



Enhancing student engagement in STAR

Research Summary | January 28, 2022

Why we did this research

STAR has a mailing list of over 100 students, yet meetings typically have fewer than 10 students in attendance. We asked the question “How can we increase student engagement in STAR”?

What we did

We analyzed STAR meeting topics, presenters, and attendance rates since the group’s founding in 2013. We also conducted a survey in March/April 2021 among STAR members and students enrolled in courses on aging.

What we learned

The meeting records indicated that attendance increased in 2020/21, coinciding with the pandemic and the shift to online meetings. From the survey we learned that attendance is strongly affected by course schedules and academic workload; students are sometimes just too busy to come out to STAR meetings. Survey responses also indicated that STAR could benefit by being more engaged with the broader community.

How we are using the findings

STAR meetings will be held on a variety of different days and time-of-day so as many students as possible can attend. As the pandemic situation unfolds or changes, we will continue to hold virtual options for meetings. We are also working towards improving our community engagement.

Thank you!

We wish to thank everyone who participated in our survey; without your responses we would not have learned much! We also wish to thank Dr. Michelle Porter for supporting this project, and Nicole Dunn and Rachel Ines at the Centre on Aging for all their help.

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