA, NASPA) and the Leadership Educators Institute, there are sessions on how the model has been used at universities and how to organize leadership programs. Check out many of the books at the NCLP website: <http://www.nclp.umd.edu/resources/books.asp> as well as the new publication of Leadership for a Better World as presented in this webinar.

**Q: How important is it that a participating school utilizes the Social Change Model(SCM) in their leadership programs?**

**A:** Many of the institutions participating do not necessarily use the SCM as their theoretical framework. It is not necessary for it to be the leadership for you campus to subscribes to. There are many models that you may use to frame your programs. You will have information about this form of leadership in terms of how students score across the different dimensions. Some of them may relate to the some of the things you wish to accomplish on your campus related to leadership. The study has many other scales; the social responsible leadership scale is one piece of the MSL study. You will receive information about leadership efficacy as well as many other aspects of the college student experience.

While the title of the study is Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership, we have seen many schools find value in the all the other different outcomes that are important and useful independently or in other frameworks that are not necessarily directly related to leadership. Schools are learning that this goes much beyond a leadership study. Even more than just not using this model for leadership, you don't have to be interested in leadership per say and have this study be useful.

**Q: Is there an additional discount for NASPA members?**

**A:** NASPA, ACPA and other organizations have helped support us and that we have actively used to promote and speak about the study prior to the early enrollment deadline. The current discount doesn't require that you be an actual member, but that you were somehow affiliated with one of these organizations to receive the communication about the early enrollment discount.

**Q: What has been the average response rate?**

**A:** 35%. The response rates vary between schools and have been between 10% and 63%. 35% is a very acceptable response rate for a web design survey and in some instances is considered exceptional with the student population.

**Q: Is there an example of a past survey for review?**

**A:** The most valuable document on the items presented in the survey is the MSL Overview document located on the website here: [MSL Overview](#). We can provide a full copy of the 2009 questionnaire on an individual basis. Please send us an email if you would like that document.

**Q: It seems that one would need to start the IRB approval process before actually enrolling, but is that the usual process?**

**A:** It is always a good idea to start the IRB process as soon as possible. However, the majority of the institutions do not start the process until after they enroll. One of the valuable items you receive from us, once you do enroll, is all the approval paperwork for the master IRB approval from the University of Maryland. This includes all the documentation on the study as well as the final approval form. At times, this has allowed some institutions an expedited approval process on their campus and at the very least the ability to cut and copy much of the same written statements for their own IRB documentation.

If your campus requires IRB approval before enrolling, please contact us.

**Q: Is the \$3250 an annual fee?**

**A:** Yes, the fee is for each wave of a data collection which, as of right now, is annual.

**Q: Are we able to select which sub-studies our students are asked?**

**A:** Currently, all sub-studies are administered at each participating institution. Each sub-study is administered to approximately half of the total student sample. Future plans for MSL include developing additional sub-studies and eventually allowing schools to select those scales for inclusion that are most relevant to their interests.

**Q: For the random sample population, are we able to limit the selection? For example: first-year students , on campus only?**

**A:** The random sample population is designed to include the entire undergraduate student body at a participating institution. This ensures that data in the national sample is representative of students in general and not biased in any way towards specific student sub-populations. This also allows schools to compare their general population sample with the national sample and know the groups are equivalent. For schools that are interested in gathering data about a sub-population the comparative sample size can be increased in size for an additional fee. Another option is to add a custom question that allows you to identify students in the sub-sample of interest in the data. In many cases, sub-samples of interest (e.g., first-year students, student athletes, engineering majors) can already be identified in the data with existing data. CSS is more than happy to work with schools to help extract these data and construct comparison columns.

**Q: Is the cost for schools with less than 1000 undergraduate students less than those with more?**

**A:** The cost for participation in the MSL is fixed with the rate being on par or generally lower than that of other national research studies. The fixed rate reflects the sampling strategy and fact that the amount of work and quality of service does not fluctuate based on sample size. A limited amount of scholarships are available to assist in underwriting the cost of participation for schools that are not able to afford the full fee. Schools interested in scholarships are encouraged to contact CSS for more information about being considered for scholarships.