

FALL 2021 MESSINA STUDENT SURVEY FINDINGS

Abstract

The following document describes the results of the Fall 2021 Messina Mid-Year Student Survey that including questions focused on the Messina Learning Outcome of Connections to Loyola.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROJECT

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Annual Messina assessment initiatives during the 2021-2022 academic year address the learning outcome areas of Sense of Belonging and Connections to Loyola Community. This report reflects results from a survey administered to all first-year students in Fall 2021 from December 3, 2021-January 5, 2022. The instrument included questions from the Fall 2017 Messina student survey that addressed this same area of learning outcomes. The survey was administered to 959 students with 408 students starting the survey and 353 students finishing the survey. 339 fully answered every question in the survey for a response rate of 35.3%—these results are included in this document.

KEY FINDINGS

For questions related to Connections to Loyola Community, students were asked to rank how often they engaged in or thought about a variety of personal, academic, and social activities during their first semester. Students also responded to a follow-up question regarding the level of importance each area was to them. A final question was asked to explore the level of influence participation in Messina had in relation to the area.¹

This is the second time we are cycling back through assessment of the *Connections to Loyola Community* Learning Outcome. Similar to Fall 2017 results, we continue to see longitudinal growth in most areas. This year this growth was observed in the influence Messina has in helping students developing a sense of belonging to Loyola.

% Some Influence + Very Influential

Survey Question: What level of influence did your participation in Messina have in relation to this area?	Fall 2016 (n=366)	Fall 2017 (n=328)	Fall 2019 (n=307)	Fall 2020 (n=452)	Fall 2021 (n=339)
<i>Felt that you had support in regard to becoming a part of the Loyola community</i>	73%	74%	89%	90%	77%
<i>Felt that you had support in regard to your academic coursework</i>	66%	64%	N/A	82%	64%
<i>Felt that you belonged at Loyola</i>	66%	70%	82%	89%	72%
<i>Participated in college-sponsored events and activities (may include clubs, organizations, sports, service)</i>	N/A	43%	N/A	N/A	44%
<i>Became familiar with Baltimore</i>	N/A	59%	N/A	N/A	57%

While Fall 2021 data seems to be lower than Fall 2019 and Fall 2020, they are consistent with the last time the learning outcome was fully assessed. The discrepancy in data ranges from 2019, 2020, and 2021 can also be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, since students were in a fully virtual learning modality in 2020, and Messina was one of the only contributors for students' sense of belonging. More information about the data from Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 can be found in the [Messina Program Assessment Website](#).

¹ Students selected one of the following four choices: "No Influence, Little Influence, Some Influence, Very Influential."

Difference between Fall 2021 and Fall 2017 data in participation in Messina having “some influence” or being “very influential” in these areas

Felt that you had support in regard to becoming a member of the Loyola community	↑ 3.52%
Felt that you had support in regard to your academic coursework	↓ 0.01%
Felt that you belonged at Loyola	↑ 1.25%
Participated in college-sponsored events and activities (may include clubs, organizations, sports, service)	↑ 0.37%
Became familiar with Baltimore	↓ 1.90%

Messina’s influence on Connections to Loyola Community has remained consistent from Fall 2017 to Fall 2021, with minor increase or decrease, per the chart above. We see a slight increase on the influence Messina had on “Felt that you had support in regard to becoming a member of the Loyola community” and a slight decrease on “Became familiar with Baltimore.” While we do not have specific information as to what caused this change, it can be inferred that the COVID-19 pandemic had a level of influence. To further determine the cause for the change, focus group interviews may be beneficial.

Students have continued to read the Common text at rates similar to years prior. Roughly 89% of students read *The Master Plan*, and roughly 73% students reported the book being a topic of discussion during the fall semester (other than the discussion held during fall orientation).

Interactions with Messina Working Group (Messina Professor, Messina Core Advisor, Messina Mentor, and Messina Evergreens) were positive. Engagement with Evergreens was over 90%, while engagement with both Messina Professor and Messina Core Advisor was at roughly 85% or above. However, engagement with Messina Mentor was at a little less than 67%. This lower engagement can be attributed to the Messina Mentor only seeing the students once a week, compared to professors and advisors who see students more often. Overall, the comments students shared about their relationships with their Working Group was very positive.

DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES RELATED TO LONGITUDINAL GROWTH AREAS

Students were also asked how frequently they experienced each of the areas listed above. Most students of color indicated experiencing support in becoming a part of the community and feeling a sense of belonging at lower rates than white students. LatinX students experienced an average or higher sense of belonging than other races and ethnicities, however, they felt less supported in their academics and participated less often in college-sponsored events and activities. Compared to other races and ethnicities, LatinX students also reported Messina being more influential. For other races and ethnicities, Messina was less influential for students of color in helping them feel they belonged at Loyola. PELL eligible students and First-Generation students expressed participation in Messina as having higher influence on their sense of belonging and support than the overall student population.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a part of this project, a demographic analysis of this data has been done to indicate areas where there are demographic differences in student experiences. This year, students’ self-identified demographics were utilized in most cases for analysis, rather than pulled from Admissions data embedded in the survey. However, currently the demographic breakdown is only focused on singular aspects of a student’s identity. Further analysis can occur to see how multiple aspects of identity shape the first-year student experience. Loyola community members interested in seeing this dashboard should reach out to messina@loyola.edu for access. Demographic comparisons are available for all Likert-scale questions.

Messina’s influence on Connections to Loyola Community has remained consistent from Fall 2017 to Fall 2021. Results show a slight increase on the influence Messina had on “Felt that you had support in regard to becoming a member of the

Loyola community” and a slight decrease on “Became familiar with Baltimore”. To further determine the cause for the change, focus group interviews may be beneficial as a future assessment effort.

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT METHODOLOGY

In Fall 2021 Messina assessed our learning outcome of Connections to Loyola Community. This outcome includes the following two areas: “Establish healthy, mutually beneficial and respectful relationships with others including faculty, administrators, staff and peers” and “demonstrate a sense of belonging to the community at Loyola University both in and out of the classroom.”² Assessment measures were based on a previous survey developed in Fall 2017 examining this same outcome area. The finalized survey included a variety of Likert and open-ended questions related to the transition and connections to Loyola, the Messina experience, and exploration about the common text *The Master Plan*.

It is important to note that two of the five categories of Connections to the Loyola Community were also assessed in the Fall 2019 and Fall 2020. These questions included “Felt that you had support in regard to becoming a member of the Loyola community,” and “Felt that you belonged at Loyola.” The other three categories, “Felt that you had support in regard to your academic coursework”, “Participated in college-sponsored events and activities (may include clubs, organizations, sports, service),” and “Became familiar with Baltimore,” were not included in 2019 or 2020. The last data collected on these questions was in Fall 2017.

Student responses have been analyzed for demographic differences in most cases unless otherwise noted. These demographic differences are explained as “↑” indicating an increase in a response, and “↓” indicating a decrease in response. Students’ self-identified data derived from the Demographics section of the instrument was utilized instead of embedded Loyola Demographics information. Embedded data was utilized to identify First-Generation and PELL Eligible students.

² Messina Learning Outcomes. Retrieved from <https://www.loyola.edu/departments/messina/about/program-design/learning-outcomes>

DETAILED FINDINGS

Fall 2021 Survey Results are designated by **bold text**.

CONNECTIONS TO LOYOLA COMMUNITY

FELT THAT YOU HAD SUPPORT IN REGARD TO BECOMING A PART OF THE LOYOLA COMMUNITY

	During your fall semester experience, how often did you do or experience the following?					Please indicate the amount of importance this area is for you.	What level of influence did your participation in Messina have in relation to this area?			
	NEVER	SOMETIMES (1-2 times)	OFTEN (monthly)	VERY OFTEN (weekly)	DAILY ³ (almost every day)	SOMEWHAT TO VERY IMPORTANT	NO INFLUENCE	LITTLE INFLUENCE	SOME INFLUENCE	VERY INFLUENTIAL
FALL 2021 (n=339)	2 0.59%	37 10.91%	73 21.53%	153 45.13%	74 21.82%	332 97.94%	17 5.01%	61 17.99%	167 49.26%	94 27.73%
FALL 2020 (n=452)	2 0.44%	22 4.87%	74 16.37%	203 44.91%	151 33.41%	448 99.12%	7 1.55%	38 8.41%	202 44.69%	205 45.35%
FALL 2019 (n=307)	7 2.28%	31 10.10%	90 29.32%	179 58.31%	N/A	298 97.07%	13 4.23%	21 6.84%	97 31.60%	176 57.33%
FALL 2017 (n=328)	6 1.83%	57 17.38%	121 36.89%	144 43.09%	N/A	314 95.73%	24 7.32%	63 19.21%	165 50.30%	76 23.17%
FALL 2016 (n=366)	5 1.37%	47 12.88%	149 40.82%	164 44.93%	N/A	355 ⁴ 97.52%	27 7.40%	70 19.18%	182 49.86%	86 23.56%

2021 Demographic differences: Felt that you had support in regard to becoming a part of the Loyola community

Frequency: 66.96% of all students selected “very often” or “daily”

- ↑ to 71.79% by LatinX students (n=39)
- ↓ to 57.14% by Asian students (n=21), 53.85% by LGBTQ+ students (n=78), 45.95% by Black or African American students (n=37), 30.00% by Other Gender Identity students (n=10)

Importance: 97.94% of all students selected “somewhat important” or “very important”

- ↑ to 100.00% by Asian students (n=21), Biracial/multiracial students (n=8), and women identifying students (n=211)
- ↓ to 91.89% by Black or African American students (n=37), 90.00% by Other Gender Identity students (n=10)

Messina Influence: 76.99% of all students selected “some influence” or “very influential”

- ↑ to 87.18% by LatinX students (n=39), 83.61% First Generation students (n=61), and 82.81% PELL students (n=64)
- ↓ to 71.79% by LGBTQ+ students (n=78), 71.43% Asian students (n=21), 70.73% Non-Catholic/Christian students (n=123), 40.00% Other Gender Identity students (n=10)

³ The addition of a “DAILY” option was new in the administration of the Fall 2020 survey for this and similar questions. Future survey iterations will keep this question on a 5 point rather than a 4 point Likert scale.

⁴ Response rate for this question dropped to 364.

FELT THAT YOU HAD SUPPORT IN REGARD TO YOUR ACADEMIC COURSEWORK

	During your fall semester experience, how often did you do or experience the following?					Please indicate the amount of importance this area is for you.	What level of influence did your participation in Messina have in relation to this area?			
	NEVER	SOMETIMES (1-2 times)	OFTEN (monthly)	VERY OFTEN (weekly)	DAILY ⁵ (almost every day)	SOMEWHAT TO VERY IMPORTANT	NO INFLUENCE	LITTLE INFLUENCE	SOME INFLUENCE	VERY INFLUENTIAL
FALL 2021 (n=339)	3 0.88%	49 14.45%	96 28.32%	143 42.18%	48 14.16%	335 98.82%	31 9.14%	91 26.84%	156 46.02%	61 17.99%
FALL 2020 (n=452)	0 0.00%	33 7.30%	89 19.69%	180 39.82%	150 33.19%	450 99.56%	15 3.32%	67 14.82%	221 48.89%	149 32.96%
FALL 2017 (n=328)	11 3.35%	75 22.87%	124 37.80%	118 35.98%	N/A	318 96.95%	38 11.59%	80 24.39%	143 43.60%	67 20.43%
FALL 2016 (n=366)	13 3.55%	68 18.58%	152 41.53%	133 36.34%	N/A	358 97.81%	43 11.75%	83 22.68%	167 45.63%	73 19.95%

2021 Demographic differences: Felt that you had support in regard to your academic coursework

Frequency: 56.34% of all students selected “very often” or “daily”

- ↑ to 62.50% by Other Race/Ethnicity students (n=16)
- ↓ to 51.28% by LGBTQ+ students (n=78), 51.28% LatinX students (n=39), 50.41% by Non-Catholic/Christian students (n=123), 50.00% by Biracial/Multiracial students (n=8), and 30.00% by Other Gender Identity students (n=10)

Importance: 98.82% of all students selected “somewhat important” or “very important”

- No major demographic differences

Messina Influence: 64.01% of all students selected “some influence” or “very influential”

- ↑ to 72.13% by First Generation students (n=61), 71.79% by LatinX students (n=39)
- ↓ to 59.46% by Black or African American students (n=37), 50.00% by Biracial/Multiracial students (n=8)

⁵ The addition of a “DAILY” option was new in the administration of the Fall 2020 survey for this and similar questions. Future survey iterations will keep this question on a 5 point rather than a 4 point Likert scale.

