The Survey Interview:

The purpose of the survey interview is to establish a solid base of fact from which to draw conclusions, to make interpretations, and to determine future courses of action.

Concerns:
- Reliability - assurance that the same information "would have been collected each time in repeated interviews"
- Replicability - ability to duplicate interviews regardless of interviewer, interviewee, or situation

Purpose of the Affinity Group Exit Interview

To investigate the impact of a student's participation in the Affinity Group on a student's continued success at the University (GPA, retention, coop/internship), induction into the research process (attitudes toward research, participation on research projects, paper presentations, publications), contribution to the community (participation in outreach programs), the ability to function on teams (teamwork skills, communication skills, social skills), and to increase the number of students pursuing graduate degrees in computer science and electrical and computer engineering.

The Structure of the Affinity Group Exit Interview

Background Information
- A. Awareness of Affinity Group
- B. Why computer science or electrical & computer engineering
- C. Influences

II. Affinity Group Experience
- A. Description of involvement
- B. Significant achievement
- C. Benefits and Barriers
- D. Improvement

III. Changes

IV. The Future
- A. Prediction
- B. Influence of Affinity Group on personal/professional development
- C. Influence of working with professor
- D. Influence of learning technical and research skills
- E. Influence of working with diverse groups of colleagues
- F. Influence of recruitment on future plans
- G. Future plans and how they were reached
- H. Influence of Affinity Group on employment &/or graduate school
- I. Conceptual map of effective teamwork
- J. Conceptual map of the research process
AFFINITY GROUP EXIT INTERVIEW
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
END FALL 1997

INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is __________________. I am working for the Affinity Group Project, Departments of Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Texas at El Paso. I would like to spend the next 45-60 minutes talking with you about your experiences as a first-year student. The information you provide will be used

- To better understand what it is like to learn the research process and teamwork skills;
- To find ways to help you succeed in school, in your career and/or in a graduate program; and
- To help others become inducted into the research process.

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY MUST BE READ TO RESPONDENT

Before we start, I would like to assure you that this interview is confidential and completely voluntary. If we should come to any question which you do not want to answer, just let me know and we’ll go on to the next question.
### Part 1 – Background Information

*Write the responses in the space provided. On the right hand side of the form there are lists of “examples” or “probing questions.”*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewer:</th>
<th>The purposes of these questions in this first section are to obtain a brief description of your introduction to the Affinity Group and a description of your interests as you entered into the Affinity Group.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### 1. How long have you been a member of the Affinity Group?

#### 2. How did you become aware of the Affinity Group?

- What sparked your interest in the project?
- What did you envision yourself doing as a research assistant?
- Who approached you?
- Did you hear about it from students, professors, etc?

#### 2b. What did you hear about the Affinity Group before you joined?

- Can you give me some examples?

#### 3. Why did you join the Affinity Group Project?

- Why did you think it was a good idea to join the Affinity Group?
- How did you perceive the opportunities that would result from your involvement?
- How did you see yourself with respect to peers and faculty involved in the project?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewer:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

In this next section, I am going to ask you some questions on why you have chosen to go into computer science/electrical engineering.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. When did you first &quot;see&quot; yourself as a computer scientist/computer engineer?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How did you become interested in computer science or computer engineering?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What happened?</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>5. What were your personal and professional goals?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What did you want to accomplish?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. When you imagined yourself as a [computer scientist/computer and or electrical engineer], what did you see yourself doing?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do computer scientists do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do computer or electrical engineers do?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Who influenced your interest?  
   - Who do you see as a role model in your field?  
   - What characteristics does your role model have that particularly impressed you?  
   - How did your family react to your decision to pursue your interest in CS/CE?  
   - How did friends react to your decision?

7b. How did they influence you?  
   - That person(s)

8. Would you characterize your decision to become a computer science major or an electrical or computer engineering major as an easy decision or as a tough one? Explain.

   - Example of how or when they influenced you

   - What criteria did you use to select a major?
Part 2 - Affinity Group Experience

Write the responses in the space provided. On the right hand side of the form there are lists of 'examples' or 'probing questions.'

