

WESTERN ALUMNI, CLASS OF 2005
SPRING 2006 SURVEY FINDINGS
(REPORT 2006-06)

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INTRODUCTION

Western's first Alumni Survey was conducted in 1988; its development and administration was in response to the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HEC Board) requirement to survey graduates every biennially. Western was done so diligently and reliably since. Twenty years on, as academic concerns have changed, so has the survey; however, the original "fourteen common items" proscribed by the HEC Board have remained. Similarly, the administration of the survey adapted: from a paper-and-pencil only mail-out form to the current on-line and telephone method. Yet regardless of the type of administration, satisfactory response rates have been attained.

The current report includes data from the Alumni Survey which was administered online and over the telephone in the Spring of 2006. The alumni who were surveyed graduated within the 2004-2005 academic year; therefore, respondents were anywhere from a year to eighteen months from graduation. There were originally 2,883 alumni total, but 301 were eliminated due to no or bad contact information. There were 364 alumni who took a long online version of the survey, 633 who took a shorter online version of the survey, and 214 who took the phone version of the survey. In total, 1211 alumni took the survey out of 2581, for a response rate of 47%.

WWU Alumni Survey 2006 ONLINE VERSION

I. Current Living Situation and Family Status

In this first section, we would like to get just a few details about your current living and family situation.

What is your current living situation? (n=995)

Living independently alone or with children	18%
Living independently with a friend or housemate	24%
Living independently with a romantic partner	31%
Living in an institutional setting (e.g., college dormitory, military barracks, etc.)	1%
Living with parents	17%
Living with other relative apart from parents	2%
Other (please specify):	8%

What is your current marital status? (n=995)

Single, Never married	62%
Single, Divorced	3%
Single, Widowed	0%
Single, Cohabiting	12%
Married	23%

Do you have any dependent children living with you currently? (n=995)

	No	Yes
	91%	9%

II. POST-GRADUATION JOB MARKET ACTIVITY

In this section we would like you to tell us a little about your decision whether or not to seek a permanent job after graduation and something about the experiences you had in your search.

Since graduating from WWU have you sought out a permanent part-time or full-time job? (n=1211)

No	13%
Yes, Part-time	7%
Yes, Full-time	60%
Yes, Both	20%
What was your primary reason for not pursuing permanent full-time employment after graduating? (n=244)	
Already employed in a permanent job	6%
Chose to pursue my education further	53%
Didn't feel adequately prepared	2%
Married and chose to be a homemaker for the immediate future	4%
Family obligations	4%
Joined a service organization	3%
Illness or Poor health	0%
Other (please specify): _____	29%

How well did your education at Western prepare you for success in the job market? (n=184)

	Not at all prepared	A little prepared	Somewhat prepared	Very well prepared	Extremely well prepared
	2%	8%	48%	37%	5%

Did you seek permanent employment in your academic field? (n=965)

	No	Yes
	25%	75%

Why did you choose not to seek employment in your academic field? (Percentage that responded "Agree")

Didn't feel adequately prepared (n=241)	15%
Didn't feel as though there were any good paying jobs in my field (n=241)	31%
Didn't know enough about the job market or careers in my field (n=241)	27%
Wasn't interested in a career in my field (n=241)	22%
Other (please specify): _____ (n=241)	43%

How well did your education at Western prepare you for success in the job market? (n=184)

	Not at all prepared	A little prepared	Somewhat prepared	Very well prepared	Extremely well prepared
	2%	8%	48%	37%	5%

For each of the career services listed below, please indicate whether or not you used it and how helpful it was to your job search. (Percentage indicated they used the service.)

WWU Career Services (n=796)	58%
WWU Job and Career Fairs (n=796)	52%
Campus wide visits from company recruiters (n=789)	32%
Academic department staff (n=283)	79%
Faculty in your discipline (n=283)	86%

For each of the career services listed below, please indicate whether or not you used it and how helpful it was to your job search.

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
WWU Career Services (n=465)	8%	36%	31%	20%	5%
WWU Job and Career Fairs (n=410)	19%	41%	27%	11%	3%
Campus wide visits from company recruiters (n=250)	28%	34%	20%	13%	5%
Academic department staff (n=223)	9%	23%	24%	29%	16%
Faculty in your discipline (n=244)	5%	18%	24%	32%	22%

III. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Now we would like to find out about your employment experiences since graduating from Western and how your experiences at Western relate to your employment.

