

Speaker 1:

Our project is called, "Why Parkland?" We had two research questions one being why did you choose to go to parkland and how did you rate the value of your education? We wanted to see connections existed between these two questions. We gave a two part survey that had two questions. And the first one was multiple choice of why you chose Parkland. They could choose from that they were given a scholarship or won a scholarship, to increase technical skills such as writing reading or automotive; to transfer to another university other than U of I; The parkland pathway program; affordability. Just decide to give it a try; class size, access to professors, parents, and the other. The second question was to rate their education on a scale from one to five, one being poor, five being excellent and then to give a reason to support that.

In our findings, the number one reason was to try it out and to improve skills, and that the education quality was an average rating of 3.9 out of 5. Our assumption was before we did this project was that students chose Parkland because of affordability. And two websites supported this being [americanhonors.com](http://americanhonors.com) and [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com). Scholarships.com had two quotes that fit this reason why students chose was for financial advantage. The first one was the most obvious one that students attend community colleges for the financial advantage." And the second one was, "Many junior colleges cost less than two thousand dollars each semester to attend full time." So we were quite surprised that more people that we surveyed did not say affordability and that the number one answer why they chose Parkland was to give it a try, which tied with "improve skill set."

On average, students rated the value of their education slightly less than above average, which equals out to 3.9. We had twelve participants: five males, and seven females. Seven current students, one professor, two graduates, one student who went for a year, and one student who took several courses. Some positive reasons for why they valued their education at Parkland was: class size was mentioned as favorable, while giving a good rating for the value of education. Professors were mentioned favorably as well as access to them. The same quality of professors as for universities. Current technologies used in application were noted while valuing education. Some negative reasons for why people did not value their education at Parkland was several of our participants felt that the advisers were terrible. They knew the general education requirements, but they had little knowledge of the student's major. One participant thought the teaching was average, but the professors were easy to work with. Another participant didn't like the instructors in the automotive program or its atmosphere.

In conclusion, we found that student chose Parkland more often to just give it a try or improve their skills rather than affordability. We also found a connection between the reasons a student chose Parkland and how they rated the value of their education. There was a relationship in the following reasons student chose Parkland in their valuation of their education: For just try it, 2 out of 3 gave it an average rating, and one gave it an excellent rating. We attributed the excellent rating to the fact she was an older returning student, and was more motivated than some current students. To improve skills, two ratings were above average and one was average. Affordability, both ratings were average. Class size had one excellent and one above average, so there was no definite choice for this category. The other categories only had one rating. We were able to conclude that there appears to be a somewhat direct relationship between why a student chose Parkland and the rating they would give the value of their education

Why did you choose Parkland College?

Subject 1:

Because I fell within the district area, that it was the college closest to me, besides DACC, and Parkland had rated better than DACC

One a scale of one to five, one being poor and five being excellent, what would rate your experience at Parkland?

Subject 1:

About a three.

Can you give a reason for that?

Subject 1:

Because, I was in the automotive program. Like, I didn't really like my overall experiences that I had from there... the instructors, and, like, not all the instructors were bad, some of them were good. Some of the classes were good, some were bad. But I overall just felt kind of lost, and then what was good about it was what I learned from those classes but I really enjoyed the welding aspect of it. The programs that provide for welding were quite interesting.

Why did you choose Parkland College?

Subject 2:

I chose Parkland College because it was close to me and it was the only program around here that I could find near me. So I'm studying in the nursing program, which the U of I does not have one. And also, it's cheaper at Parkland, so that's why I chose Parkland.

What would you rate your educational experiences at Parkland?

Subject 2:

Well if I had to rate this, um, well you have the good and the bad part of Parkland, because there's the good teachers that will, like, help you through it all, and then the bad teachers. So far, I mean, it's been pretty even all around to the bad teachers and the good teachers. I'd say it's an okay experience. But, for the money I'm paying, I guess, I'll go with the flow.