FELT THAT YOU BELONGED AT LOYOLA

	During your fall semester experience, how often did you do or experience the following?					Please indicate the amount of importance this area is for you.	What level of influence did your participation in Messina have in relation to this area?			
	NEVER	SOMETIMES (1-2 times)	OFTEN (monthly)	VERY OFTEN (weekly)	DAILY ⁶ (almost every day)	SOMEWHAT TO VERY IMPORTANT	NO INFLUENCE	LITTLE INFLUENCE	SOME INFLUENCE	VERY INFLUENTIAL
FALL 2021 (n=339)	8 2.36%	55 16.22%	67 19.76%	108 31.86%	101 29.79%	337 99.41%	21 6.19%	75 22.12%	150 44.25%	93 27.43%
FALL 2020 (n=452)	8 1.77%	39 8.63%	79 17.48%	161 35.62%	165 36.50%	448 99.12%	11 2.43%	39 8.63%	181 40.04%	221 48.89%
FALL 2019 (n=307)	8 2.61%	96 31.27%	33 10.75%	170 55.37%	N/A	302 98.37%	21 6.84%	35 11.40%	106 34.53%	145 47.23%
FALL 2017 (n=328)	15 4.57%	74 22.56%	106 32.32%	133 40.55%	N/A	323 98.48%	38 11.59%	59 17.99%	148 45.12%	83 25.30%
FALL 2016 (n=366)	15 4.10%	69 18.85%	114 31.15%	168 45.90%	N/A	362 98.91%	36 9.84%	87 23.77%	122 33.33%	121 33.06%

2021 Demographic differences: Felt that you belonged at Loyola

Frequency: 61.65% of all students selected “very often” or “daily”

- ↑ to 66.67% by White students (n= 249)
- ↓ to 56.10% by Non-Catholic/Christian students (n=123), 52.38% by Asian students (n=21), 51.56% by PELL students (n=64), 51.28% by LGBTQ+ students (n=78), 40.00% by Other Gender Identity students (n=10), 37.50% by Biracial/Multiracial students (n=8), 37.50% by Other Race/Ethnicity students (n=16), 32.43% by Black or African American students (n=37)

Importance: 99.41% of all students selected “somewhat important” or “very important”

- No major demographic differences

Messina Influence: 71.68% of all students selected “some influence” or “very influential”

- ↑ to 97.50% by Biracial/Multiracial students (n=8), 76.92% by LatinX students (n=39)
- ↓ to 66.67% by Non-Catholic/Christian students (n=123), 64.86% by Black or African American students (n=37), 60.00% by Other Gender Identity students (n=10), 56.25% by Other Race/Ethnicity students (n=16)

⁶ The addition of a “DAILY” option was new in the administration of the Fall 2020 survey for this and similar questions. Future survey iterations will keep this question on a 5 point rather than a 4 point Likert scale.

PARTICIPATED IN COLLEGE-SPONSORED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (MAY INCLUDE CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS, SPORTS, SERVICE)

	During your fall semester experience, how often did you do or experience the following?					Please indicate the amount of importance this area is for you.	What level of influence did your participation in Messina have in relation to this area?			
	NEVER	SOMETIMES (1-2 times)	OFTEN (monthly)	VERY OFTEN (weekly)	DAILY ⁷ (almost every day)		SOMEWHAT TO VERY IMPORTANT	NO INFLUENCE	LITTLE INFLUENCE	SOME INFLUENCE
FALL 2021 (n=339)	22 6.49%	68 20.06%	84 24.78%	120 35.40%	45 13.27%	322 94.99%	75 22.12%	116 34.22%	120 35.40%	28 8.26%
FALL 2017 (n=328)	16 4.88%	102 31.10%	83 25.30%	127 38.72%	N/A	315 96.03%	89 27.13%	97 29.57%	114 34.76%	28 8.54%

2021 Demographic differences: Participated in college-sponsored events and activities (may include clubs, organizations, sports, service)

Frequency: 48.67% of all students selected “very often” or “daily”

- ↑ to 61.90% by Asian students (n=21), 60.00% by Other Gender Identity students
- ↓ to 42.28% by Non-Catholic/Christian students (n=123), 39.06% by PELL students (n=64), 37.84% by Black or African American students (n=37), 35.90% by LatinX students (n=39), 27.87% by First Generation students (n=61), 25.00% by Biracial/Multiracial students

Importance: 94.99% of all students selected “somewhat important” or “very important”

- ↑ to 100% by Biracial/Multiracial students (n=8), 100% by Other Race/Ethnicity students (n=16)
- ↓ to 90.00% by Other Gender Identity students (n=10), 89.19% by Black or African American students

Messina Influence: 43.66% of all students selected “some influence” or “very influential”

- ↑ to 60.00% by Other Gender Identity students (n=10), 50.82% by First Generation students (n=61), 50.00% by PELL students (n=64), 48.65% by Black or African American students (n=37)
- ↓ to 37.50% by Biracial/Multiracial students (n=8), 31.25% by Other Race/Ethnicity students (n=16)

BECAME FAMILIAR WITH BALTIMORE

	During your fall semester experience, how often did you do or experience the following?					Please indicate the amount of importance this area is for you.	What level of influence did your participation in Messina have in relation to this area?			
	NEVER	SOMETIMES (1-2 times)	OFTEN (monthly)	VERY OFTEN (weekly)	DAILY ⁸ (almost every day)		SOMEWHAT TO VERY IMPORTANT	NO INFLUENCE	LITTLE INFLUENCE	SOME INFLUENCE
FALL 2021 (n=339)	15 5.01%	106 31.27%	118 34.81%	70 20.65%	28 8.26%	302 89.09%	49 14.45%	98 28.91%	141 41.59%	51 15.04%
FALL 2017 (n=328)	12 3.66%	113 34.45%	140 42.83%	63 19.21%	N/A	305 92.99%	34 10.37%	102 31.10%	130 39.63%	62 18.90%

⁷ The addition of a “DAILY” option was new in the administration of the Fall 2020 survey for this and similar questions. Future survey iterations will keep this question on a 5 point rather than a 4 point Likert scale.

⁸ The addition of a “DAILY” option was new in the administration of the Fall 2020 survey for this and similar questions. Future survey iterations will keep this question on a 5 point rather than a 4 point Likert scale.

2021 Demographic differences: Became Familiar with Baltimore

Frequency: 28.91% of all students selected “very often” or “daily”

- ↑ to 35.90% by LatinX students (n=39), 35.29% by male identifying students (n=119)
- ↓ to 10.00% by Other Gender Identity students (n=10)

Importance: 89.09% of all students selected “somewhat important” or “very important”

- ↓ to 79.49% by LatinX students (n=39), 76.19% by Asian students (n=21), 67.21% by First Generation students (n=61)

Messina Influence: 56.64% of all students selected “some influence” or “very influential”

- ↑ to 64.10% by LatinX students (n=39), 62.50% by Biracial/Multiracial students (n=8), 62.50% by Other Race/Ethnicity students (n=16), 62.04% by Catholic/Christian students (n=216)
- ↓ to 51.28% by LGBTQ+ students (n=78), 50.00% by Other Gender Identity students (n=10), 50.00% by PELL students (n=64), 49.18% by First Generation students (n=61), 47.15% Non-Catholic/Christian students (n=123), 42.86% by Asian students (n=21)

MESSINA THEME AND WORKING GROUP EXPERIENCE

WORKING GROUP RELATIONSHIPS

Students were asked to provide feedback on their relationships with Messina working group members.

Question: To what extent did your participation in Messina help you establish a positive relationship with your _____?

FALL 2021

	A Great Deal	Somewhat	A Little	Not at All	Demographic differences of students selecting “somewhat” or “a great deal”
Messina Professor (n=339)	198 58.41%	105 30.97%	30 8.85%	6 1.77%	89.38% by all student responses ↓ to 79.49% by LGBTQ+ students (n=78), 70.00% by Other Gender Identity students (n=10)
Messina Core Advisor (n=339)	190 56.05%	97 28.61%	36 10.62%	16 4.72%	84.66% by all student responses ↑ to 93.75% by Other Race/Ethnicity (n=16), 90.00% by Other Gender Identity (n=10) ↓ to 79.69% by PELL students (n=64), 78.21% by LGBTQ+ students (n=78), 66.67% by Asian students (n=21)
Messina Mentor (n=339)	111 32.74%	116 34.22%	81 23.89%	31 9.14%	66.96% by all student responses ↑ to 81.25% by Other Race/Ethnicity (n=16), 79.49% by LatinX students (n=39) ↓ to 61.54% by LGBTQ+ students (n=78), 50.00% by Biracial/Multiracial students (n=8), 47.62% by Asian students (n=21), 40.00% by Other Gender Identity students (n=10)
Messina Evergreens (n=675)⁹	440 65.19%	173 25.63%	39 5.78%	23 3.41%	90.81% by all student responses ↑ to 98.70% by LatinX students (n=39), 95.24% by Asian students (n=21) ↓ to 85.95% by First Generation students (n=61), 81.25% by Biracial/Multiracial students (n=8)

⁹ This is a higher n because students were able to individually evaluate each Evergreen paired with their section. Some sections have two Evergreens.

Identifiable information has been redacted below. Other than this, responses are direct quotations from student responses and have not been edited in any way.

Question: If interested, please comment on the choices you selected in the above questions.

Selected Fall 2021 Responses:

- Both evergreens were very helpful and a great resource for me to use during my first semester.
- Having [faculty] as a teacher is my favorite part of my first semester here at Loyola. [Faculty] and [mentor] lead Messina wonderfully, and [Evergreen] has never failed to make students feel included and excited about campus.
- I really was able to form great relations with everyone in my Messina beyond just my advisor, evergreen, and mentor. The Messina classes really not only made me feel more connected with them but gave me a chance to get to know them more as just people and form relationships... My advisor and evergreen have been the most helpful and kindest people getting me comfortable and welcomed to campus. I've had a rough start and without them I would've been lost.
- I think I created a positive relationship with [Evergreens] because I was around them the most. Also, they are both students, so it makes it easier to have a real connection rather than one with a professor.
- [Evergreen], [mentor], and [faculty] were all super helpful! They were always available if I needed help or advice and were always good, positive people to be around. I am so glad to have had them as a part of my first semester here.

MESSINA THEME

Question: How did you experience your Messina theme this semester? (please check all that apply)

FALL 2021:

Area	(n=339)
Through conversations/activities during my weekly Messina enrichment session (Professor, Mentor, Evergreen)	232
Through conversations/activities during my Messina class (just with my Professor)	164
On my own with students from my Messina class	76
Through attendance at Messina theme events	124
Through conversations/activities during classes not connected to Messina	76
On my own with students not in my Messina class	45
I did not experience my Messina theme	30
Other	9

Students could select multiple items. The following is a breakdown of how many items students selected.

	All students (n=339)
Never experienced Messina theme	25 ¹⁰ 7.37%
6 items	9 2.65%
5 items	13 3.83%
4 items	33 9.73%
3 items	65 19.17%
2 items	84 24.78%
1 item	103 30.39%

COMMON TEXT QUESTIONS

Question: Please answer the following questions related to your Common Text, *Dear America*.

	Question	No	Yes	Mean
2021	I read <i>The Master Plan</i>. (n=339)	38	301	1.89
		11.21%	88.79%	
2020	I read <i>Dear America</i>. (n=452)	16	436	1.96
		3.54%	96.46%	
2019	I read <i>Heartland</i>. (n=307)	43	264	1.86
		14.01%	85.99%	
2018	I read <i>The Fire Next Time</i>. (n=348)	54	294	1.84
		15.52%	84.48%	
2017	I read <i>Just Mercy</i>. (n=328)	29	299	1.91
		8.84%	91.16%	
2016	I read <i>How to Win an Election</i>. (n=364)	27	337	1.93
		7.42%	92.58%	
2015	I read <i>Clybourne Park</i>. (n=348)	28	320	1.92
		8.05%	91.95%	
2014	I read <i>The Bluest Eye</i>. (n=277)	26	251	1.91
		9.39%	90.61%	

¹⁰ This number is 25, not 30 as displayed in the previous chart because five students selected this option along with other item(s). In this chart, those five student responses have been factored into the having selected between 1-6 items, and not also included in those students indicating never having experienced their Messina theme.

