

Abstract

Student Opinions of Anti-Discrimination Laws Protecting LGBTQ+ People

Anti-discrimination laws regarding members of the LGBTQ+ community have cycled through voter ballots for the past several years with mixed results. Finding insight into the reasons behind the mixed opinions of LGBTQ+ issues will help leaders of the LGBTQ+ movement communicate with members of the community who have either dynamic or ambivalent attitudes towards LGBTQ+ issues. 110 students from a regional state university were surveyed over factors that may influence opinions. Nine surveys were uncodeable due to omissions (final n=101). No hypotheses were stated as the study was exploratory in nature.

An analysis of variance found differences in participants' responses to Likert scale questions based on their gender, religion, and political affiliation. The results also showed correlations between participants' answers to Likert scale questions and their gender, religion, and political affiliation. A Pearson Product Correlation was performed between all demographic questions and all Likert scale questions. This found two correlations between gender and answers to Likert scale questions, five correlations between political affiliation and answers to Likert scale questions, and three correlations between religion and answers to Likert scale questions. Analyses of variance (ANOVA) were conducted for each demographic question. The analyses of variance showed one significant difference in answers to Likert scale questions based on gender, six significant differences in answers to Likert scale questions based on political affiliation, and two significant differences in answers to Likert scale questions based on religion.