Students’ Perception of Campus Climate at Metropolitan State-April 2005

Note: The race/ethnicity of students of color is reported in parentheses after the response number, based on self-reports by respondents. Responses are listed by number to facilitate reading and discussion.

Question 34: In what ways do you think racism is or is not a problem at Metropolitan State?

1. I have never witnessed anything
2. I have not witnessed any racism at Metro State.
3. Racism is a problem in our society. I haven’t experienced it as a white person but I have a different perspective.
4. Racism by nature is a problem-so go Metro State! (Other)
5. It’s something I haven’t seen or encountered at any point I’ve been a student, but I am white so I can’t speak for minorities
6. I don’t think it is problem. A little racism happens everywhere
7. Sexism/anti-white racism by a Hispanic man (counselor) in the admission office needs to be addressed!!
8. I don’t think it is a problem at all. In the four years I have been here I’ve never witnessed an incident or any kind of racism
9. If there are problems at Metro State I’m not aware of them; probably because I’m white
10. Metro to me seems to be very diverse and everyone that I have encountered seems to be treated fairly.
11. I have only seen one teacher act differently towards male students. She graded them harder than women.
12. Americans in general are always sensitive regarding their race. As an international student, I don’t really worry about race at all. All people should be treated equally. I have observed that Americans as a whole, regardless of race, are very privileged and they often complain a lot. (International)
13. It is not a problem-This survey is making it a problem.
14. I have never, in 2 years, really seen any racism at MSU
15. I don’t believe it is-but it can easily be taken out of proportion-ex- A black male couldn’t get in class because he missed the first 2 weeks-he said everyone was racists-when in fact its school policy that you lose your seat if missing the first class-and the school let him back in –very odd-and weird and yes-the class was full w/a waiting list.
16. I think racism is implied by simply being white. It is looked for in every possible statement or action.
17. For God sake I’m here to learn Not worry about color ECT…!!!(Other)
18. In the five years that I have attending class here at MSU, I can think of only two instances where I was in ca class with another Afro-American males.
19. I don’t really see it as being a problem, but I’m only here a couple days a week at the most for just a few hours of the day so I don’t have as good of a chance of seeing instances of racism as some other students would.
20. I have not seen any type of racism while I have been here.
21. Racism is not a problem-Metro State goes out of its way to make sure that it DOES NOT HAPPEN- Types of class offered. Faculty is diverse-people from all walks of livings-teach at Metro State
22. Personally, I have not experienced much as far as racism is concerned at Metro State. That is partially because I would say that my classes have been predominantly “white”. However, I have heard students mocking other students for their accents or saying that they can’t understand that “those kinds of people” say. I have also seen bookstore staff making fun of a man after he left, about his voice and accent back in December.
23. I do not feel I am on campus enough to comment in this topic. I will state that I feel the dozen or so teachers I have had seem to treat all my fellow classmates the same
24. Well-intentioned white middle-class liberalism has reversed on itself and is unintentional sexist, racist and not open to other opinions because they keep minorities down by making them pander to their own white guilt (Other)

25. Being a middle-aged, white male, I am still astounded at the attitudes of white privilege amongst my “race”, particularly young white males. I see this as the most serious problem as regards to racism on campus.

26. Compared to the U of M, Metro is very diverse and open to minority students. Keep up the good work (Asian American)

27. I haven’t noticed anything.

28. Policies (African American)

29. I will have to say I do agree with question #7, all students should be required to take a diversity class so that they understand the different cultural communication levels. (Hispanic)

30. My children are black and I have not encountered any situations that I would find offensive or uncomfortable for neither them or myself. My interactions with persons of varying ethnic backgrounds have all been positive. I do not have knowledge of any problems.

31. Not a problem, very open environment.

32. Neutral (Native American; African American)

33. Its not

34. Its not!

35. I have not yet engage myself with activities outside of classroom at the university. (African American)

36. Many students and faculty are largely accepting of all cultures and ethnicities.

37. I never even thought about it

38. I have not experienced racism directly. I know what it is and how it feel but honestly have not had a problem at the university. (African American)

39. I think that white people are, the ones being mistreated at Metro

40. Reverse Racism

41. I have not observed any form of racism at Metro State

42. Seems real segregated

43. I have been in classes where a “white” student asked a question and was pounced on. I felt it could have been a learning experience, but I bet those students have bad feeling about that encounter. (Other)

44. In some ways some programs and staff go out of their way to prevent racism to the point of reverse racism

45. I haven’t seen any racism and haven’t experienced it personally. (Asian American)

46. I have not perceived racism to be a problem at Metro State and I consider it to be a progressive institution in this area.

47. Since most class meet only once a week, I don’t believe the students or staff interact enough for racism to manifest very much. (i.e. no student unions, common areas)

48. So far, I had not seen any racism issue (Hispanic)

49. It doesn’t appear to be an issue to me.

50. I think we are doing ok. (African American)

51. The more a student learns the better he/she is regarding the problem.

52. Every one is treated equal no matter what you skin color is

53. I don’t know (Asian American)

54. Not a problem

55. It is addressed at length in all syllabus content

56. Same Everywhere else (Native American)

57. I don’t know, being white, I don’t notice it or experience it.
58. Have not seen any
59. People are discriminated against in classroom sitting (Native American)
60. I have never seen any racism
61. It's not. Your reading into this too much
62. No (African American)
63. I believe it is not a problem because we are lucky to work with people who are ethnically diverse. (Hispanic)
64. Racism is a problem at Metro State since it has such a diverse student body and everyone is treated the same and everyone is encouraged to participate in school activities.
65. It's a problem when an ethnic person does not want to communicate with others.
66. Don't know
67. I have not seen it as a problem
68. I don't think it is because I haven't seen or experienced any
69. I haven't seen any racist problem at Metro State (Native American)
70. International students' issue that occurred a couple of years ago (where international students were not being accepted) gave the university a bad name/image. (Asian American)
71. The only problems I have noticed are homophobia (Hispanic)
72. White privilege/institutional racism/mostly Western European based (thought) curriculum across the disciplines. (Native American)
73. I have never seen or experienced any racism at Metro State. (Native American)
74. Well for starters racism is not just white on black as the survey implies. Racism is across many ethnic cultures and discrimination is there no matter what color you are or gender.
75. In every class I have been in, I have seen no sign of racism
76. I don't think it is because there are tons of non-white students here; they participate in class and seem to do well; I think the student body president is from an African country
77. To be honest, my classes are culturally diverse and this adds a lot to class and discussion.
78. I have not seen a problem with racism at Metropolitan State since I stated in 2001. (Asian American)
79. It still is. The staff have kicked off a colored patron off a community member computer even though the Caucasian sitting next to him had been there longer. (Asian American)
80. Doesn’t seem to be a visible problem in the classes I have attended
81. I don’t think that racism in terms of discrimination of people of color exists at Metro State. The only "racism" I have encountered in the University system is an insane support of a so called “Palestinian Organization”
82. I think it’s only a problem from the non-students that are residents from around the St. Paul Area that come in and harass students and such.
83. In the past year and a half I have not experienced or seen any racism.
84. I have many color costudents and they are treated in the same matter as white students.
85. I have not seen/heard anything racist at Metro State
86. Haven’t seen a problem
87. It is under the radar (African American)
88. I haven’t been here long enough to know
89. I don’t think racism is a problem. If there is, I have not yet notice it.
90. Metro State treats students equally. (African American)
91. Not
92. I have not seen any problems with racism at Metro. This school is very diverse. (Asian American)
93. ESL instructors treat their students with no respect, they think they are illiterate or stupid. I hate that since most ESL students may not be Caucasian. We need non-Caucasian instructors who understand them.
94. My study group includes Norwegian American, Kenyan, African American, Slavic, Hmong, Native American, men and women people of any race will just smile and take to you in the common areas. (Other)

95. Inadvertent racism

96. When it doesn’t take time to understand the differences with people from Africa and their different cultures as well as Indians (Native American; African American)

97. I think that Metro State is doing a great job-however, it surrounded by 2 cities with a big racism problem.

98. There isn’t enough G.L.B.T classes

99. Not a problem-lots of diversity (African American)

100. I don’t-put spot for transgender!

101. It is not a problem

102. I haven’t seen any problem with racism involved (Native American)

103. There will always be racism, you cant change what people view and think about others! (Asian American)

104. It neither is or isn’t. Racism is every where and cannot really be controlled. Either people are racist or they aren’t.

105. Standards tend to be reduced for students from other cultures, especially if English is not their first language. This does them a disservice by failing to provide them an equal education, and it does the rest of us a disservice by devaluing our degrees.

106. It’s easy to make friends with others very open class rooms. (Personally who would come here if they are racist).

107. Metro is so diverse that one group possibly couldn’t discriminate. I believe everyone gets along. I love it here, I’ve never felt so welcome

108. Racism is not an issue here. (Asian American)

109. Not sure. Have not been here long enough to see (African American)

110. Not here very often-don’t seen any problems occur

111. People seem to respect and admire differences

112. I have not noticed any such problems on campus

113. I think it’s not a big problem at all but Metropolitan State should keep trying in eliminating racism in the environment. (Asian American)

114. I don’t think racism is a problem Metro State. I think enough is already being done to promote a non racist environment. (Hispanic)

115. In my eyes racism is not a problem at Metro State.

116. Everyone seems well grounded and respectful. (Asian American)

117. Is a problem name calling

118. I haven’t personally observed racism at Metro State

119. I believe that state and faculty do their best to fight racism but the system is not set up for minorities, especially immigrants, to succeed on a socio-economic level-although working class people of all races struggle here, language barriers and indirect racism affect them more.

120. Haven’t really seen it be a problem.

121. Not a lot of diversity in my classes. Lots of diverse prof.

122. I have had diverse classroom experiences. I think everyone is treated equally although I believe less/pressure is put on me as a white make by our society.

123. From what I’ve seen racism is not a problem at Metropolitan. I’ve just transferred so I don’t think I’ve been here long enough to observe it. (African American; Hispanic)

124. I don’t think it is-everyone is treated equally no matter what their background is. (Hispanic)

125. I personally have not encountered Any Racial Problems . However, one teacher always used my culture as an example in my class, my friend got offended, but I didn’t. (African American)
126. By creating an environment conducive to learning where all are heard is a big step towards equality.
127. Not sure
128. It is not overt, but behind peoples backs.
129. I don’t believe it is a problem.
130. I think students of race are graded easier by teachers because they are not as educated.
131. Allow people of color more opportunities b/c Metropolitan feels it would be looked upon as racist.
132. I haven’t seen or heard it happen so it most not be as big a problem
133. I’ve never seen or heard about it. (Other)
134. I believe that the idea of “undoing white privilege” is racism in its own right
135. I haven’t been exposed to any.
136. I have not seen any problems
137. I haven’t seen it but that doesn’t mean it isn’t there.
138. Comfortableness
139. I think that there is too much concentration on gaining a wide variety of races and ethnicities.
140. I don’t think it is or isn’t. It will happen regardless.
141. I have never seen any mistreatment of anyone
142. I have heard nor seen anything in that area
143. No
144. I didn’t see any racism (African American; Other)
145. Racism is a problem in the entire United States. (African American)
146. Racism exist in the world so Metro State is not excluded. (African American)
147. Honestly I have not seen it
148. It is a problem only that I feel it is not being addressed by the faculty administrators etc (Asian American)
149. I think Metro State does a good job of teaching about race in classes. I learned more here about race than at my last institution.
150. I have not experienced or seen racism at Metro State(Native American)
151. I have only been here for one semester-I don’t feel I can adequately respond to the question.
152. I don’t see it! Everyone has always been fair and just.
153. I have not seen no problems since I begin here
154. Very much a progressive-‘proactive’ atmosphere as compared to other schools I attended-Ethnic Studies requirement in place already is good.
155. I have found in on Ethnic Studies class that my opinions and those of two other white students were ostracized disparaged and given less weight than opinions of other students who were African American.
156. I haven’t been here long enough to determine. (Asian American)
157. I don’t know
158. I believe everyone (so far) has been treated equal
159. I’m new haven’t had a chance to give an opinion.
160. Racism is not a problem at Metro State. It is more a society problem in MN. (Asian American)
161. Metro State is bending over backwards to prevent. Almost to the point of being more welcoming to “minority’s” than others. (Other)
162. Do not know I am not here enough to see anything
163. I don’t see anything related to my answers of strongly disagree or disagree. (African American)
164. People need to accept the different from other cultures. (Asian American)
165. I have never personally observed or experienced racism within this institution. I began my studies last fall-2004–here at Metro (Hispanic)
166. I haven’t witnessed instances of racism at Metro. In my experience, people are treated with respect; and interaction between people with different backgrounds (races, ages, genders, etc) is encouraged in group activities. (Latino)

167. Racism may not seem to be a problem, but it is any where. It can be blatant or opposite (different forms). It is in the phrases people use towards others, even though unintentional. (Asian American)

