

SERU/UCUES Research Symposium
A New Generation of University Students: Understanding the Student Experience and Seeking
Opportunities to Translate Analysis into Practice
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ABSTRACT

UC Students and Politics II: Commitment and Change

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This research builds upon the results reported at the 2007 Symposium and addresses the following questions:

1. Who are today's student activists? We'll report data on the demographic composition of students who report high levels of political engagement, both mainstream political activity and protest.
2. A parallel analysis of students who report the least political involvement.
3. How do students change politically in college? We don't yet have longitudinal UCUES data, but we can look for indicators of political change, by comparing freshmen and seniors on items relating to political orientation and engagement, and by examining ways students differentiate themselves from their parents' political preferences.
4. What can Facebook tell us about student activism? A preliminary glance.