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# Student Attitudes Toward Sex Offender Policies and Laws in an Era of High Profile Sex Crimes in the News

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STUDENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEX OFFENDER POLICIES AND LAWS IN  
AN ERA OF HIGH PROFILE SEX CRIMES IN THE NEWS

A Capstone Project Presented in Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree Bachelor of Criminology  
with Honors College Graduate Distinction at  
Western Kentucky Univeristy

By

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\*\*\*\*\*

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This thesis is dedicated to my supportive family who have supported and encouraged me over the years, the wonderful professors in the sociology department who have inspired me to continue further with my education, and to myself for seeing this project out until the very end. Also, this is to my close friends who have familiarity in this area and helped inspire my topic question.

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## ABSTRACT

This is a study looking at the attitudes that undergraduate college students taking introductory sociology and criminology courses have toward sex offender policies and laws such as community notification, residence restrictions, and the registry system. Voluntary participants were also asked to look at the appropriateness of the punishment given to perpetrators in case studies based off real cases. Results showed that there are potential gender differences in the attitudes about appropriateness of notification and the registration of sex offenders. There were less favorable attitudes toward chemical and surgical castration. Further research should be done to look at different types of sex offenders and with a sample of students in other areas of the country.

*Keywords:* Sex Offenders, Attitudes, Sex Offender Policies, College Students

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## INTRODUCTION

### Sex Crimes

Since the 1930s in the United States, there have been only a few states that had sex offender registration and notification (SORN) laws that are commonly known as “Megan’s Law” (Easterly, 2015). Between 1990 and 1996, states started to act on some version of registering sexual offenders into a database and notifying the community about their living situation or whereabouts (Easterly, 2015; Wiersma & Siedschlaw, 2016). Jenkins (1998) relates sexual offending stories and subsequent legislation have received in increasing attention in the media when a thirty-one percent increase rose of the term “sex offender” in published articles of *The Press of Atlantic City* after Megan Kanka’s death (as cited in Easterly, 2015).

There is little literature on studying perceptions of sex offenders or their restrictions. In a study by Tewksbury and Mustaine (2012), “the views expressed by members of state parole boards show only limited support for the use of sex offender registration, and accompanying community notification and residential restrictions policies” (p. 427). If parole boards who look at the cases to determine whether a sex offender can be paroled believe that there is limited support for the policies in place, there is a question about how other groups of people view these same restrictions. In a national study, Harris and Cudmore (2018) found that forty-five percent of the sample had accessed the sex offender registry once or twice for simple curiosity but not for a general purpose. The frequent users tended to have lower feelings of safety and felt the need to report the information found with family and friends.

In a study by Garland, Calfano, and Wodahl (2018), perceptions were analyzed on notification about sex offenders on campus. They surveyed males and females who were living on and off campus. In their results, each category of students stated that over any other type of person that could be on campus, they wanted to be notified about instructors and professors who

are sex offenders foremost. The following people in level of importance were sex offenders working on campus in a non-instructional capacity and sex offenders living near campus. Garland et al. (2018) also found that from that portion of the study, “females significantly reported the notification of each type of person as more significant than males regardless of whether they lived on or off campus” (p. 248). It was also found statistically significant that on-campus females reported more significance to notification than off-campus females. For the next part of the study, results indicated that for four out of the six notification methods, females ranked greater importance than males to notification through campuswide email, emergency alert system, university website, and posting in a campus security office. For both male and females, electronic access of notification was more significant than newspaper notification. Kohut, Doherty, Dimock, and Keeter (2012) report that younger adults prefer electronic media platforms over newsprint in terms of staying informed (as cited in Garland et al., 2018, p. 253). Finally, on- and off campus females indicated greater agreement than on- and off campus males that a sex offender’s status should be shown through the sex offender’s picture, vehicle description, offense type, and major.

