

language at the community college nexus

Center for Integrated Language Communities The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Alexander Funk, LCCN Project Coordinator,
cilc@gc.cuny.edu

Tomonori Nagano, LCCN Project Coordinator,
tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu

Eric Ketcham, Research Assistant,
eketcham@gc.cuny.edu

What?

- Research into the backgrounds and needs of students and instructors in community college modern/foreign language programs. The Students and Instructors of Languages at Community Colleges (SILCC) Surveys were developed and administered in community college language classrooms nationally in order to gather the highest-quality data possible. Results include 1756 student responses and 140 instructor responses in 101 community colleges in 33 states in the U.S.

Why?

- Relatively little research has been done on students and instructors of language in the community college context. As the demographics of the community college student population differs from the more commonly studied four-year college context, it is important to understand the community college language classroom as a distinct entity.
- Language at the Community College Nexus addresses the following general research questions:
 - Who studies language at community colleges? Why do community college students choose to study languages in general? Why do community college students study the specific languages they choose to study?
 - Who teaches language at community colleges? Why do community college language instructors choose to teach languages? What methodologies do community college language instructors use in the classroom? What types of professional development do community college language instructors have access to and/or have interest in?

How?

- A panel of faculty experts helped guide the research questions and survey development.
- Finalized surveys were piloted at two institutions in Fall 2014 and Spring 2015.
- Community college language instructors were identified by collecting information from websites of schools affiliated with the American Association of Community Colleges.
- Instructors were asked to administer the survey in one of their modern/foreign language sections in Fall 2015.



Online Resources

- Presentations and information from the Community-College-Language Forum 2016
 - Preliminary Results from the Students and Instructors of Language in Community College (SILCC) Surveys
 - PDF slides of eight additional presentations
- Bibliography of research on language students and language classrooms in the community college context

Forthcoming Resources

- A publicly available database of valid responses to the Students and Instructors of Language in Community College (SILCC) Surveys
 - Student-, instructor/classroom- and school-level data
 - SPSS, Stata, and Excel formats
 - Codebooks for student-level, instructor/classroom-level, and school-level variables
 - Individual-level data available for students and instructors, with redactions where necessary to maintain confidentiality
 - Anticipated in Spring 2017
- The survey instruments for use in future studies
 - Anticipated in Spring 2017
- Articles based on the Students and Instructors of Language in Community College (SILCC) Surveys focusing on
 - Instructors of languages at community colleges
 - Students of languages at community colleges
 - Profiles of heritage language learners in the community college context
 - Anticipated Spring 2017
- A report on the findings of the student and instructor surveys
 - Anticipated in Fall 2017
- Community-College-Language Forum 2018
 - National conference with focus on foreign/modern language instruction at community colleges
 - To be held at LaGuardia Community College (CUNY) May 2018
 - Co-sponsored by the Modern Language Association and the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages