



Cornell Seniors' Participation in Engaged Learning: Results from the 2018 Senior Survey

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Prepared by Marne Einarson, Institutional Research & Planning

Every two years, Cornell asks graduating seniors to participate in the Senior Survey. Since 2012, the survey has asked seniors whether they participated in various forms of engaged learning during their time at Cornell including research, internship, service, and international experiences. This report shows trend data on engaged learning participation for survey respondents as a whole, and breakouts by seniors' gender identity, race/ethnicity, first generation status, financial aid receipt, and undergraduate college for 2018 results.

Response rates on the Senior Survey have ranged from 46% to 44% over this time period. We caution that we do not know whether engaged learning participation among seniors who chose not to complete these surveys differs significantly from that of survey respondents. Further, Cornell alternates between conducting a local "Cornell" version of the Senior Survey and a common "COFHE" survey instrument used by peer institutions. The wording of engaged learning items varies between these instruments (see comparison on last page). Both versions produce comparable participation rates for most forms of engaged learning, but item wording differences appear to account for observed declines in participation in service activities.

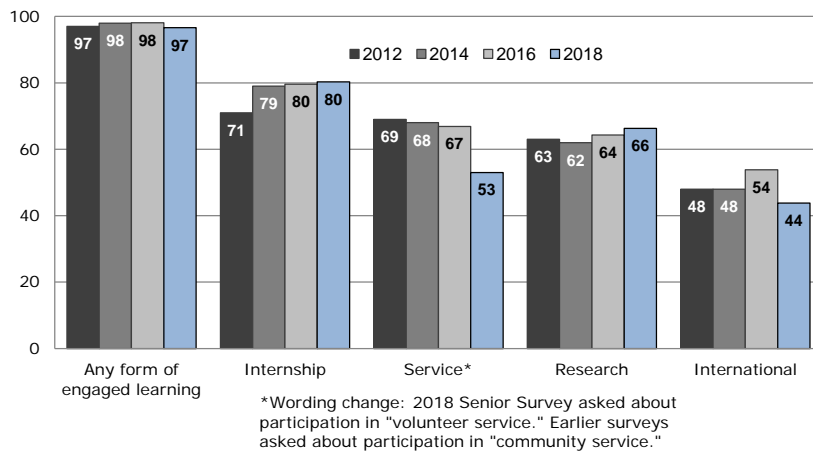
The main takeaways concerning seniors' participation in engaged learning are:

- The vast majority of Cornell seniors have participated in some form of engaged learning (e.g., 97% in 2018). This rate of engagement has been quite consistent since 2012.
- The percentage of seniors participating in internships in the U.S. and in a research experience (particularly in something "other" than research with faculty) has inched up over this time period.
- Conversely, seniors' participation in some form of international experience has declined in the most recent survey; this decline is evident across all forms of international experiences included in the survey.
- While the percentage of Class of 2018 seniors who reported participating in service experiences is substantively lower than that reported by earlier classes (i.e. 53% in 2018 versus 67% in 2016), this drop appears to stem from differences in item wording across survey years.
- Participation in engaged learning varies significantly across the undergraduate colleges and, less consistently, by seniors' demographic characteristics.

Future analyses will use regression methods to better understand the factors associated with higher or lower rates of engaged learning participation, and to examine the connections between various forms of engaged learning and student outcomes.

Cornell seniors' participation in engaged learning: Results from the 2018 Senior Survey

Fig 1. Percent of Cornell seniors reporting an engaged learning experience as an undergraduate, by Senior Survey year



Any form of engaged learning = any internship + any service + any research + any international experience

Any internship = internship in U.S. + internship abroad

Any service = volunteer or community service in the U.S. + volunteer or community service abroad

Any research = research with faculty + international research + other research

Any international = study abroad + internship abroad + international service + research abroad + other international experience

Table 1. Cornell seniors' participation in engaged learning, 2018 Senior Survey

Row %s within ...	N	Any form	Internship	Service	Research	International
		%	%	%	%	%
All Cornell seniors	1393	97%	80%	53%	66%	44%
Seniors, by sex		*	*	**	*	**
Man	536	96%	80%	42%	62%	37%
Woman	833	97%	81%	61%	69%	49%
Another gender identity	24	88%	63%	38%	63%	29%
Seniors, by race		*		**		**
Asian (U.S.)	299	99%	83%	60%	69%	37%
Black (U.S.)	62	92%	68%	67%	65%	43%
Hispanic (U.S.)	151	97%	79%	59%	65%	48%
White (U.S.)	685	96%	80%	48%	66%	42%
Multiracial URM (U.S.)	36	92%	83%	64%	47%	31%
Multiracial Non-URM (U.S.)	45	100%	82%	53%	78%	36%
International	112	96%	81%	45%	67%	75%
Seniors, by first generation						
Not first generation	1194	97%	81%	53%	66%	44%
First generation	199	96%	76%	53%	68%	43%
Seniors, by financial aid			**			**
No need-based aid	670	98%	85%	53%	66%	48%
Aided, not Pell	494	96%	77%	52%	66%	39%
Pell grant aid	229	94%	74%	55%	67%	42%
Seniors, by college			**	**	**	**
Agriculture & Life Sciences	303	96%	76%	58%	79%	46%
Architecture, Art, & Planning	35	97%	83%	46%	66%	80%
Arts & Sciences	385	97%	74%	54%	68%	48%
Dyson	55	98%	98%	58%	41%	69%
Engineering	310	96%	85%	43%	63%	24%
Hotel Administration	68	100%	97%	47%	37%	57%
Human Ecology	132	96%	72%	66%	81%	42%
Industrial & Labor Relations	105	96%	93%	55%	48%	50%

** p < .01, * p < .05 (based on chi-square)

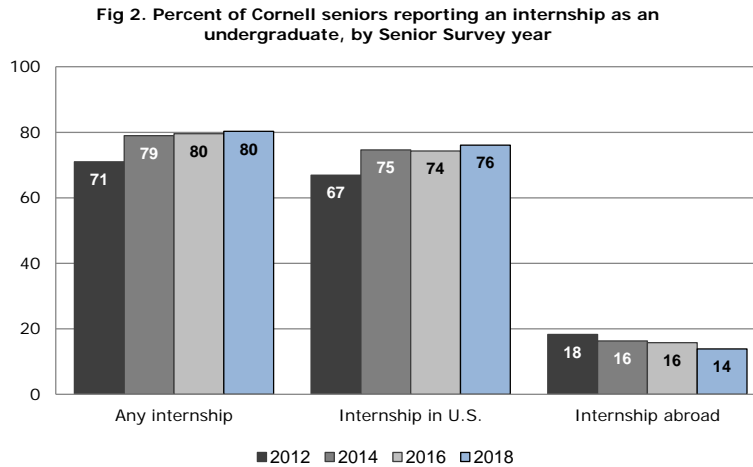
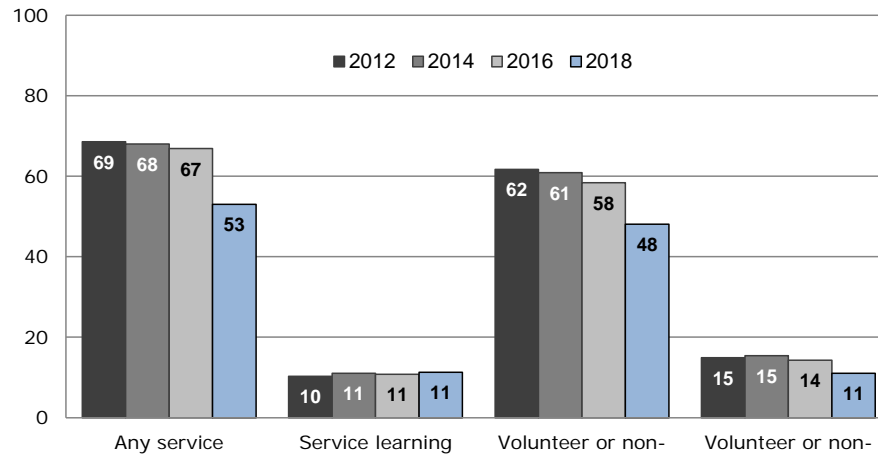


Table 2. Cornell seniors' participation in internships, 2018 Senior Survey

Row %s within ...	N	Any internship %	Internship in U.S. %	Internship abroad %
All Cornell seniors	1390	80%	76%	14%
Seniors, by sex				
Men	535	80%	76%	14%
Women	831	81%	77%	14%
Another gender identity	24	63%	58%	13%
Seniors, by race				
Asian (U.S.)	298	83%	80%	13%
Black (U.S.)	62	68%	60%	12%
Hispanic (U.S.)	151	79%	77%	13%
White (U.S.)	682	80%	79%	8%
Multiracial URM (U.S.)	36	83%	83%	8%
Multiracial Non-URM (U.S.)	45	82%	73%	16%
International	112	81%	57%	55%
Seniors, by first generation				
Not first generation	1193	81%	77%	14%
First generation	197	76%	71%	16%
Seniors, by financial aid				
No need-based aid	669	85%	80%	16%
Aided, not Pell	494	77%	73%	11%
Pell grant aid	227	74%	71%	12%
Seniors, by college				
Agriculture & Life Sciences	301	76%	71%	13%
Architecture, Art, & Planning	35	83%	74%	38%
Arts & Sciences	384	74%	69%	17%
Dyson	55	98%	91%	29%
Engineering	310	85%	82%	7%
Hotel	68	97%	90%	24%
Human Ecology	132	72%	69%	12%
Industrial & Labor Relations	105	93%	93%	7%

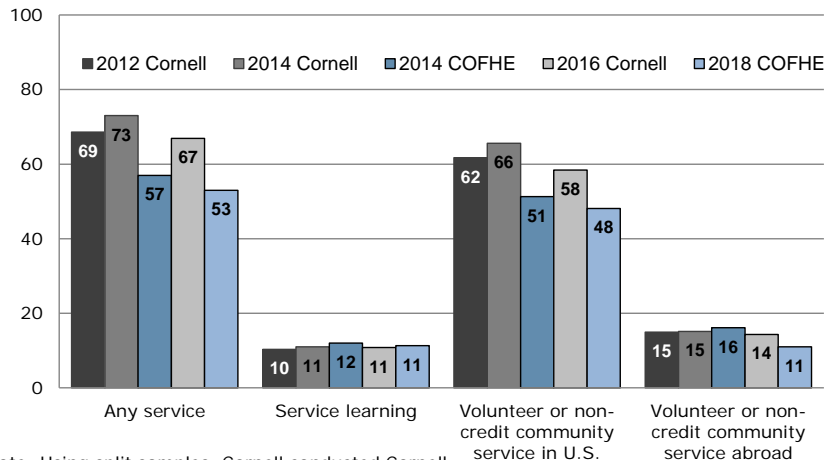
** p<.01, * p<.05 (based on chi-square)

Fig 3a. Percent of Cornell seniors reporting a service experience* as an undergraduate, by Senior Survey year



*Wording of survey items concerning "service" varies across survey years.

Fig 3b. Percent of Cornell seniors reporting a service experience as an undergraduate, by Senior Survey year and version



Note: Using split samples, Cornell conducted Cornell and COFHE versions of the Senior Survey in 2014.

The largest difference in measures of service experiences between the Cornell and COFHE versions of the Senior Survey concerns service that was done on a voluntary basis, without being required academically. Cornell Senior Surveys conducted in 2012, 2014 and 2016 use these definitions: participation in “community service in the U.S.” and “community service outside the U.S.” that was “not for academic credit or to fulfill a requirement.” The COFHE Senior Surveys conducted in 2014 and 2018 use these definitions: “volunteer service in the U.S.” and “volunteer service abroad.” It is clear from comparing results from the Cornell and COFHE surveys conducted in 2014 that the Cornell term *community service* captures a broader range of voluntary service experiences within the U.S. than does the COFHE term *volunteer service*. Figure 3b also demonstrates that the declines in “any service” participation, particularly *volunteer or non-credit community service*, seen in the 2014 and 2018 COFHE survey results appear to be an artifact of survey wording variations rather than a reflection of true differences in service engagement.

Table 3. Cornell seniors' participation in service experiences, 2018 Senior Survey

Row %s within ...	N	Any service		Service learning	Volunteer service in U.S.	Volunteer service abroad
		%	%	%	%	%
All Cornell seniors	1382	53%	11%	48%	11%	
Seniors, by sex		**	**	**		
Men	531	42%	7%	38%	9%	
Women	827	61%	14%	55%	12%	
Another gender identity	24	38%	8%	29%	8%	
Seniors, by race		**	*	**		
Asian (U.S.)	295	60%	10%	58%	10%	
Black (U.S.)	61	67%	21%	62%	21%	
Hispanic (U.S.)	150	59%	15%	54%	16%	
White (U.S.)	683	48%	10%	43%	8%	
Multiracial URM (U.S.)	36	64%	14%	61%	3%	
Multiracial Non-URM (U.S.)	45	53%	4%	49%	9%	
International	110	45%	16%	32%	24%	
Seniors, by first generation						
Not first generation	1185	53%	11%	48%	11%	
First generation	197	53%	13%	48%	12%	
Seniors, by financial aid						
No need-based aid	665	53%	11%	48%	11%	
Aided, not Pell	492	52%	10%	47%	9%	
Pell grant aid	225	55%	15%	51%	16%	
Seniors, by college		**	**	**		
Agriculture & Life Sciences	302	58%	13%	52%	15%	
Architecture, Art, & Planning	35	46%	14%	34%	17%	
Arts & Sciences	382	54%	13%	48%	12%	
Dyson	55	58%	7%	55%	11%	
Engineering	306	43%	5%	41%	4%	
Hotel	68	47%	15%	40%	16%	
Human Ecology	129	66%	16%	62%	13%	
Industrial & Labor Relations	105	55%	13%	49%	12%	

** p<.01, * p<.05 (based on chi-square)

Fig 4. Percent of Cornell seniors reporting a research experience as an undergraduate, by Senior Survey year

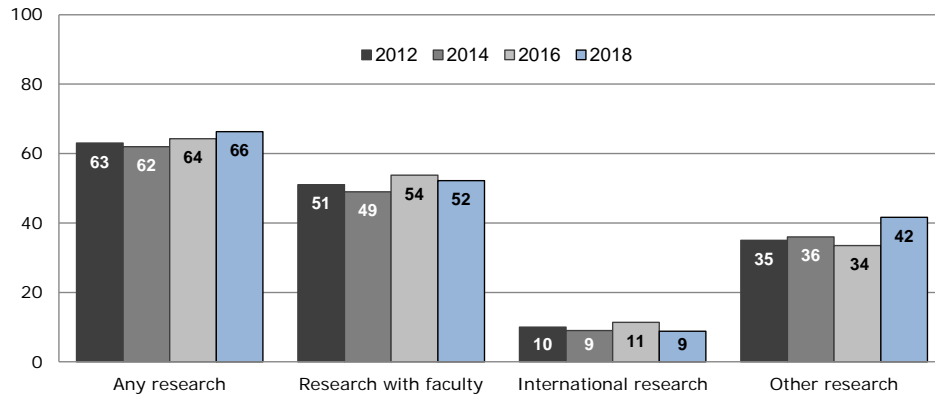


Table 4. Cornell seniors' participation in research experiences, 2018 Senior Survey

Row %s within ...	N	Any research	Research with faculty	International research	Other research
		%	%	%	%
All Cornell seniors	1390	66%	52%	9%	42%
Seniors, by sex		*			
Men	535	62%	50%	8%	41%
Women	831	69%	54%	9%	42%
Another gender identity	24	63%	50%	13%	38%
Seniors, by race			**	**	
Asian (U.S.)	298	69%	56%	6%	45%
Black (U.S.)	62	65%	53%	8%	43%
Hispanic (U.S.)	150	65%	49%	13%	48%
White (U.S.)	685	66%	50%	8%	40%
Multiracial URM (U.S.)	36	47%	28%	6%	39%
Multiracial Non-URM (U.S.)	45	78%	71%	9%	44%
International	111	67%	56%	19%	37%
Seniors, by first generation					
Not first generation	1191	66%	52%	9%	41%
First generation	199	68%	51%	7%	46%
Seniors, by financial aid					
No need-based aid	668	66%	52%	8%	41%
Aided, not Pell	495	66%	53%	9%	41%
Pell grant aid	227	67%	52%	11%	44%
Seniors, by college		**	**	**	**
Agriculture & Life Sciences	303	79%	66%	15%	49%
Architecture, Art, & Planning	35	66%	54%	23%	29%
Arts & Sciences	383	68%	54%	11%	46%
Dyson	54	41%	24%	4%	24%
Engineering	310	63%	48%	3%	37%
Hotel	68	37%	25%	3%	19%
Human Ecology	132	81%	68%	9%	51%
Industrial & Labor Relations	105	48%	30%	4%	33%

** p<.01, * p<.05 (based on chi-square)

Fig 5. Percent of Cornell seniors reporting an international experience as an undergraduate, by Senior Survey year

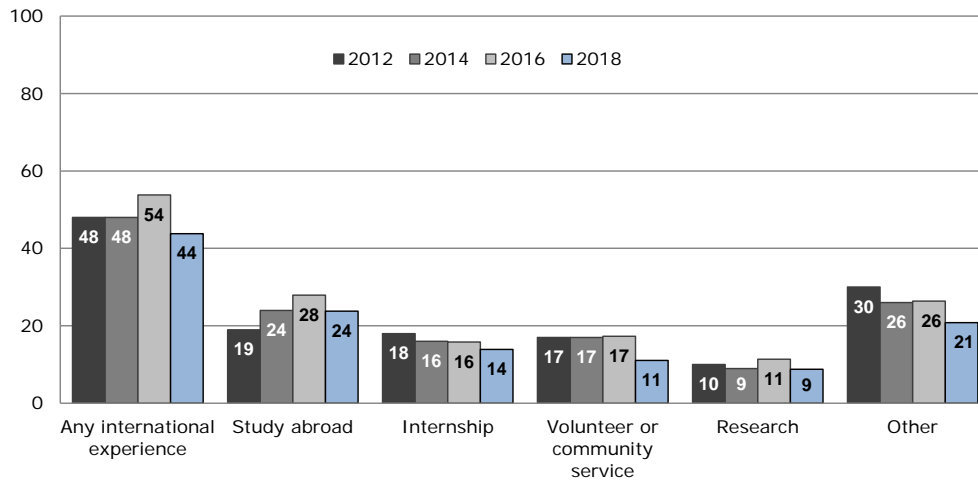


Table 5. Cornell seniors' participation in international experiences, 2018 Senior Survey

Row %s within ...	N	Any international experience	Study abroad	Internship	Volunteer service	Research experience	Other international experience
		%	%	%	%	%	%
All Cornell seniors	1380	44%	24%	14%	11%	9%	21%
Seniors, by sex		**	**				
Men	531	37%	17%	14%	9%	8%	20%
Women	825	49%	28%	14%	12%	9%	22%
Another gender identity	24	29%	25%	13%	8%	13%	13%
Seniors, by race		**		**	**	**	**
Asian (U.S.)	297	37%	20%	13%	10%	6%	15%
Black (U.S.)	61	43%	20%	12%	21%	8%	16%
Hispanic (U.S.)	151	48%	28%	13%	16%	13%	24%
White (U.S.)	678	42%	25%	8%	8%	8%	19%
Multiracial URM (U.S.)	36	31%	25%	8%	3%	6%	14%
Other (U.S.)	44	36%	23%	16%	9%	9%	16%
International	110	75%	24%	55%	24%	19%	50%
Seniors, by first generation							
Not first generation	1184	44%	24%	14%	11%	9%	20%
First generation	196	43%	21%	16%	12%	7%	24%
Seniors, by financial aid		**		*	*		*
No need-based aid	663	48%	26%	16%	11%	8%	24%
Aided, not Pell	490	39%	21%	11%	9%	9%	17%
Pell grant aid	227	42%	24%	12%	16%	11%	20%
Seniors, by college		**	**	**	**	**	**
Agriculture & Life Sciences	302	46%	22%	13%	15%	15%	27%
Architecture, Art, & Planning	35	80%	74%	38%	17%	23%	40%
Arts & Sciences	381	48%	29%	17%	12%	11%	22%
Dyson	54	69%	36%	29%	11%	4%	20%
Engineering	307	24%	8%	7%	4%	3%	12%
Hotel	67	57%	30%	24%	16%	3%	29%
Human Ecology	130	42%	21%	12%	13%	9%	20%
Industrial & Labor Relations	104	50%	33%	7%	12%	4%	15%

** p<.01, * p<.05 (based on chi-square)

Cornell seniors' participation in engaged learning: Results from the 2018 Senior Survey

Senior Survey Engaged Learning Measures: Comparing Cornell and COFHE versions

	Cornell version	COFHE version
Research with a faculty member	Same item wording	Same item wording
Other research experiences	Same item wording	Same item wording
Community-based U.S. research	Was any of this (research with faculty/other research) community based? Yes/No	Not asked
International research	Research experience outside the U.S.	Research experience outside the U.S.
Community-based international research	Was this international research community based? Yes/No	Not asked
Study abroad	Study abroad or international exchange	Study-abroad program
Internship in the U.S.	Same item wording	Same item wording
Internship abroad	Same item wording	Same item wording
Course-based or service learning	Community service in U.S. "For credit" Community service outside U.S. "For credit"	Service learning course
Non-curricular service	Community service in U.S. "Not for credit" Community service outside U.S. "Not for credit"	Volunteer service in the U.S. Volunteer service abroad
Other international experience	Same item wording	Same item wording

Note: With the exception of community-based research questions, all Cornell survey measures asked students to report separately on engagement done "for academic credit or to fulfill a requirement" and those done "not for academic credit or to fulfill a requirement." The COFHE survey does not make this distinction in credit/non-credit engagement.