U. Miami Undergraduate Survey: Humanities Activities

Alexandria Morgan, Ruth Trego

In this report, we analyze three questions (QU37, QU38, QU40) which asked undergraduates about their humanities-related activities.

I: Visualizations and Statistics

QU37: Apart from your major, how often do you take part in any extracurricular activities, attend any events, or have any hobbies that might fall under the umbrella of the humanities or the arts (going to plays, reading, playing the trombone, etc)?

Total Respondents: 240 out of 312

Often: 37%
Sometimes: 31%
Never: 9%
No answer: 23%

Fig. 1: QU37 results
QU38: How important do you consider the humanities to be in your life (either as an academic field or as individual subjects, like literature, history, etc)?

Total Respondents: 240 out of 312

- Very Important: 33%
- Somewhat important: 36%
- Not important: 7%
- No answer: 23%

QU40 - Would you advise a friend to take part in extracurricular clubs or hobbies oriented around the humanities?

Total Respondents: 240 out of 312

- Yes: 57%
- No: 2%
- Depends: 18%
- No answer: 23%
II: Observations

The findings in this category are not particularly surprising; given that the questions provide examples which show respondents the broad scope of activities that may fall under the “humanities” umbrella, it makes sense that only very small minorities responded that they “never” take part in humanities activities, that the humanities are “not important” in their lives, and that they would not recommend humanities activities to a friend. Significantly, the response chosen the most often in this clump of questions was the answer “yes” to QU40, which asked participants whether they would recommend humanities activities to a friend. For an answer to have such a high percentage (57%), many students who responded that they themselves only “sometimes” take part in humanities activities or consider the humanities only “somewhat important” to them would have had to respond “yes” to QU40, indicating that even people with a more passive, inconsistent interaction with the humanities find them valuable.