Inspiration for this study comes from the Wiersma and Siedschlaw’s (2016) examination of student attitudes towards sex offender policies and laws. Although the sample size was small (101 students), their question format was replicated in this study. Wiersma and Siedschlaw (2016) looked at residence restrictions, maximum penalties, chemical or surgical castration, the death penalty, access to the state-run sex offender registry, and computer use restriction. Results showed that students had harsh attitudes (answering frequently or always) towards where a sex offender lives, registering with local law enforcement, and receiving the maximum sentence allowed by law. On the contrary, results also showed sex offenders should be required to receive

treatment. Over one-third believed that an electronic monitoring device should be required for a sex offender. Three-fourths of the students believed that their names should always or frequently be released to the public. Eighty-nine percent of the students believed that the death penalty for repeat sex offenders was justifiable. In contrast, 46.53% and 42.57% of the students believed sex offenders should never be subject to surgical or chemical castration, respectively.

### **The Current Culture**

In recent news media, celebrity cases sparked the #Me-Too movement where women are sharing their stories of sexual harassment and abuse on social media, at rallies, and in court rooms. The most recent is Bill Cosby's conviction and sentence of three to ten years in a Pennsylvania state prison. He could be eligible for parole after serving three years but could serve up to ten. He will have to register as a convicted sex offender (Bowley & Coscarelli, 2018). Another infamous person who was on the news and continues to be there is Larry Nassar who was sentenced to prison for forty to 125 years back in January on several sex charges. Some of these charges included molesting young girls as young as six in the cover of medical examination or treatment (Cacciola & Mather, 2018). With all of the lawyer fees, the U.S. Gymnastics had to file bankruptcy in late November later this year.

These recent cases sparked an interest in to examining how college students viewed the policies, laws, and punishments in a real-life context. Due to the relevance in the news with this sort of crimes, I wanted to investigate what these students thought about actual sex offenders who have been convicted. People tend to justify and intertwine sexual harassment and sex crimes under the same category, but the former is a civil case, and the latter are criminal cases. The famous people listed above are now convicted sex offenders who were tried in a criminal court of law.

## METHODS

### Participants

The sample for this study was obtained by going into introductory sociology and criminology courses at a public university of around 20,000 students in the south-central region of the United States. Surveys were administered until an N of 150 was obtained. Ten respondents were excluded from the study because they were under eighteen years of age or did not complete five or more questions out of the total thirty questions. Fifty-eight participants were male (38.7%) and 92 participants were female (61.3%).

The distribution of the participants included 72 freshmen (48.0%), 45 sophomores (30.0%), 25 juniors (16.7%), 7 seniors (4.7%) and 1 in the other category (0.7%). Of the one hundred forty-nine participants who answered about their ethnicity, one hundred and nine participants were White (73.2%), two were Hispanic or Latino (1.3%), thirty-one were Black or African American (20.8%), one was Native American or American Indian (0.7%), three were Asian or Pacific Islander (2.0%), and three were other (2.0%). These distributions are important in understanding the types of participants in this study. One hundred forty-five participants were single or never married (96.7%), four were married (2.7%), and one was divorced (0.7%). Only three participants had children (2%).

Of the one hundred and forty-eight participants who answered about their political affiliation, forty-five participants were Democrat (30.4%), fifty-three were Republican (35.8%), five were Libertarian (3.4%), five were other (3.4%), and forty did not identify with any political affiliation (27.0%).

Majority of participants (one hundred and thirty-five) primarily got their daily news from social media sources or multiple sources that included social media (90%) while the other fifteen participants gathered their daily news from non-social media sources (10%).

Almost half of participants (48.28%) who declared their major were in the social sciences (criminology, psychology, forensic psychology, social work, sociology, and criminal justice).

The exact demographic questions and prompts are presented in Appendix D.

## **Materials**

This survey contained several different cases and overall facts of sex offender policies that tend to be overlooked.

Appendix A refers to two sections: basic topic questions and familiarity with certain laws and policies. The topic questions ask demographic information that could potentially influence the participants' results. The familiarity section was used to determine to what extent participants knew the laws.

Appendix B refers to the following section about participants' attitudes towards certain policies and laws. Inspiration for the types of questions came from the study by Wiersma and Siedschlaw (2016) which, as mentioned above, looked at a multitude of different attitudes. Participants were scored on a Likert scale (with a one being strongly disagree to a seven being strongly agree) measuring the degree to which the policy is appropriate.

Appendix C refers to real case studies that received some sort of news coverage, positive or negative, and participants had to choose, on a Likert scale (as in Appendix B), the degree to which that the punishment was appropriate. The first case study originated from the story behind Zach Anderson (Wells, 2015). This case did not seem to be favorable to the family or society, so the family decided to start a petition to get him off the registry and a much more appropriate punishment. As far as the last update, his mother posted on his change.org petition:

After more than 220,000 people signed on to call for Zach Anderson to be given a new sentence, he was granted the Holmes Youthful Trainee Status, given 2 years probation and is no longer a convicted sex offender. He will also be allowed to use a computer and continue his education. (Anderson, 2015)

The second case study was a case from 2005 of a Catholic teacher named Sandra “Beth” Giesel. She had sexual intercourse with two teenage boys, sixteen and seventeen years old, but only got charged for the sixteen-year-old’s case because the seventeen-year-old was considered legal under New York’s age of consent laws (Lovett, 2005).

The third case study is the controversial Brock Turner case that did receive negative backlash once he was convicted and released early on good behavior. Now, Turner has to register as a sex offender for life and lost his appeal to overturn his conviction (Hauser, 2018).

The fourth case study is Oklahoma’s former senator, Ralph Shortey. This case also inspired the fourth knowledge question on Appendix B. Shortey has now been sentenced to fifteen years in prison with a ten-year supervised probationary period after release (Talley, 2018).

## **Procedures**

Before beginning data collection, this study received full approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Western Kentucky University. Once the researcher received full approval, surveys were printed and coded with a random numerical value. The researcher selected for introductory sociology and criminology courses in which to administer the paper survey. If approved by the professor, the researcher came in the beginning of the class period to briefly discuss the survey. The researcher explained to participants that it was completely anonymous and voluntary; participants were notified that their informed consent was implied if

they had read through the first page and continued with the survey. The researcher passed out the paper exams to each participant and gave 10 minutes to complete the survey. The researcher then collected all of the surveys, thanked the participants for their time, and left the room. Data was then coded in SPSS.

## RESULTS

Scores from the data were coded and analyzed using descriptive statistics and comparing means between groups. The majority of respondents reported that they never accessed the sex offender registry (73.8%). An even higher majority (80.7%) did not personally know or have known a sex offender. More than half (58.7%) of the participants stated that they had familiarity with sex offender policies and laws, yet a majority of the students (63.1%) did not know that urinating in public in certain states could land someone on the sex offender registry or that there was an increased penalty for prostitution within 1,000 feet of a church or school (70%). There was an almost even split of students who knew (50.7%) or did not know (49.3%) that an indecent exposure conviction could lead to a lifetime duty on the sex offender. More than half of the students (58.7%) knew that in many states statutory rape cases do not allow the fact that the accused believed the victim was older as a defense.

As far as the appropriateness section for certain policies and laws, participants either agreed or felt neutral about most of the policies. Some of the participants agreed (26.2 %) and a higher proportion of participants strongly agreed (47.0%) that neighborhoods should be alerted when a sex offender moves in to the area (73.2% of participants combined,  $M=5.93$ ). Table 1 compares the means between this question and whether people had accessed the registry or not. Although a majority of people had not accessed the registry (73.8%), they agreed ( $M=5.89$ ) that there should be notification when a sex offender move in the area at almost the same average of people who had accessed the registry ( $M=6.00$ ). Table 2 breaks down the gender aspect of notification in order to determine if there was any support for Garland et al.'s (2018) research.

Females were more likely than males to agree that there should be notification when a sex offender moves into an area.

Table 1. Comparing means between access of registry and appropriateness of notification when a sex offender moves in the area.

Access of Registry	Mean	N	Standard Deviation
Yes	6.00	39	1.469
No	5.89	109	1.423
Total	5.92	148	1.431

Table 2: Comparing means between gender and appropriateness of notification when a sex offender moves in the area.

gender	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Male	5.67	58	1.526
Female	6.09	91	1.347
Total	5.93	149	1.429

A majority of participants (65.9% of participants combined) slightly agreed, agreed, or strongly agreed that sex offenders should have to be electronically monitored for life by GPS, polygraphs, or more (M=4.77). A little over half of the participants (54.1%) strongly agreed that sex offenders may not reside within 1,000 feet of a school, childcare facility, ball fields, and playgrounds (M=6.20). A third of participants slightly agreed that sex offenders need to be under supervision after release even if their sentence is served out (33.1% slightly agreed, 25.0% agreed, and 14.9% strongly agreed, M=4.91). When asked about whether sex crimes with force

should be held to the same standards as crimes with no force, participants answered on one extreme or the other. 13.3% of participants strongly disagreed followed by 18.7% of participants who disagreed while the next cluster was 19.3% of participants who agreed followed by 20.0% of participants who strongly agreed (M=4.23). A majority of participants agreed or strongly agreed that sex offenders must register for the sex offender registry (23.3% agreed followed by 60.7% strongly agreed, M=6.25). Table 3 is similar to Table 1. Table 3 though looks at the comparison of means between participants access of the registry and the appropriateness that all sexual offenders must register for the registry. Again, even though a majority of participants had not accessed the registry, they agreed that all sex offenders must register for the registry at almost the same average as people who had accessed the registry. Table 4 shows that there is a gender difference with this phenomenon. This also supports Garland et al. (2018) as females are more likely to agree that sex offenders must register for the registry.

Table 3. Comparing means between access of registry and appropriateness of all sexual offenders must register for the registry.

Access of Registry	Mean	N	Standard Deviation
Yes	6.44	39	1.314
No	6.20	110	1.225
Total	6.26	149	1.249

Table 4: Comparing means between gender and appropriateness of all sexual offenders must register for the registry.

gender	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
Male	6.00	58	1.522
Female	6.40	92	1.038
Total	6.25	150	1.258

Students also progressively agreed that if a sex offender knowingly fails to update or register on the registry and commits a violent crime, then he or she may face up to thirty years in prison (14.0% slightly agreed, 30.7% agreed, and 34.7% strongly agreed, M=5.65). With regard to whether sex offender policies were currently effective, participants felt neutral or slightly agreed (22.0% felt neutral and 26.7% slightly agreed, M=4.13).

The only two statements with which participants generally disagreed had to do with chemical and surgical castration. Participants clustered whether chemical castration or birth control should be used as a condition of probation and/or parole in order to reduce the sex drive (10.0% strongly disagreed, 16.7% disagreed, 12.7% slightly disagreed, M=3.79). The answers for surgical castration had a wider spread with the highest percentages clustered around one extreme to the next (17.4% strongly disagreed and 12.8% strongly agreed, M=3.74). Table 5 refers to the gender mean differences on chemical and surgical castration appropriateness.

Table 5: Comparing means between gender on attitudes toward chemical and surgical castration

Gender	Chemical Castration/Birth Control		Surgical Castration
	Mean	N	
Male	Mean	3.67	3.58
	N	58	57
Female	Mean	3.86	3.85
	N	92	92
Total	Mean	3.79	3.74
	N	150	149

As far as the case studies, a majority of participants disagreed with the punishments given for three out of the four studies. For the first case, the Zach Anderson case, a little over half of the combined percentage disagreed to some degree (16.7% strongly disagreed, 21.3% disagreed,

and 28.7% slightly disagreed with slightly disagreed being the highest frequency answer,  $M=3.26$ ). For the second case, the Catholic teacher case, participants agreed on the punishment (22.7% slightly agreed, 34.7% agreed, and 20.7% strongly agreed with agreed being the highest frequency answer,  $M=5.22$ ). For the third case, the Brock Turner case, participants disagreed to a higher frequency (38.0% strongly disagreed, 22.7% disagreed, and 12.0% slightly disagreed with strongly disagree being the highest frequency answer,  $M=2.75$ ). For the fourth case, the Ralph Shortey case, the answers tend to be on the disagree extreme, but the answers were the most varied in degree of appropriateness (21.3 % disagreed was the highest frequency,  $M=3.68$ ).

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of this descriptive study was to evaluate what undergraduate students perceived about certain sex offender policies, laws, and punishments when given in a real-life scenario. Overall, students agreed that most of these laws and policies were appropriate, but, when it came to the case studies, a majority of the students only agreed with the female teacher punishment. It was also found that even though a majority of the students never accessed the registry, they believed, at the same degree as people who had accessed the registry, that all sex offenders should register for the registry and be notified if a sex offender moves in to a given area. This is similar to previous findings that college students want to be notified if a sex offender is employed or living on or near campus as well as registering for the registry that can be accessible if needed (Garland et al., 2018, Wiersma & Siedschlaw, 2016).

An interesting finding that relates to Wiersma and Siedschlaw's (2016) work is that participants in this study did not generally agree with chemical or surgical castration as a form of treatment. The difference here though is that when broken down by gender, females were more likely to agree than males. Further research may look at why this happens or how gender is related to forms of punishment among sex offenders.

Participants who said they had knowledge of laws and policies did not know two out of the four general sex offender laws. A majority of the participants also did not personally know or have known a sex offender. Further research could look at surveying samples of people who know a sex offender versus those who do not in terms of their attitudes.

When these laws and policies are put in a real-life context, a majority of participants disagreed to some degree on the appropriateness of three out of the four punishments given. All of the cases were seen as controversial as some had to deal with politics, age, race, and affluence.

Even with the details provided, the female case had the highest appropriateness in terms of punishment. Further research may look in to gender stereotypes given a certain sex crime. For example, participants could state whether the proposed perpetrator is a male or a female in the hypothetical scenario.

### **Limitations**

One limitation with this paper is that, if more time and resources were available, further data analysis could have been done. This is simply a descriptive study looking at attitudes on sex offenders, but the data could be used for further analyses. An original plan with the data was to compare different participants with certain majors to see if their answers were different. Due to time and resource constraints, this plan was abandoned.

Another limitation is the size of the sample. The size was only 150 participants, so it can not generalize to the entire population. Another issue is that this study took place on one campus in one area of the country. Responses might have been different if more locations or more students at other universities were used.

Another limitation is that the sample is disproportionately freshmen undergraduate students. Responses might be different if the distribution of participants was representative of students enrolled at the university. Future research should look at comparing responses from different groups of people or different age cohorts.

A limitation with the study in general is the amount of questions. The survey is not too long and on average did take participants around ten minutes to finish, but there could have been more material added for a longer survey. Due to weighing out the pros and cons of passing out the survey in person, I decided to keep it shorter so participants would not get bored answering the same types of questions.

A limitation with the case study section is that the appropriateness questions did not ask whether the punishment should have been more lenient or stricter. For future research, studies should consider, in addition to their own attitudes on a statement or case study, asking participants whether the punishment should be more lenient or stricter. This would provide clarification as to why the participant thought the punishment was appropriate.

Another limitation is there is only one question about female sex offenders. Further analysis could be done to specifically look at the way that participants view female versus male sex offenders.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, undergraduate freshmen college students are in agreement with most sex offender policies that are currently in place. Students seem to be more likely to disagree when it comes to harsher punishment, such as chemical or surgical castration, and this aligns with previous studies. Most students have not accessed the sex offender registry but believe in its appropriateness of notification. Further research needs to be done in a further analysis of the types of sex offenders, the groups of people who are taking the surveys, and the level to which the punishment could be stricter or more lenient.

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## APPENDIX A

### Topic Questions

The sex offender registry is a state-by-state database of information on convicted sex offenders living in a given area. The information is maintained by local and state law enforcement in order to monitor and track sex offenders in the community.

Have you ever accessed the Sex Offender Registry?

- Yes
- No

Have you ever personally known or do you currently know a convicted sex offender?

- Yes
- No

Do you have any familiarity with sex offender policies and laws?

- Yes
- No

The following questions ask whether you are aware of certain sex offender laws and policies.