	Question	No	Yes	Mean
2021	<i>Master Plan</i> was a topic in my Messina class during the semester other than the discussion held during fall orientation. (n=339)	90	249	1.73
		26.55%	73.45%	
2020	<i>Dear America</i> was a topic in my Messina class during the semester other than the discussion held during fall orientation. (n=452)	46	406	1.90
		10.18%	89.82%	
2019	<i>Heartland</i> was a topic in my Messina class during the semester other than the discussion held during fall orientation. (n=307)	162	145	1.47
		52.77%	47.23%	
2018	<i>The Fire Next Time</i> was a topic in my Messina class during the semester other than the discussion held during fall orientation. (n=348)	173	175	1.50
		50%	50%	
2017	<i>Just Mercy</i> was a topic in my Messina class during the semester other than the discussion held during fall orientation. (n=328)	133	195	1.59
		40.55%	59.45%	
2016	<i>How to Win an Election</i> was a topic in my Messina class during the semester other than the discussion held during fall orientation. (n=353)	208	145	1.41
		58.92%	41.08%	
2015	<i>Clybourne Park</i> was a topic in my Messina class during the semester other than the discussion held during fall orientation. (n=348)	142	206	1.59
		40.80%	59.20%	
2014	<i>The Bluest Eye</i> was a topic in either my Messina or Loyola 101 class during the semester other than the class discussion held during fall orientation. (n=277)	123	154	1.56
		44.40%	55.60%	

Question: *Master Plan* contributed to my further understanding of the following areas: (please check all that apply)

Area (n=339)	Count
United States Criminal Justice System	252
Race/ Racial Identity	249
Discrimination	212
Civil Rights	195
Prejudice	192
Equality	182
Poverty	178
Social Activism	168
Mental Health	142
Capital Punishment	132
None	29
Other	4

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

INTENDED MAJOR AREA

Question: At this moment in time, which area best describes your future major choice

(n=339)	All students
Business	102 30.08%
Natural and Applied Sciences	72 21.23%
Social Sciences	68 20.06%
Undecided	33 9.73%
Humanities	33 9.73%
Interdisciplinary major	23 6.78%
Education	8 2.36%

Students saw the following descriptive text before responding to questions in this section:

This final set of questions is to collect demographic information. If you prefer not to answer one or more of these questions, please select "Prefer not to answer"

Question: I identify as... (please select all that apply)

Faith Background	(n=339)
Catholic	162
Christian, Non-Denominational, Protestant	55
Spiritual but not religious	31
Agnostic	28
Prefer not to answer	26
Atheist	20
Questioning	20
Not otherwise listed (if desired, please specify)	10
Baptist	6
Hindu	5
Jewish	3
Sikh	3
Muslim	2
Buddhist	1
Baha'i	0
Native American Spirituality	0
Rastafari	0
Unitarian Universalist	0

Question: I identify as... (please select all that apply)

Race/ Ethnicity	(n=339)
White, European, European American	249
Latinx, Latina/o, Hispanic	39
African, African American	32
Asian or Asian American	21
Black	12
Caribbean, Caribbean American	12
Biracial or multiracial	8
Prefer not to answer	8
Arab, Middle Eastern	2
Native American, Alaska Native, Indigenous, First Nations	1
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	1
Not otherwise listed (if desired, please specify)	0

Question: I identify as... (please select all that apply)

Gender	(n=339)
Woman	211
Man	119
Agender	4
Non-binary/ third gender	4
Gender Fluid or Genderqueer	3
I am currently questioning my gender identity	3
Prefer not to answer	3
Gender variant/ non-conforming	2
Trans Man	1
Trans Woman	1
Intersex	1
Not otherwise listed (if desired, please specify)	0

Question: I identify as... (please select all that apply)

Sexual Identity	(n=339)
Straight/ Heterosexual	261
Bisexual	29
Prefer not to answer	16
I am currently questioning my sexuality	14
Asexual	9
Pansexual	7
Queer	7
Gay	6
Lesbian	6
Fluid	3
Not otherwise listed (if desired, please specify)	2

While additional embedded data was included in the survey for further aggregate analysis, in some areas the self-disclosed data was utilized in creating these reports. The following areas from the Loyola demographic records were used: First-Generation, PELL eligible, and Messina Section. The following areas were gathered from self-identification: race and ethnicity, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Appendix 3 includes the breakdown of all demographic data descriptions and *n* used in this report.

Fall 2021 Mid-Year Student Survey

BLOCK 1: Fall 2021 Messina Student Survey Introduction

Q1.1 Participant Consent Form

I agree to participate in a study of all first-year students in Messina at Loyola being conducted by Mr. Michael Puma and Dr. Carolyn Barry of Loyola University Maryland under the following conditions:

- This survey will be used to assess my overall experience as a first-year student and in the specific context of my participation in Messina. Information collected will enable Messina and other offices to better support future first-year students.
- This survey will include questions related to the following topic areas:
 - My Connections to the Loyola Community
 - Messina Working Group Feedback
 - Vocation Questions
 - Factors that Contribute to Belonging at Loyola
 - Common Text Related Questions
 - Messina Theme
 - Demographic Identities
- I will receive no direct benefits by participating in this survey. There are no known risks from participating in this study.
- This is the second of three parts of surveys about my Messina experience over the 2021-2022 academic year. If I participated in the previous survey my responses will be able to be connected to the responses I would give if I choose to participate in part 2. Any information obtained in this Part 2 study will be recorded with a code number and my responses will not be linked to me as an individual. Additionally, all data collected in this study will be kept in a password protected file only accessible by the researchers. At the conclusion of this study, in June 2022, the separate key that relates my demographical information with my assigned code number will be destroyed. My responses will no longer be personally connected to my name.

Under these conditions, I agree that any information obtained from this research may be used in any way thought best for publication or education, provided that I am in no way personally identified.

I may withdraw from this study at any time.

- I understand I am free to withdraw my consent and discontinue participation in this study at any time. A decision to withdraw from the study will not affect the services available to me from Loyola or my participation in Messina.
- To withdraw from this survey at any time, I should close the internet browser.
- If I have any questions or problems that arise in connection with my participation in this study, I should contact Michael Puma, the project director at (410) 617-2190 (work) or at mpuma@loyola.edu.

Please select one of the following two options below.

Choice options: I have read the information above and **I AGREE** to participate in this survey. I am also 18 years of age or older; I am **DECLINING** to participate in this survey.

Q1.2 Thank you for participating in the Fall 2021 Mid-Year Student Survey administered by Messina. This survey is an opportunity to offer feedback and input on your first semester experience. The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete. If you begin to complete the survey but need to stop, you may re-access the survey at a later time by clicking

on the link from the original email. It will take you back to where you left off in the survey. Please be honest with your responses.

Some of the questions in this survey refer to your general first year experience- these questions are not specifically focused on your participation in Messina. However, when responding to questions that ask about your specific **Messina experience**, please remember that Messina refers to any of the following:

- Your Messina course (just taught by the faculty member)
- Your weekly Messina enrichment session (co-led by the faculty member, administrator, and/or Evergreen)
- Your Messina leadership (faculty member, administrator, and/or Evergreen)

This survey will include questions related to the following topic areas:

- Your Connections to the Loyola Community
- Messina Working Group Feedback
- Vocation Questions
- Factors that Contribute to Belonging at Loyola
- Common Text Related Questions
- Messina Theme
- Demographic Identities

BLOCK 2: Connections to Loyola Community Questions

Q2.1 The next set of five areas begin with a statement. For each statement, you will be asked to respond to three short multiple-choice questions. Please respond to these questions as they relate to your fall semester experience as a first-year student at Loyola. Following these five areas there will be an optional area to add open-ended comments. The five areas are:

- Felt that you had support in regard to becoming a member of the Loyola community
- Felt that you had support in regard to your academic coursework
- Felt that you belonged at Loyola
- Participated in college-sponsored events and activities (may include clubs, organizations, sports, service)
- Became familiar with Baltimore

Area 1: Felt that you had support in regard to becoming a member of the Loyola community

- During your fall semester experience, how often did you do or experience the following?
Choice Options: Never, Sometimes (1-2 times), Often (monthly), Very Often (weekly), Daily (Almost every day)
- Please indicate the amount of importance this area is for you.
Choice Options: Not At All Important, Somewhat Important, Very Important
- What level of influence did your participation in Messina have in relation to this area?
Choice Options: No Influence, Little Influence, Some Influence, Very Influential

Area 2: Felt that you had support in regard to your academic coursework

- During your fall semester experience, how often did you do or experience the following?
Choice Options: Never, Sometimes (1-2 times), Often (monthly), Very Often (weekly), Daily (Almost every day)
- Please indicate the amount of importance this area is for you.
Choice Options: Not At All Important, Somewhat Important, Very Important
- What level of influence did your participation in Messina have in relation to this area?
Choice Options: No Influence, Little Influence, Some Influence, Very Influential

Area 3: Felt that you belonged at Loyola

- During your fall semester experience, how often did you do or experience the following?
Choice Options: Never, Sometimes (1-2 times), Often (monthly), Very Often (weekly), Daily (Almost every day)
- Please indicate the amount of importance this area is for you.
Choice Options: Not At All Important, Somewhat Important, Very Important

- What level of influence did your participation in Messina have in relation to this area?
Choice Options: No Influence, Little Influence, Some Influence, Very Influential

Area 4: Participated in college-sponsored events and activities (may include clubs, organizations, sports, service)

- During your fall semester experience, how often did you do or experience the following?
Choice Options: Never, Sometimes (1-2 times), Often (monthly), Very Often (weekly), Daily (Almost every day)
- Please indicate the amount of importance this area is for you.
Choice Options: Not At All Important, Somewhat Important, Very Important
- What level of influence did your participation in Messina have in relation to this area?
Choice Options: No Influence, Little Influence, Some Influence, Very Influential

Area 5: Became familiar with Baltimore

- During your fall semester experience, how often did you do or experience the following?
Choice Options: Never, Sometimes (1-2 times), Often (monthly), Very Often (weekly), Daily (Almost every day)
- Please indicate the amount of importance this area is for you.
Choice Options: Not At All Important, Somewhat Important, Very Important
- What level of influence did your participation in Messina have in relation to this area?
Choice Options: No Influence, Little Influence, Some Influence, Very Influential

Q2.2 If desired, please comment on any responses you made about the previous five areas. As a reminder these five areas were the following: (open ended question)

- Felt that you had support in regard to becoming a member of the Loyola community
- Felt that you had support in regard to your academic coursework
- Felt that you belonged at Loyola
- Participated in college-sponsored events and activities (may include clubs, organizations, sports, service)
- Became familiar with Baltimore

BLOCK 3: Messina Working Group Feedback

Q4.1 The next questions are about the relationships between you and your Messina working group. A working group includes your fall Messina professor, your Mentor (the staff member or administrator who attends your enrichment sessions), and your Evergreen(s). You will also be able to provide comments after these three questions.

Your Working Group members were: (names will be pulled in from embedded data)

Messina Professor:

Messina Core Advisor:

Messina Mentor:

Messina Evergreen 1:

Messina Evergreen 2 (if applicable):

Q3.2 To what extent did your participation in Messina help you to establish a positive relationship with your **Messina Professor**?

Choice Options: Not At All, A Little, Somewhat, A Great Deal

Q3.3 To what extent did your participation in Messina help you to establish a positive relationship with your **Core Advisor**?

Choice Options: Not At All, A Little, Somewhat, A Great Deal

Q3.4 To what extent did your participation in Messina help you to establish a positive relationship with your **Messina Mentor**?

