



Measuring Food and Housing Insecurity in Higher Education

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of this study?

The Wisconsin HOPE Lab and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) aim to survey students to assess their levels of food and housing security to the survey will be conducted among up to 75 community colleges. The resulting report will inform colleges, and the communities where those colleges are located, about the prevalence of student food and housing insecurity. We hope that this information will help bring additional resources to struggling students and provide information about which students are most likely to need food and housing support in order to complete their diplomas. In addition, information from this project will help advance innovative policy solutions.

2. What is the Wisconsin HOPE Lab?

The Wisconsin HOPE Lab is the nation's first laboratory for translational research aimed at improving equitable outcomes in postsecondary education.

We are at the forefront of efforts to raise awareness and increase knowledge of undergraduates struggling with food and housing insecurity. Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, now a Professor of Higher Education Policy and Sociology at Temple University, founded the Lab and continues to lead our efforts as a consultant. For more information, please see wihopelab.com.

3. How is this study funded?

The Kresge Foundation is providing funding for this study.

4. When will the study take place?

Community colleges will register to participate in August 2016, and the survey will be fielded in September. Analysis and writing will begin in November 2016. The HOPE Lab and ACCT will release and publicize the main report in early spring 2017 and deliver school reports in late spring 2017.

5. What are participating community colleges in this study expected to do?

Community colleges interested in participating in the study should complete the Acknowledgement of Participation, which explains institutions' responsibilities to:

- a) Send recruitment emails to enrolled students for participation in the study. Partner colleges are expected to send these emails to the students within the first few weeks of classes during the fall of 2016. It is recommended that colleges send an email once weekly for the first three weeks of the beginning of the fall semester.

- b) Provide \$1,000 in student incentives. This money is to be used as ten \$100 prizes in a lottery drawing for students who wish to participate in the survey. Students who wish to be entered into the lottery drawing will be asked to provide a contact email address. Winners at each institution will be selected using a lottery conducted by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, who will then share the contact email addresses of student winners with the colleges. Colleges will then contact students and disburse incentives.
- c) Complete a brief survey about the administration of the survey. This survey will give researchers context for understanding the survey sample student responses.
- d) As part of the application materials to participate in this study, we are asking each community college IRB office to sign a form indicating that they waive their right to review the study. The UW-Madison IRB will provide human subjects approval for this study.

6. What will community colleges receive for participating?

Each college will receive a summary report for its students' survey responses. These reports will be delivered in spring 2017.

7. Will there be help available during survey administration?

The Wisconsin HOPE Lab will provide technical assistance to participating colleges throughout recruitment, registration, and survey administration. Technical assistance will be available via a project website and individual assistance with the Wisconsin HOPE Lab staff.

8. Do we need to submit this survey to our IRB?

As noted above UW-Madison's IRB has approved this study. Given time constraints, we are asking community colleges to sign off that their IRB office does not need to review the study.

9. Do we need to collect any data for this study?

No. The Wisconsin HOPE Lab will collect the survey data via the online platform.

10. How is student confidentiality being protected?

Students will complete the survey on a secure, online survey platform. Survey data will be securely transferred to the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, where it will be stored on secure servers managed by UW Madison information technology specialists. Only HOPE Lab researchers involved in this study will have access to survey data. Main reports and school reports will only contain summary measures of student responses.

11. Why do colleges need to contribute money for this project?

The investment of \$1,000 by each participating community college is to boost student participation in order to ensure the most accurate estimates of food and housing insecurity. All funds go to the students.

12. How will the incentive lottery work?

In order to be entered into the lottery, students will be asked to provide an email address at the end of their surveys. Students are *not* required to provide an email in order to complete the

survey, although only those who provide an email address can be eligible for the lottery. After the survey period ends, researchers at the Wisconsin HOPE Lab will use a lottery to select ten lottery winners at each community college. Participating institutions will be notified of the winning students. Colleges will then disburse the award funds. Colleges will not be provided with any survey data for those winning students.

13. If we have questions, who can we contact?

Please feel free to contact the project coordinator, Anthony Hernandez, at the Wisconsin HOPE Lab by telephone at 818-625-5061 or by email at hernandez26@wisc.edu