Interviewer:

In section 2, the purpose of the next set of questions is to find out about your experiences as an Affinity Group member.

9. Starting from the beginning of your association with the Affinity Group Project, describe what you did?

• What was the first project you worked on?
• How did your involvement grow?
• You worked on ______ project. What did you do?
10. What achievement is especially significant to you?

- What kinds of contributions did your project make?
- Why are these achievements significant?

11. What Affinity Group activities benefited you the most?

- What helped you realize your potential within the Affinity Group?
- Looking back, what are you especially glad that you did while in the Affinity Group?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12. What Affinity Group activities benefited you the least? Please explain.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Reflect back on your experience with the Affinity Group Project, what should have had more emphasis? Explain.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
14. What should have had less emphasis? Explain.

- *What skills or knowledge were not necessary to learn?*
- *Why do you feel this way*
Part 3. Changes

Write the responses in the space provided. On the right hand side of the form there are lists of "example" or "probing questions."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewer:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The purpose of this set of questions is to examine how the Affinity group has influenced you.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| 15. How has the Affinity Group changed how you "see" yourself as a computer scientist/electrical engineer/computer engineer? | • How has your image of yourself changed?  
• How have you changed? |
| --- | --- |

| 16. How has the Affinity Group changed your personal and professional goals? | • What are your goals now?  
• How have they changed? |
| --- | --- |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>17. After being a member of the Affinity Group, what do you see yourself doing as a computer scientist/electrical engineer/computer engineer?</th>
<th>• What do you think you are going to do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### Part 3 - The Future

*Write the responses in the space provided. On the right hand side of the form there are lists of "examples" or "probing questions."

**Interviewer:**

In Section 3, the purposes of the next set of questions are give you an opportunity to reflect on your Affinity Group experiences and to find out what your plans are for the future.

*Write the responses in the space provided. On the right hand side of the form there are lists of "examples" or "probing questions."

| 18. When you started with the Affinity Group, what did you think you would be doing when you graduated? | • Did you envision graduate school or industry?  
• Where did you think you would be after graduation?  
• What kind of position did you think you would have? |
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<tr>
<th>19. Reflect on your overall experience with the Affinity Group, do you think you would have learned as much or benefited as much without the Affinity Group?</th>
<th>• How can you tell?</th>
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</table>
| 20. How did working with a professor influence your future plan? | • Do you think you would be doing something different had you never worked with a professor?  
• What would that have been? |
|---|---|
| 21. How did working on technical and research skills affect the way you worked on your research? | • What would you tell a student who was considering joining the Affinity Group?  
• What were the pros and cons to your decision?  
• How did you actually arrive at your decision to _______. |
<p>| 22. How did working with a diverse group of students influence the way you work as a team member in a team situation? | • What would you tell a student who was considering joining the Affinity Group? |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23. How did recruitment (position/graduate school) influence your future plans?</td>
<td>What was offered that increased the likelihood that you would pursue your plans?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Were you offered what you expected?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How did the Affinity Group experience affect how you were recruited and how you presented your credentials?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Tell me about your future plans and tell me how you arrived at decisions about your next step.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What were the pro's and con's to your decision?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How did you actually arrive at your decision to _________?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. How do you think your experience in the Affinity Group will affect your future success as a graduate student/your future employment and duties?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What are the factors that you think separate you as an Affinity Group member from other graduates of the [computer science or electrical and computer engineering programs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How has working on the Affinity Group project prepared you for your future?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
26. In order to understand your thinking about effective teamwork, please draw your "road map of effective teamwork." After you have drawn your map, I will ask you to explain it to me.

Give the interviewee a sheet of paper.

27. In order to understand your thinking about the research process please draw your "road map of research process." After you have drawn your map, I will ask you to explain it to me.

Give the interviewee a sheet of paper.

28. Any additional comments?

Thank you for your time and information. We will use the information to help The University of Texas best meet the needs of incoming students. If you have any questions, please call Dr. Connie Kubo Delia-Plana, Model Institutions for Excellence (747-8888) or e-mail connie@mail.utep.edu

Time ended:

Interviewer comments: