

First Year Freshmen Experience

Charles Nettleman, Nettleman Land Consultants, Inc.

An online survey (n=76) of freshman land surveying students enrolled in the Geospatial Sciences (GISc) program at Texas A&M – Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) was conducted from 2016 to 2018 to learn more about the demographics, career goals, and reasons for choosing to attend TAMU-CC. The purpose of the survey was to learn more about the current study body so that GISc faculty assess and improve its methods for recruiting new undergraduate students to the program. The results of the survey showed that the majority of freshman students were under the age of 28, from nearby South Texas cities, had never worked in any geospatial field before, and many had not attended any other college before enrolling in the GISc program. They chose to become surveyors because of the pay and availability of jobs and were interested in a Civil Engineering or Construction Management dual degree. Future work on this project will be to use the data to focus current recruiting efforts at TAMU-CC, and to expand the online survey to geospatial, land surveying, and GIS programs at other universities.