

# The Christian Life Survey 2014-2015 Administration at 22 Christian Colleges



TAYLOR UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR  
**SCRIPTURE  
ENGAGEMENT**

[tucse.taylor.edu](http://tucse.taylor.edu)

---

## About the study

The Christian Life Survey (CLS) has been used since spring of 2011 to provide insights into the spiritual lives of people in the United States. Though it will become more broadly available in the future, it has primarily been used to allow students at Christian colleges to take their own spiritual pulse and allow those colleges to better understand the spiritual lives of their students. The most recent administration of the CLS was on 25 Christian college campuses across the USA in fall of 2014. The creators of the Christian Life Survey retain all copyright privileges.

The CLS has a set of core questions used to create comprehensive indexes that look at participants' spiritual foci, spiritual orientations, and scripture engagement as well as a variety of additional questions that change in different administrations (so new aspects of peoples' spiritual lives can be considered), and a set of demographic questions.

The core indexes constructed from the 2014-2015 results provide insight into participants'...

Focus on God	Orientation toward outreach service	Scripture Interaction
Focus on others	Orientation toward outreach evangelism	
Focus on the Bible	Orientation toward connectedness	
	Orientation toward reflective spirituality	

The survey began in 2011 with substantially more questions than it has now. Each additional administration has provided additional basis for narrowing the sets of questions used in the indexes to a small set that has demonstrated validity and reliability.

The full set of questions in the survey as well as a variety of summaries of results are available at [tucse.taylor.edu/research](http://tucse.taylor.edu/research)

The CLS is administered through an online survey format with invitations sent to participants through email. In the 2014 administration, a generous donor covered the costs of administration and the colleges received the service for free.

Invitation emails were sent to all of the Deans of Students and Campus Chaplains at Christian colleges in the United States that we could find email addresses for. The survey for the college campuses included a battery of questions about the students' experience of the spiritual life on campus and so provide the campuses with assessment data. Individual responses and campus averages will not be released to anyone other than those persons or campuses.

Just over 30 campuses responded with interest in participating. Twenty-five did participate. Twenty-two participated in a way that allowed weighted analyses to be done. Response rates on the campuses varied with most having a response rate around one-third.

Participating colleges received reports on their student populations' index scores, question item distributions and means listings, the demographics for their participating students, and the full data set of their students' responses. Students had the option in the survey to allow their name to be left with their responses or not.

## Who are the students in this study?

In the 2014-2015 school year, the Christian Life Survey was administered to students at 25 Christian colleges in the United States. The results shown in public results, however, are only for the traditional-age, traditional-program freshmen through seniors from the 22 colleges that provided population proportions that allowed representative weighting to be used. Students are weighted to be proportionately representative for sex and year in school for their colleges.

Those results are for 6,074 students from 22 Christian colleges in the United States.

The students are overwhelmingly Protestant Christians who are serious about their spiritual life (they chose to attend a Christian college and they agreed to participate in a half-hour survey about their spiritual life).

The students reported on for the 2014-2015 CLS, then, are traditional-age, devout Christians attending 22 Christian colleges in the USA. Great care should be employed when generalizing these results to any other groups.

## The participating colleges:

Bethel	Judson
Biola	The Kings
California Baptist	LeTourneau
Charleston Southern	Northwest Nazarene
Corban	Nyack
Cornerstone	Patrick Henry
Crown	Spring Arbor
Fresno Pacific	Tabor
George Fox	Taylor
Gordon	Union
Houghton	Wheaton