Are you currently employed? (n=1211)

	No	Yes
13%	87%	
58%	42%	

Have you had any permanent part-time or full-time jobs since graduating from WWU? (n=153)

	No	Yes
58%	42%	

Which of the following job categories best fits your current occupation? (n=876)

Management, Business and Financial Workers	18%
Science, Engineering and Computer Professionals	11%
Healthcare Practitioner Professionals	3%
Other Professional Workers	11%
Technicians	2%
Sales Workers	6%
Administrative Support Workers	11%
Construction and Extractive Craft Workers	1%
Installation, Maintenance and Repair Craft Workers	0%
Production Operative Workers	1%
Transportation and Material Moving Operative Workers	1%
Laborers and Helpers	1%
Protective Service Workers	1%
Service Workers, except Protective	5%
Other	30%

How closely is this job related to your major at WWU? (n=1058)

Same field	37.00	37%
Related field	31.40	31%
Different field	31.70	32%

Please indicate how important the following skills are in your current job?

	Not at all	Somewhat	Moderately	Very
Strong writing skills (n=789)	12%	14%	27%	46%
Strong oral communication skills (n=788)	1%	2%	11%	86%
Ability to critically analyze written information (n=785)	7%	14%	23%	56%
Ability to define and solve problems (n=784)	1%	5%	15%	78%
Ability to work or learn independently, without supervision (n=786)	1%	3%	15%	80%
Ability to cooperate well, work in teams, etc. (n=779)	2%	6%	15%	76%
Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods (n=775)	40%	24%	19%	18%
Understanding and applying quantitative principles and methods (n=763)	26%	25%	26%	23%
Awareness of cultural and personal differences among people (n=779)	5%	14%	19%	62%
Working effectively with technology, including computers (n=784)	7%	8%	20%	65%
Strong interpersonal management skills (n=773)	3%	8%	24%	66%
Understanding organizations and how people behave in them (n=775)	6%	14%	26%	54%
Strong task / organizational / data management skills (n=679)	3%	7%	16%	74%

What proportion of your job uses skills and knowledge you gained from attending Western? (n=780)

	None	Some	About half	Most	All
7%	29%	26%	32%	6%	
7%	29%	26%	32%	6%	

How valuable were the courses you took in your major at Western in preparing you for this job? (n=774)

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very
9%	16%	32%	43%	
9%	16%	32%	43%	

How valuable were the General University Requirement (GUR) courses you took at Western in preparing you for this job? (n=697)

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very
21%	36%	35%	8%	
21%	36%	35%	8%	

How satisfied are you with the job you are currently in? (n=780)

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
5%	10%	33%	37%	16%	
5%	10%	33%	37%	16%	

How likely are you to stay in the same type of work for the next ten years? (n=300)

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very
26%	11%	24%	39%	
26%	11%	24%	39%	

Could you please tell us a few details about your first permanent job at the time of or following graduation, and then give us these same details for your most recent permanent job, if different from the first? PLEASE NOTE: ALL RESPONSES ON THIS QUESTIONNAIRE ARE KEPT COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL

Current Job

Date employed (n=1022)	< Aug04-Dec04	Jan05-June 05	July05-Dec05	Jan06-May06
	15%	23%	37%	26%
Work status (n=1018)	Part-time	Full-time		
	19%	81%		
Location (County, n=1019)	Island, Skagit, Whatcom	Snohomish, King, Pierce	Western Washington	Eastern Washington Elsewhere
	21%	31%	30%	3% 15%
Gross Income (n=1000)	< \$20k	20k-29,999	30k-39,999	40k-49,999 50k-59,999 60k-69,999 70k+
	27%	27%	27%	11% 4% 2%
Benefits (n=789)	None	Some	Full	
	27%	25%	49%	

1st Permanent Job (if different)

	< Aug04-Dec04	Jan05-June 05	July05-Dec05	Jan06-May06
Date employed (n=355)	42%	31%	25%	2%
Work status (n=356)	Part-time	Full-time		
Location (County; n=355)	Island, Skagit, Whatcom	Snohomish, King, Pierce	Western Washington	Eastern Washington Elsewhere
	28%	21%	34%	2%
Gross Income (n=351)	< \$20k	20k-29,999	30k-39,999	40k-49,999 50k-59,999 60k-69,999 70k+
	51%	34%	12%	3% 0% 0% 1%
Benefits (n=319)	None	Some	Full	
	53%	24%	23%	

IV. POST-GRADUATION EDUCATIONAL PURSUITS

Many students choose to continue their education or pursue a new educational course after graduation. In this section we ask you about your current and future educational plans and experiences as well as related professional activities and awards.