Choice Options: Not At All, A Little, Somewhat, A Great Deal

Q3.5 To what extent did your participation in Messina help you to establish a positive relationship with your **Messina Evergreen 1**? Choice Options: Not At All, A Little, Somewhat, A Great Deal

Q3.6 To what extent did your participation in Messina help you to establish a positive relationship with your **Messina Evergreen 2?** (*Displayed only to students with 2 Evergreens*) Choice Options: Not At All, A Little, Somewhat, A Great Deal

Q3.7 If interested, please comment on the choices you selected in the above questions about your Messina working group. (this is an open-ended question)

Q3.8 If interested, please use this space to add any other positive or constructive feedback about your Messina experience this semester. Messina experience refers to all or any of the following:

- Your Messina course (just taught by the faculty member)
- Your weekly Messina enrichment session (co-facilitated by the faculty member, administrator, and/or Evergreen)
- Your Messina leadership (faculty member, administrator, and/or Evergreen)

BLOCK 4: Vocation: Belief Calling Questions

Q4.1 Broadly speaking, a “calling” refers to a person’s belief that she or he is called upon (by the needs of society, by a person’s own inner potential, by God, by a Higher Power, etc.) to do a particular kind of work. The following questions assess the degree to which you see this concept as relevant to your own life and career. Please respond honestly, not according to what is socially desirable or what you feel you “ought” to think. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following statements currently describe you, using the following scale.

Q4.2 I have a calling to a particular kind of work.

Choice Options: Not at all true of me, Mildly true of me, Moderately true of me, Mostly true of me, Totally true of me

Q4.3 I have a good understanding of my calling as it applies to my career aspirations.

Choice Options: Not at all true of me, Mildly true of me, Moderately true of me, Mostly true of me, Totally true of me

Q4.4 I am trying to figure out my calling in my career aspirations.

Choice Options: Not at all true of me, Mildly true of me, Moderately true of me, Mostly true of me, Totally true of me

Q4.5 I am searching for my calling in my career aspirations.

Choice Options: Not at all true of me, Mildly true of me, Moderately true of me, Mostly true of me, Totally true of me

BLOCK 5: Sense of Belonging Question Follow Up

(Displayed only if the answer to Area 3: Felt that you belonged at Loyola were: sometimes, often, or very often)

Q5.1 In the question above about the area titled "Felt that you belonged at Loyola," you selected one of the following choices: *sometimes, often, or very often*. To the best of your recollection, when was the approximate time that you felt you **began** to belong at Loyola?

Choice Options: Early September (Welcome Weekend and the first week of school), Mid September (the second to third week of the semester), Late September (around the time of family weekend), Early October (before or during mid-terms), Mid October (around the time of mid-semester break), Late October (around the time of Halloween), Early November (after Halloween), Mid November (before Thanksgiving Break), Late November (immediately before and after Thanksgiving Break), Early December (the last week of classes), Mid December (around the time of finals)

Q5.2 Which of the following reasons contributed to your sense of belonging at Loyola during the fall semester? Choice Options: No, Yes

- Connection with a Loyola faculty member (non-Messina)
- Connection with a Loyola staff member or administrator (non-Messina)
- Friendship(s) with a peer(s) at Loyola
- Getting involved in a Loyola sponsored club, organization, team, or activity
- Connection with my Messina Evergreen(s)
- Connection with my Resident Assistant(s)
- Connection with my Messina classmates
- Connection with my Messina Faculty Member
- Connection with my Messina Administrator
- Connection with my Core Advisor
- Employment at Loyola (work study or direct hire)

- Feeling no or little financial burden(s)
- My housing situation (could be in reference to living at home or living in the residence halls)

Q5.3 In the question above about feeling that you belonged at Loyola you indicated *never* experiencing that feeling. If you have not already done so, please consider talking to any of the following people/offices about this as they may be able to help guide you to resources to help develop a sense of belonging during your spring semester. We want all students to feel a sense of belonging at Loyola! Clicking on any of the links below will open the website of that resource in a separate window.

[Loyola Counseling Center](#)

[Messina Professional Staff](#)

Q5.4 Which of the following things may have contributed to you feeling a sense of belonging at Loyola during your first semester? Additionally, please also indicate if you tried one of these things in the fall semester. (Displayed only if response to Area 3: Felt that you belonged at Loyola was never)

Choice Options: Would have helped me NO, Would have helped me YES, I tried this but it did not help (if this doesn't apply to you, please leave it empty)

- Connection with a Loyola faculty member (non-Messina)
- Connection with a Loyola staff member or administrator (non-Messina)
- Friendship(s) with a peer(s) at Loyola
- Getting involved in a Loyola sponsored club, organization, team, or activity
- Connection with my Messina Evergreen(s)
- Connection with my Resident Assistant(s)
- Connecting with my Messina classmates
- Connection with my Messina Faculty Member
- Connection with my Messina administrator
- Connection with my Core Advisor
- Employment at Loyola (work study or direct hire)
- Feeling no or little financial burden(s)
- My housing situation (could be in reference to living at home or living in the residence halls)

BLOCK 6: Common Text

Q6.1 Please respond to the following questions related to your Common Text, *The Master Plan*.

Choice Options: NO, YES

- I read *The Master Plan*.
- *The Master Plan* was a topic in my Messina class and/or enrichment session during the fall semester other than the discussion held during fall welcome weekend.

Q6.2 *The Master Plan* contributed to my further understanding of the following areas. (please check all that apply)

Choice Options: NONE, Race/ Racial Identity, Prejudice, Discrimination, United States Criminal Justice System, Capital Punishment, Civil Rights, Social Activism, Poverty, Equality, Mental Health, Other (please briefly specify)

Q6.3 If interested, please use this space to add any other positive or constructive feedback about the Common Text, *The Master Plan*. (Open Ended Question)

BLOCK 7: Messina Theme

7.1 Your Messina theme this semester was (piped text choice). How did you experience your Messina theme this semester? (please check all that apply) Choice Options:

- Through conversations/activities during my Messina class (just with my Professor)
- Through conversations/activities during my weekly Messina enrichment session (Professor, Mentor, Evergreen)
- Through conversations/activities during classes not connected to Messina
- Through attendance at Messina theme events
- On my own with students from my Messina class
- On my own with students not in my Messina class
- I did not experience my Messina theme
- Other (please specify)

BLOCK 98: Demographic Questions

Q8.1 This final set of questions is to collect demographic information. We ask these questions to have a better understanding of who is represented in these survey responses. If you prefer not to answer one or more of these questions, please select "**Prefer not to answer**"

Q8.2 Spiritual/ Faith Identity

I identify as... (please select all that apply)

Choice Options:

- Agnostic, Atheist, Baha'i, Baptist, Buddhist, Catholic, Christian, Non-Denominational, Protestant, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Native American Spirituality, Not otherwise listed (if desired, please specify), Questioning, Rastafari, Sikh, Spiritual but not religious, Unitarian Universalist, Prefer not to answer

Q8.3 Race/ Ethnic Identity

I identify as... (please select all that apply)

Choice Options:

- African/ African American, Biracial or multiracial, Native American/ Alaska Native/ Indigenous/ First Nations, Arab/ Middle Eastern, Asian/ Asian American, Black, Caribbean/ Caribbean American, Latinx/ Latina/o or Hispanic, Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander, Not otherwise listed (if desired, please specify), White/ European/ European American, Prefer not to answer

Q8.4 Gender Identity

I identify as... (please select all that apply)

Choice Options:

- Agender, Gender Fluid or Genderqueer, Gender variant/non-conforming, Intersex, I am currently questioning my gender identity, Man, Non-binary/ third gender, Trans Man, Trans Woman, Woman, Not otherwise listed (if desired, please specify), Prefer not to answer

Q8.5 Sexual Identity

I identify as... (please select all that apply)

Choice Options:

- Asexual, Bisexual, Fluid, Gay, I am currently questioning my sexuality, Lesbian, Pansexual, Queer, Straight/ Heterosexual, Not otherwise listed (if desired, please specify), Prefer not to answer

Q8.6 At this moment in time, which area best describes your future major choice? If you are still undecided, that is totally fine! There is an option for that below.

Choice Options:

- Undecided
- Business- includes Accounting, Economics, Finance, International Business, Information Systems, Management, Marketing, Sustainability Management
- Elementary Education
- Humanities- includes Classics, Communications, English, Fine Arts, Global Studies, History, Modern Languages and Literatures, Philosophy, Writing
- Natural and Applied Sciences- includes Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Data Science, Forensic Studies
- Social Sciences- includes Global Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Speech-Language Hearing Sciences
- Yes, I would have used support or resources if they were offered

As a result of participating in *Messina*, first-year students will...

Jesuit Mission and Values

- Develop habits of discernment and reflection in the Ignatian tradition.
- Explore and articulate the values and principles involved in their personal decision-making.

Critical Understanding

- Develop habits of reading, writing and intellectual conversation that support academic excellence and engagement.
- Demonstrate increased knowledge and use of campus resources that aid critical thinking.

Connections to Loyola Community

- Establish healthy, mutually beneficial and respectful relationships with others including faculty, administrators, staff and peers.
- Demonstrate a sense of belonging to the community at Loyola University both in and out of the classroom.

Integrated Learning

- Integrate multiple sources of knowledge gained through various disciplinary lenses, texts, instruction, out of class experiences and personal reflection to offer a perspective on the interdisciplinary theme of the community.

APPENDIX 3: DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS

While additional embedded data was included in the survey for further aggregate analysis, in some areas the self-disclosed data was utilized in creating these reports. The following areas from the Loyola demographic records were used: First-Generation, PELL eligible, and Messina Section. The following areas were gathered from self-identification: race and ethnicity, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Below is the breakdown of all demographic data descriptions and *n* used in this report.

Category	<i>n</i> =	How Category Was Established
All Responses	339	This represents all students that responded to the final question of the survey. Any student who partially completed the survey was considered void in this dataset.
LGBTQ+ (Non-Heterosexual in spreadsheet)	78	This represents any student that did not select heterosexual to the question related to Sexual Identity. This represents students who chose any of the following options: Bisexual, Lesbian, Asexual, Pansexual, Queer, Gay, Fluid, I am currently questioning my sexuality, or Prefer not to answer. If a student selected Heterosexual along with another selection, they were counted as LGBTQ+.
Heterosexual	261	This represents any student that selected heterosexual to the question related to Sexual Identity.
Non-Catholic/ Non-Christian	123	This represents any student that did not select Catholic or Christian, Non-Denominational, Protestant to the question related to Faith Identity. This represents students who chose any of the following options: Agnostic, Prefer not to answer, Atheist, Not otherwise listed, Questioning, Spiritual but not religious, Buddhist, Baptist, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Rastafari, or Sikh.
Catholic/ Christian	216	This represents any student that selected Catholic or Christian, Non-Denominational, Protestant to the question related to faith identity.
First Gen	61	This was not asked as a demographical question but instead included as embedded data in the contact list for this survey and would have been provided from Loyola student records. This represents First-Generation students.
Non-First Gen	278	This was not asked as a demographical question but instead included as embedded data in the contact list for this survey and would have been provided from Loyola student records. This represents Non- First-Generation students.
PELL	64	This was not asked as a demographical question but instead included as embedded data in the contact list for this survey and would have been provided from Loyola student records. This represents PELL eligible students.
White	249	This represents any student that selected White/ European/ European American to the question related to Race/Ethnic Identity.
LatinX	39	This represents any student that selected Latinx/ Latina/o or Hispanic to the question related to Race/Ethnic Identity.
Asian	21	This represents any student that selected Asian/ Asian American to the question related to Race/Ethnic Identity.
Black or African American	37	This represents any student that selected Black or African/ African American to the question related to Race/Ethnic Identity.
Biracial/ Multiracial	8	This represents any student that selected Biracial or multiracial to the question related to Race/Ethnic Identity. Responses that may include this selection are also counted in other populations.
Other race	16	This represents any student that selected one of the following to the question related to Race/Ethnic Identity: Native American/ Alaska Native/ Indigenous/ First Nations, Arab/ Middle Eastern, Caribbean/ Caribbean American, Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander, Not otherwise listed (if desired, please specify). This does not include any student that selected Prefer not to answer.
Male-identifying	119	This represents any student that selected Man or trans-man to the question related to Gender Identity
Female -identifying	211	This represents any student that selected Woman or trans-woman to the question related to Gender Identity
Other Gender Identity	10	This represents any student that did not select man, trans-man, woman, or trans-woman to the question related to Gender Identity. This includes: Agender, Gender Fluid or Genderqueer, Gender variant/non-conforming, Intersex, I am currently questioning my gender identity, Non-binary/ third gender, Not otherwise listed (if desired, please specify). This does not include any student that selected Prefer not to answer