

## Do you really need to conduct a survey?

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (IRA) at Temple University frequently administers university-wide surveys to the student body each academic year. The data collected evaluates students' collegiate experience, informs planning, and decision-making, assessment of student learning, and aspects of institutional effectiveness. In addition to these large surveys, the Temple community (students, faculty, and staff) also receive survey requests from schools/colleges, administrative departments, and students fulfilling internship and coursework requirements. Every survey request received by a Temple community member, may increase survey fatigue and decrease participation rates, which diminishes the power of all survey results. In order to ensure adequate response rates for all surveys, please consider the following questions:

- Is there another way you can gather the information you need? For example, can you collect the information you are seeking through focus groups, interviews, or in an observational setting? Are the data available in Banner, Canvas, institutional reports, or other existing data sources?
- Has the information you are seeking already been collected through a previous survey?
- Can the information you are seeking be collected at another location other than Temple?

If you answered NO to every question above, a survey might be the way to go. Your next step may be to submit a survey application to be reviewed by the TUSCC.