Student Grief and Loss Study

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The purpose of this project is to pilot a survey to identify CSUF students’ perceived knowledge of grief counseling and support, in terms of what grief services and support are available to students during the COVID-19 pandemic on and off campus. To learn what students perceived to be the barriers to accessing grief care. To understand the student grief experience. And to better understand potential areas for the campus administration to target for improvement in terms of grief counseling and support.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many students have experienced grief from the loss of a loved one which may have been directly related to the Covid-19 virus or indirectly as a result of the increased burden on the American healthcare system from sick patients.

Based on a literature review of studies on grief and loss, a survey was developed to measure a student’s experience with grief at the time of their loss and presently and identify their own perceived barriers to accessing grief support. A set of questions will ask students to rate their difficulty accessing grief services. Another set of questions will ask students to identify the institutional barriers they have faced while seeking grief care. And some questions will ask students to identify what types of support they have utilized to process their grief.

This research is expected to benefit the campus community by improving our understanding of students' perceived knowledge of grief services and support. This study will also increase our understanding of students' perceived barriers to seeking grief support and care. With a better understanding of what students perceived needs are for grief support and services and their barriers, the campus community will be better equipped to address those needs. At the time of the HHD research showcase, analysis of survey data will be completed.