Which of the following best describes your educational plans for the foreseeable future? (n=1208)

I am currently enrolled in a college or university program	17%
I have been accepted into a college or university program but have not yet enrolled	5%
I plan to enter a college or university program in the next five years	36%
I plan to enter a college or university program, but not within the next five years	7%
I do not plan to enroll in a college or university anytime in the foreseeable future	14%
I am uncertain about my future educational plans	21%

In the table below, please indicate the type of educational programs you are currently enrolled in (or plan to enroll in), the year you first enrolled or plan to enroll, how this program relates to your undergraduate major at Western, and how well you feel your major and the general education you received at Western has prepared you for success in these educational pursuits.

Currently enrolled or Accepted

Type of Program (n=304)	Bachelor's Degree	Certification Program	Master's Degree	Professional Degree	PhD program	Other
	5%	17%	56%	9%	6%	7%
Start date (n=102)	Fall 04-Summer 05	Fall 05-Summer 06	Fall 06-Summer 07	Fall 07-Summer 08		
	21%	52%	24%	4%		
Relationship to WWU major (n=299)	Same Field	Related Field	Different Field			
	40%	41%	19%			
Adequacy of preparation in major (n=292)	Not at all	Minimal	Adequate	Very Adequate	Extremely Adequate	
	4%	9%	28%	40%	19%	
Adequacy of preparation outside major (n=88)	Not at all	Minimal	Adequate	Very Adequate	Extremely Adequate	
	3%	24%	44%	21%	8%	

Future plans

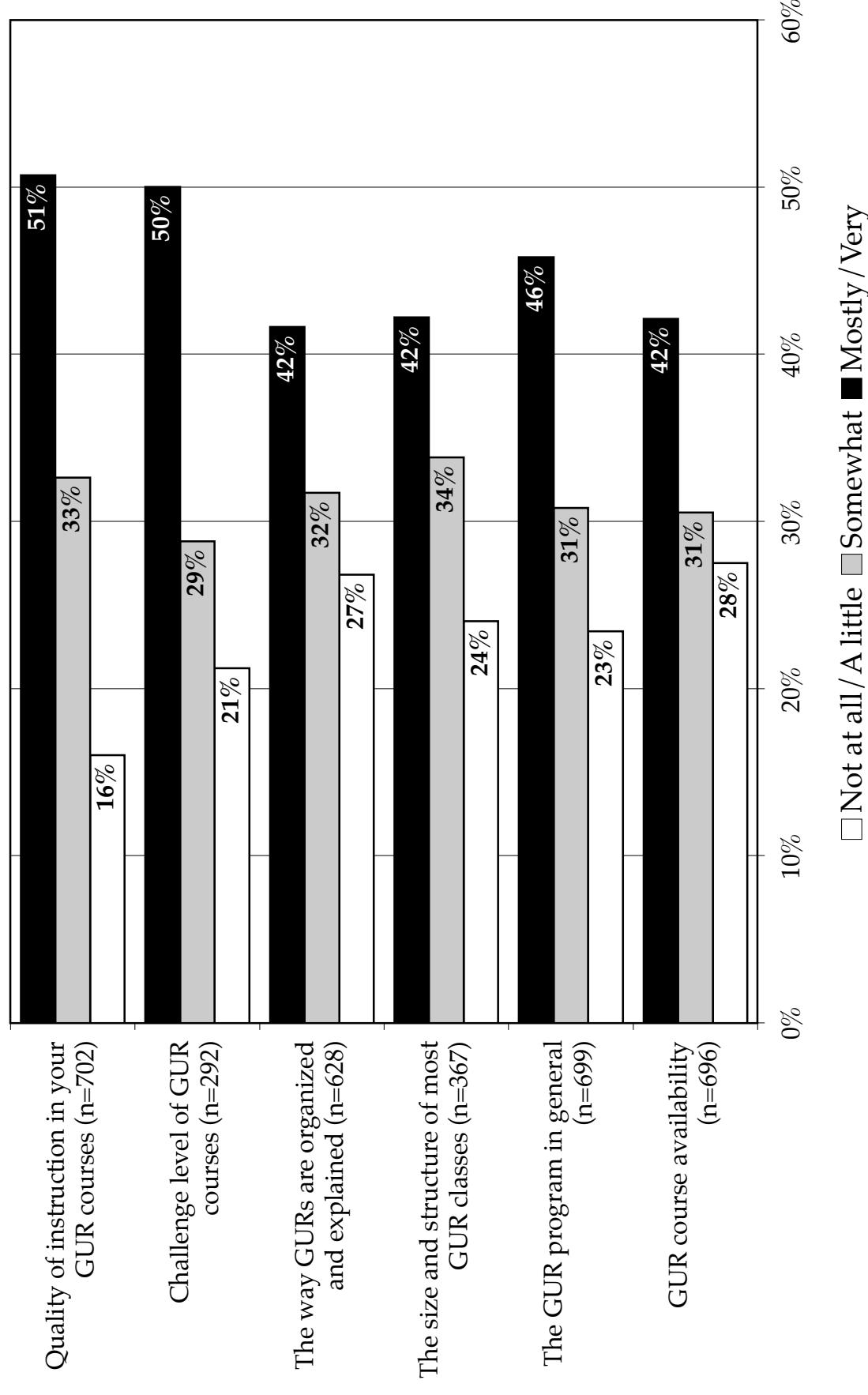
Type of Program (n=488)	Bachelor's Degree	Certification Program	Master's Degree	Professional Degree	PhD program	Other
	2%	8%	72%	6%	9%	3%
Start date (n=144)	Fall 05-Summer 06	Fall 06-Summer 07	Fall 07-Summer 08	Fall 08-Summer 09	Fall 10 or Later	
	5%	24%	34%	19%	18%	
Relationship to WWU major (n=480)	Same Field	Related Field	Different Field			
	38%	46%	17%			
Adequacy of preparation in major (n=376)	Not at all	Minimal	Adequate	Very Adequate	Extremely Adequate	
	4%	10%	40%	36%	11%	
Adequacy of preparation outside major (n=128)	Not at all	Minimal	Adequate	Very Adequate	Extremely Adequate	
	6%	21%	46%	20%	6%	