168. I believe there is racism in society in general and it shows at the university (Hispanic)

169. University administrators need to take a look at themselves and see if they are narrow-minded or close hearted. Are they in denial of their racist attitudes? (Native American)

170. Treatment of people differently because of their race, accent, etc (Hispanic)

171. MSU is a “cake walk” compared to other institutions I have attended. I am from Texas where open racism was tolerated-students in class openly expressed their hatred & views (African American)

172. In the Eths department, faculty resigned. It is a strong indicator that racism is a problem. Empowerment of students and faculty is a threat to white ideologies. (Native American; Asian American; African American; Hispanic)

173. People who have not had a course or two in ethics, multi-cultural, ethnics class who are of the “majority” and closed minded. (Native American; Hispanic)

174. The present racism can be described as KILL ME Slowly. It is no more open as it was before, but you can feel it at some places. It would be hard to eliminated completely God Save America. (African American)

175. Few Minority teachers/staff. Few main stream courses on Minority/cultures Way/style of activities based mostly on white culture. (African American)

176. Don’t know

177. I believe people at Metro State are very open-minded and haven’t experienced racism of any sort. (Asian American)

178. Not too much of a problem since it’s a diverse school (Asian American)

179. Metro is one of the most diverse campuses I have been to. Everyone I have been in contact with have been committed to each other’s success, no matter race or gender. (Asian American)

180. I have to say that I think racism is much less of a problem than it was when I first attended college at a small rural university in 1989. With that said as my base of comparison, Metro is very considerate of the viewpoints and cultural backgrounds of all students.

181. I didn’t notice racism at Metro State, but was existed to have professor that was Afro-American. Enjoyed that class the most.

182. Issues need to be addressed instead of always having ‘MN-nice’ conversations about what the problem is. Tired, tired. (African American)

183. Big problem

184. Institutional blockades to prevent the advancement of people of color (African American)

185. I feel that people judge each other based on other criteria (like school performance and knowledge) than on racial identity. I also feel that as a member of a minority group it is in part my duty to not let others treat me less. (African American)

186. I have not experienced any issues with racism at Metro State

187. I have not been attending enough to experience any situations (African American)

188. I have not noticed Racism since I’ve been attending Metro but I have only been enrolled for one semester. Too soon to make positive review. Focus policy and procedures toward diversity efforts. (African American)

189. I don’t

190. Individual knowledge varies (Asian American)

191. I think the most common way racism is a problem at Metro State is the assumption that because you don’t speak English well you’re therefore unintelligent.

192. You’re giving this survey-actively deals with Racism (Native American)

193. I have not seen any evidence what so ever showing signs of racism

194. I have not seen any problems.
If it is a problem the problem is too many international students are being allowed to take class when they can't even speak a word of English or capabilities to attend. Obviously just let in because there international and they'll even admit it.

Don't know

I haven't seen any racial related issues (African American)

I am neutral about that. (Asian American)

I have personally not seen any sign of it.

I have not come across any racism at Metro State

Neutral

Haven’t noticed it’s a problem

I mind my own business and I never have anybody complains if being discriminated (African American)

I haven’t experienced or seen racism here (African American)

I have never personally witnessed any type of racism acted out here at Metro

It’s not a problem and I feel like I was just asked the same question 26 times

It’s not a problem that I am aware of

I don’t think it is at all.

Not a problem

It is not a problem

I haven’t seen any so I can’t say

I have seen fair treatment from faculty to all races

I’ve not witnessed any situations of racism however. I’m basically only on campus when in class

It doesn’t seem like much of an issue, most people work full-time come to class and leave. The staff is also very diverse.

The fact that racism will always exist is the problem

Racism isn’t much of a problem at Metro because were all adults and professionals. (Asian American)

I don’t feel that racism is a problem at Metropolitan State University

I honestly don’t know this is my first semester here and I have yet to see any discrimination/racism acts occur.

I do not see racism as a problem at Metro. However racism is an embedded aspect in society, that needs to be changed!

I don’t know

Is a problem at times because someone has to told me to go back to my country. (Asian American)

I haven’t seen anything so far (African American)

Haven’t really run into it or seen it here.

Don’t know because never encounter any situations like that. (Asian American)

Reverse racism

I have only taken one class so far-it has been a very positive experience

Minorities are treated well, but there are not any special grants for white students