

# Pedagogical strategies to improve student demographic participation



<http://bit.ly/ClemsonVotes>  
<https://blogs.clemson.edu/CUDemocracy>

## The Problem & Opportunity

**71.5%** = 2020 Clemson Student Voting Rate (58.4% in 2016)  
Compared to **66%** as 2020 National College Student Voting Rate (52% in 2016)

**88.6%** = 2020 Clemson Student Voter Registration Rate (81.5% in 2016)  
Compared to **83%** as 2020 National College Student Voter Registration Rate (76% in 2016)

## What Can I Do In My Classes?

Build our students'

- Identities as professionals and citizens.
- Knowledge about and engagement with public issues.
- Confidence with the 3 pillars of voter engagement:
  - 1) voter registration
  - 2) voter education
  - 3) voter turnout

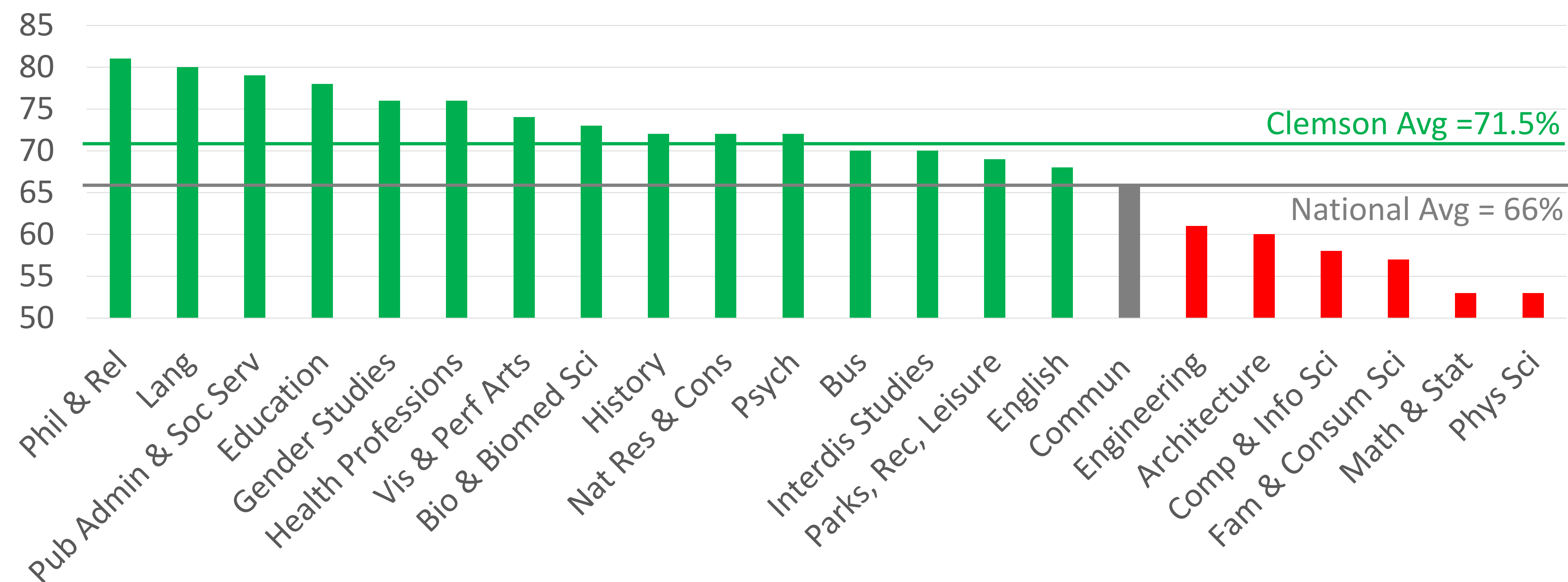
Use course assignments and in-class activities.

*WHAT IF:* Every instructor were to adopt (or adapt or tweak) an assignment or two that reinforced course content while also creating informed voters?

Examples:

- How do professionals in my field interact with elected or appointed officials?
- Who are the main elected or appointed officials that impact my discipline or chosen profession?
- What are the stances of my representatives on the issues of my discipline?
- How do I know where to find valid information on issues and candidates?

2020 Voting Rates for Clemson Students by Field of Study



## Additional Resources

Statement by Association of Chief Academic Officers in 2020:

As the Association of Chief Academic Officers (ACAO), we support the role of college faculty and instructors in improving nonpartisan student voter engagement. We believe that student engagement in American democracy is integrally connected to curricular priorities of critical thinking and information literacy. We encourage our faculty colleagues across all ranks and disciplines to infuse in disciplinary- and subject-specific ways tenets of nonpartisan democratic and voter engagement into their work with students across the three pillars of voter registration, education, and turnout. (<https://www.acao.org/assets/docs/Student%20Voting%20Endorsement%20%281%29.pdf>)

National Voter Education Week: October 3-7, 2022  
<https://votereducationweek.org/>

Ask Every Student Toolkit  
<https://www.studentvoting.org/toolkit>

Campus Vote Project: Info for All States  
<https://www.campusvoteproject.org/>