- 1) Were you previously aware that a person can be arrested and convicted as a sex offender if caught urinating in public?
  - Yes
  - No
- 2) Were you previously aware that, in some states, any indecent exposure conviction subjects that person to a lifetime duty to register as a sex offender?
  - Yes
  - No
- 3) Were you previously aware that, in many states, statutory rape cases do not allow the fact that the accused believed the victim was older as a defense? (Statutory rape involves having sexual relations with someone below the age of consent. A person below the age of consent cannot legally consent to having sex, so by having sex with that person, it is a violation of law).
  - Yes
  - No
- 4) Were you previously aware that in some states the state can increase the penalty on a prostitution charge if the accused engaged in prostitution within 1000 feet of a church or school?
  - Yes
  - No

## APPENDIX B

Please read the following statements about community notification, residence restrictions, the registry system, and treatments regarding sex offenders. Indicate the extent to which you feel the following policies are appropriate.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Neighborhoods are alerted when a sex offender moves in the surrounding area.	<input type="radio"/>						
Sex offenders will have to be electronically monitored for life.(GPS, polygraphs, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>						
A sex offender may not reside within 1,000 feet of a school, childcare facility, ball fields, and playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>						
Sex offenders need to be under supervision after release even if their sentence is served out.	<input type="radio"/>						
Sex crimes with force (e.g., rape and sexual assault) should be held to the same standards as crimes with no force (e.g., statutory rape).	<input type="radio"/>						
All sex offenders must register for the sex offender registry.	<input type="radio"/>						
If a sex offender knowingly fails to update or register as required and commits a violent federal crime, he or she may face up to 30 years in prison.	<input type="radio"/>						
Methods like chemical castration and using birth control to reduce the sexual drive can be used as a condition of probation and/or parole.	<input type="radio"/>						
Surgical castration (the surgical removal of one or both testicles) once an offender has committed 2 sex offenses and 18 months of sex offender treatments, can be used as a form of treatment.	<input type="radio"/>						
Overall, sex offender policies are currently effective.	<input type="radio"/>						

APPENDIX C

Now I'm going to present you with several scenarios based on true events. Please evaluate the punishment given and indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the appropriateness of the punishment.

- 1) He was 19 years old from Indiana. She was living in Michigan and said she was 17. They met online, developed a relationship, and decided to meet in person. He drove to Michigan to meet her, and the two had sex. After the encounter, the girl's mom called the police because she was worried when she didn't come home for dinner. The girl was actually 14. The girl and the mother did not want the courts to punish him, but he had to serve 90 days in jail with an additional sentence of 25 years on the sex offender registry.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>						

- 2) She was a 42-year-old female teacher who was caught having sexual relations with one of her 17-year-old male students. After this incident came out, one of her 16-year-old male students reported they also had a continuous, sexual relationship. She was sentenced to 6 months in jail, 10 years of probation, and had to register as a sex offender.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>						

- 3) A male student-athlete was charged with three felony counts of sexual assault after assaulting an unconscious female outside of a fraternity house. The judge sentenced him to 6 months in jail, but he was released after 3 months for good behavior. He does have to register as a sex offender in his home state.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>						

- 4) A former senator is found in a hotel room with an underage teenage boy. Records show that the underage boy was asked to provide sexual services in exchange for money through Craigslist ads. The senator was indicted in federal court on three child pornography charges and one charge of sex trafficking. After taking a plea bargain, he was charged with one sex trafficking charge that could sentence him to at least 8 years. It is not known whether he will have to register as a sex offender.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<input type="radio"/>						

APPENDIX D

Please provide me a little more information about yourself.

Please specify your age.

- Under 18
- 18-19
- 20-21
- 22-23
- 24 or older

Please specify your gender.

- Male
- Female
- Other

Please specify your ethnicity.

- White
- Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American
- Native American or American Indian
- Asian / Pacific Islander
- Other

Please indicate your classification in college.

- Freshman/first year
- Sophomore/second year
- Junior/third year
- Senior/fourth year
- Other

What is your current major and minor at WKU? If undecided, please specify what you plan to major and minor in.

Major-\_\_\_\_\_

Minor-\_\_\_\_\_

What is your marital status?

- Single, never married
- Married or domestic partnership
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated

Where do you primarily get your daily news?

- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Etc.)
- Major News Networks (ABC, MBC, CBS, Etc.)
- Secondary News Networks (CNN, FOX, MSNBC, Etc.)
- Local News Networks (WBKO, NBC-40, Etc.)
- Radio Networks (NPR, WKU Public Radio, Etc.)
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Other

Do you have any children?

- Yes
- No

What political affiliation do you primarily identify with?

- Democratic
- Republican
- Libertarian
- Other
- I do not identify with any political affiliation.