

PARKLAND PATHWAYS IMPACT ON THE STUDENT BODY

Chase Belt, Blessing Omoniyi, Margaret Daniels, Taylor Blackwell

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology ANT 103 Spring 2023

Introduction

The goal of our group's study was to find differences between Parkland Pathway students to Illinois and non-Pathway students. We gathered information from students and faculty to observe and analyze the culture of the Pathway program from many perspectives.



(Image provided by the Parkland Pathways Website)

Methods

- QUESTIONS WE ASKED :
 - Class/Income
 - Age
 - Race
 - Areas and Neighborhoods
 - Majors/Areas of Study
- Disadvantages and Advantages to the program

Results

We interviewed 15 students and faculty as well as conducted a short survey. Through these, our group was able to get a sense of the purpose and effectiveness of the Pathways Program. We found that the Pathway program was designed to encourage diversity on both Parkland and UIUC campuses by offering a program designed for transfers, which offers a cheaper option for those who want to go to UIUC. With the data we collected we found that the Pathways program has fallen short. Here are some of the reasons why:

- 1) Restrictions on marketing locale—marketing is restricted to the local area so there lacks potential to reach more diverse populations and most Pathway students are from Champaign County.
- 2) Accessibility to Enrollment and Process of Program--The Pathway Program requires the application and acceptance process for both Parkland College and UIUC. This process can take time and effort not everybody has. Lower-income students are disadvantaged leaving less time for academics and work life balance and the fees these processes impose. The program requires traveling between the campuses which is not accessible to all.

3) Limitations on majors—Health and social work programs are highly recommended. Engineering is common but the UIUC Grainger College of Engineering has a lower acceptance rate. Agriculture majors are not as common, and we were not able to gather much data on the program. The Pathways Program is not recommended for Fine and Applied Art majors because it is difficult to get into UIUC, and there are no Business or Computer Science programs.

4) No guaranteed admission for specific majors at UIUC— Some students are discouraged because there is no guarantee they will get into the major of their choice.



(Image provided by University of Illinois Undergraduate Admissions)

Discussion

We found the effectiveness of the Pathway program and the impact it has on culture at Parkland and UIUC campuses using inductive reasoning to collect evidence without trying to definitively prove or disprove a hypothesis (Nelson and Braff, 2017). The program seems to be lacking in marketing, accessibility, inclusion of majors, and a guarantee of enrollment to UIUC. Some questions we have for future student are:

What can be found through Participant Observation?

What could be said from a UIUC student's perspective?

References

<https://perspectives.americanthro.org/>

