



University of  
Dayton

# MOTIVATION INDICATORS IN INVOLVED COMMUTER STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

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## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How do commuter students describe their motivation for participation on campuses?
- How do commuter students who are engaged in extracurricular activities describe the challenges of engaging in the campus community and the methods/motivations they use to overcome them?

## METHODS

- Participants were chosen based on the criteria: does not live in UD housing and is involved in at least one or more student organization.
- Five semi-structured interviews were conducted that concluded with a summary of the interview back to the participant as a form of member check.
- Interviews were then transcribed and coded for themes.

A word cloud of themes from the study, with 'Time' being the largest word. Other prominent words include 'Interests', 'Disconnected', 'Commitment', 'College Experience', 'Meeting People', 'Up the Orgs', 'Friendships', and 'Learning'.

## FINDINGS

- Motivated to have a “true” college experience
- Only support or encouragement from UD comes from Up the Orgs
- Looking to make connections with people with similar interests or who are “like-minded”

## IMPLICATIONS

- Need to eliminate the disconnect between commuter and residential students
- Engage commuter students in a dialogue of the type of experience they want in college and how being involved can benefit them

*“I am so involved mostly because I feel like every other aspect of my experience in college is like not like other students. So I'm just trying to make up for that because some people think that I'm more involved than students who do live on campus and I would say if that discrepancy does exist it's probably because I'm trying to make up for a lack of experience in campus housing.”*