As this year’s freshman class entered college, community issues and politics weighed heavily on their minds. With 2016 presidential campaigns beginning to gain steam, freshmen expressed their commitment to political engagement and their views on the political landscape.

**UC San Diego Responses in Blue**
- 34% Expect to participate in student protests or demonstration while in college.
- 72% Feel it’s important to help others in difficulty.
- 76% Believe dissent is a critical component of the political process.

**National Responses in Red**
- 33% Want to improve their understanding of other countries and cultures.
- 40% Believe being a community leader matters.
- 81% Endorse the right of same-sex couples to marry.

**Which may relate to their stance on key social policy issues.**
- 89% Support the legal status of abortion.
- 64% Believe a community leader matters.
- 45% Identify as liberal or far left.
- 64% Support the legal status of abortion.

**While their notions of diversity continue to expand.**
- 7% Identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer or other.
- 7% Identify as an agnostic, atheist or not affiliated with any religion.
- 54% Express concerns about financing their education.

**Students use a variety of sources to fund their first year of college.**
- 30% Rely on Pell Grants.
- 30% Utilize merit-based grants or scholarships.
- 39% Have taken out loans.

**Many students’ college choice was influenced by graduates’ success.**
- 40% Considered graduates’ admission to top graduate/professional schools very important.
- 38% Considered graduates’ job placement very important.

**Students rely on multiple sources to supplement their learning...**
- 89% Learned something on their own via an online course.
- 83% Used special tutoring or remedial work in math.
- 17% Participated in a summer bridge program.
- 17% Took advanced courses or summer school.

**...and are open to additional support while in college.**
- 57% Expect to seek personal counseling.
- 48% Anticipate needing tutoring or remedial work in math.
- 40% Considered graduates’ admission to top graduate/professional schools very important.
- 38% Considered graduates’ job placement very important.