In addition to preparing you in your major field of interest, Western's mission is to provide a broader liberal arts education in terms of developing skills and exposing students to diverse perspectives, philosophies, and cultures. The questions that follow are focused on this aspect of our mission.

How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your general education experience while at WWU?

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Mostly	Very
The GUR program in general (n=699)	8%	16%	31%	34%	12%
GUR course availability (n=696)	10%	17%	31%	30%	12%
The way GURs are organized and explained (n=628)	7%	20%	32%	31%	10%
The size and structure of most GUR classes (n=367)	7%	17%	34%	33%	10%
Quality of instruction in your GUR courses (n=702)	3%	13%	33%	36%	15%
Challenge level of GUR courses (n=292)	5%	16%	29%	39%	11%
Sensitivity of courses and instructors to race and ethnic differences (n=690)	2%	4%	11%	36%	47%
Sensitivity of courses and instructors to differences in sexual orientation (n=662)	2%	5%	14%	33%	47%
Sensitivity of courses and instructors to differences in religious views (n=684)	4%	9%	17%	34%	36%

2006 Survey of 2004 WWU Graduates: Satisfaction with the following GUR experiences



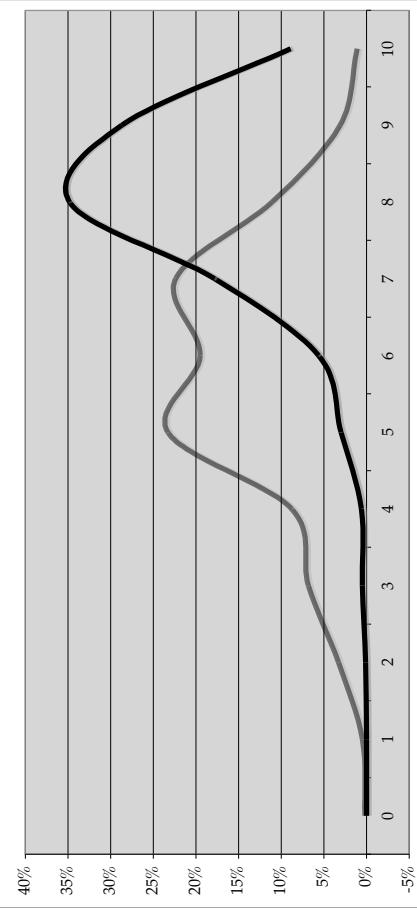
□ Not at all / A little ■ Somewhat ■ Mostly / Very

There are many obstacles that students encounter to getting their degree in a timely manner or getting the quality of education that they desire. To what extent would you say that you have found each of the following to be an impediment to the timely completion of your degree or a factor leading to a less than ideal educational experience at WWU?

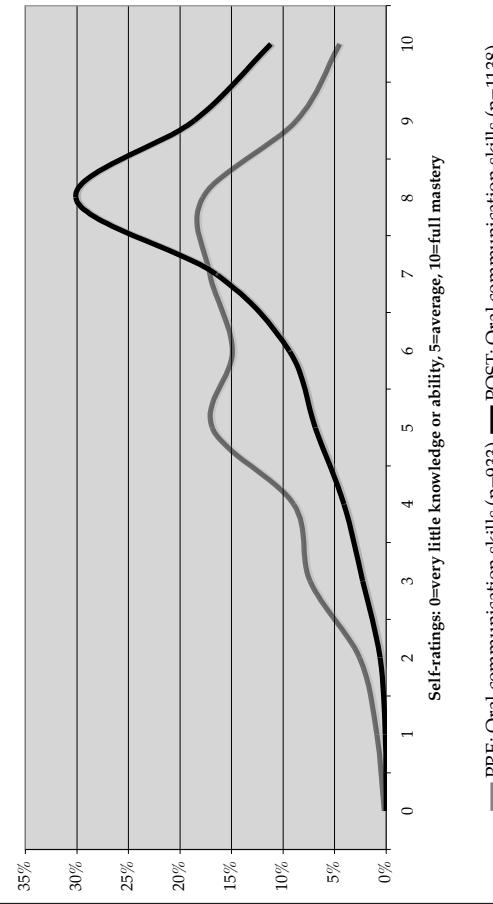
	Not at all	Very Little	Somewhat	A Lot
Scheduling conflicts (n=359)	14%	27%	38%	22%
Full courses (n=359)	18%	25%	35%	22%
Problems transferring courses (n=879)	63%	22%	10%	5%
Other registration problems (n=882)	39%	33%	20%	7%
Financial problems (n=882)	48%	28%	19%	6%
Work schedule or outside work loads (n=881)	35%	33%	25%	7%
Uncertainty about educational interests and goals (n=782)	37%	28%	24%	11%
Poor or inadequate general advising (n=879)	30%	30%	25%	15%
Poor or inadequate major advising (n=357)	41%	30%	20%	9%
Number of credits required for your major (n=358)	55%	29%	11%	6%
Grade or credit restrictions on desired major (n=358)	66%	22%	8%	4%
Access to courses in your major (n=878)	33%	30%	25%	12%
Academic problems (grades, probation, warning) (n=358)	77%	16%	6%	2%
Family problems or issues (n=880)	68%	19%	10%	4%
Romantic relationship events or problems (n=882)	66%	23%	9%	2%
Other (Please Specify Below) (n=507)	86%	2%	3%	10%

Please try to objectively rate yourself on each of the qualities listed below. First, think back and try to rate yourself on each dimension when you first started college. Put your ratings in the column on the left. Second, using the column on the right, rate yourself when you graduated from Western. For each rating, please use a 0-10 scale, where 0 means very little knowledge or ability in that area, 5 means average mastery, and 10 means full mastery.

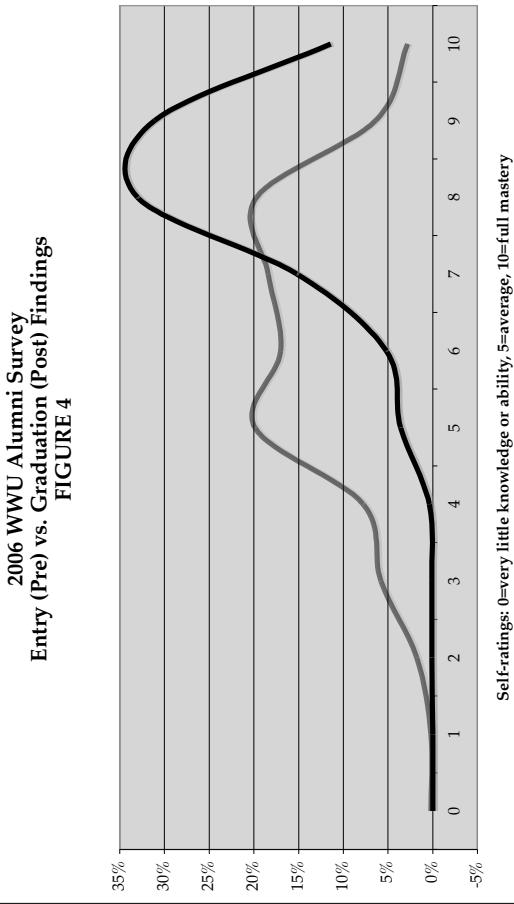
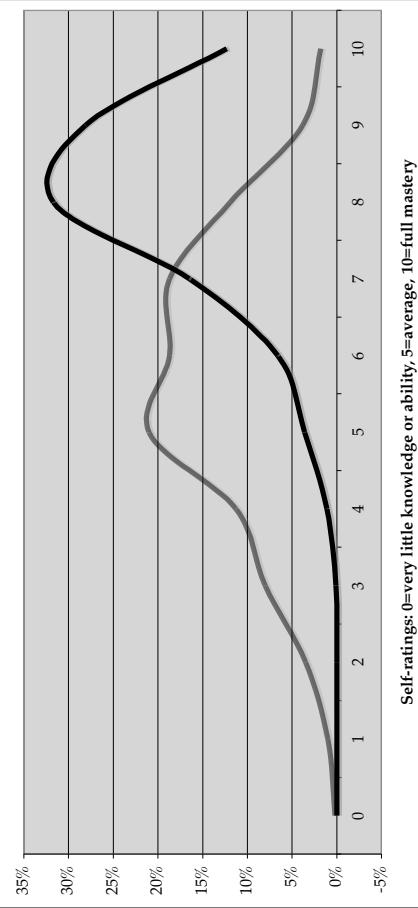
2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 1



2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 2

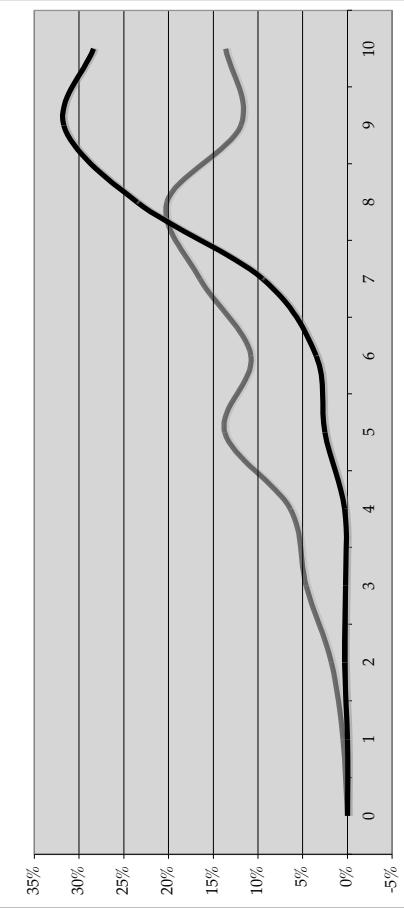


2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 3

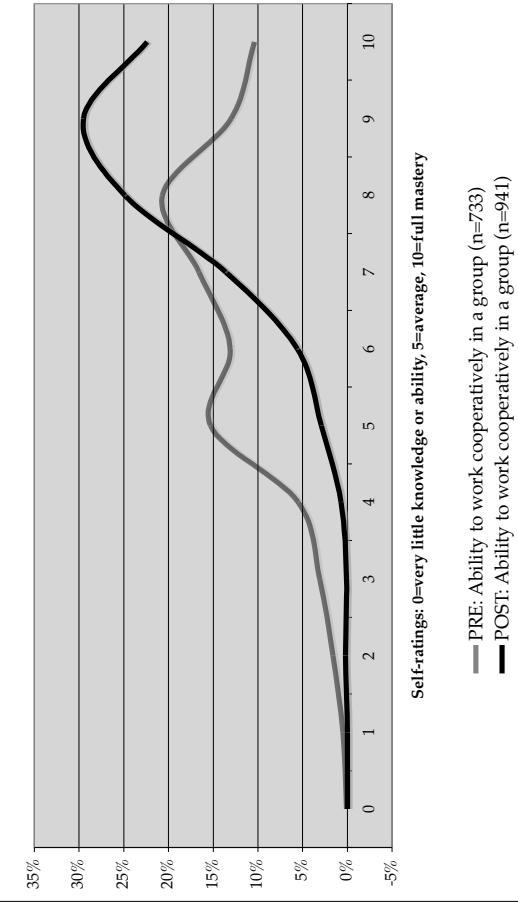


Please try to objectively rate yourself on each of the qualities listed below. First, think back and try to rate yourself on each dimension when you first started college. Put your ratings in the column on the left. Second, using the column on the right, rate yourself when you graduated from Western. For each rating, please use a 0-10 scale, where 0 means very little knowledge or ability in that area, 5 means average mastery, and 10 means full mastery.

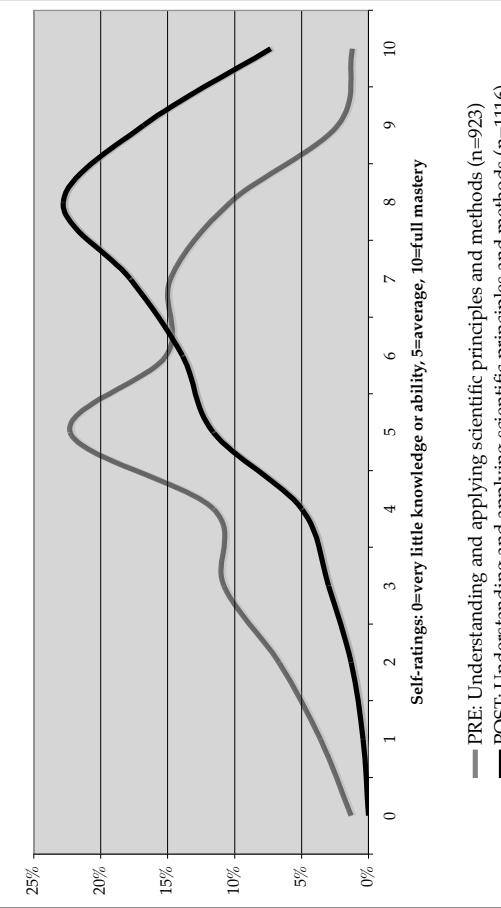
2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 5



2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 6



2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 7



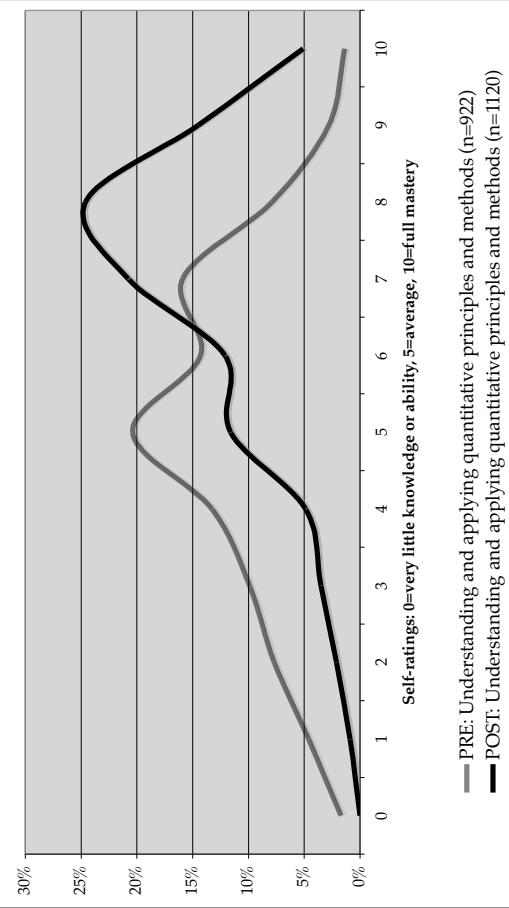
2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 8

— PRE: Ability to communicate scientific ideas to others effectively (n=739)
— POST: Ability to communicate scientific ideas to others effectively (n=730)

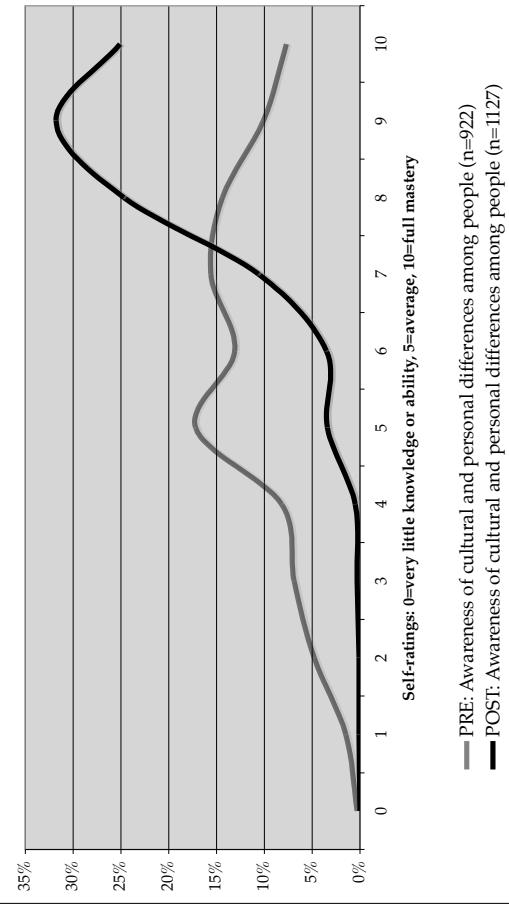
— PRE: Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods (n=923)
— POST: Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods (n=1116)

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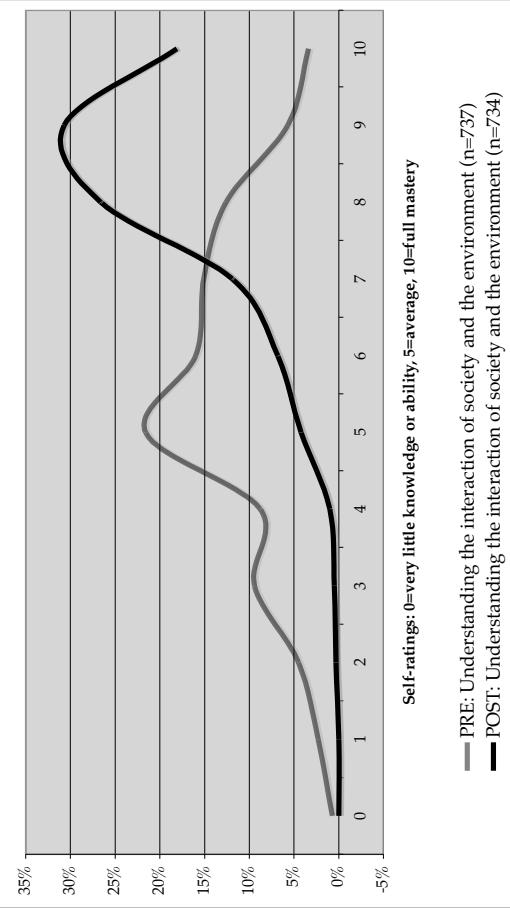
2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 9



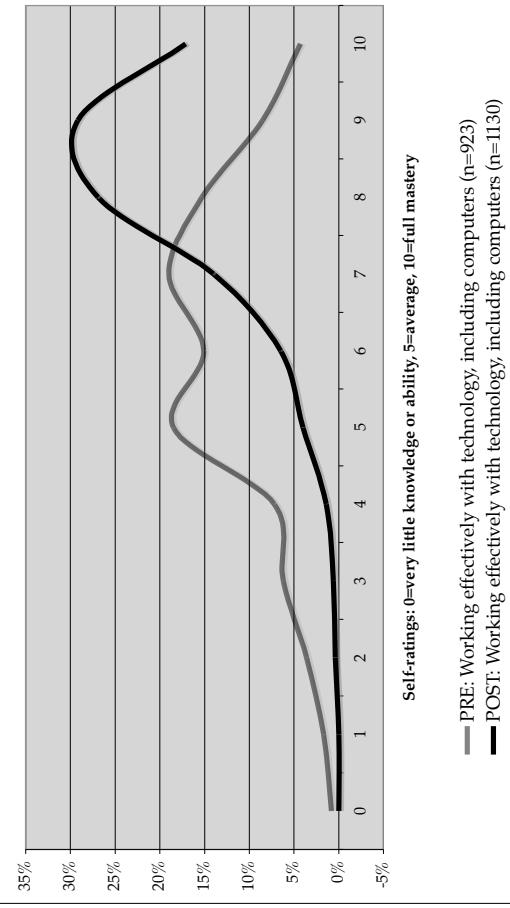
2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 10



2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 11

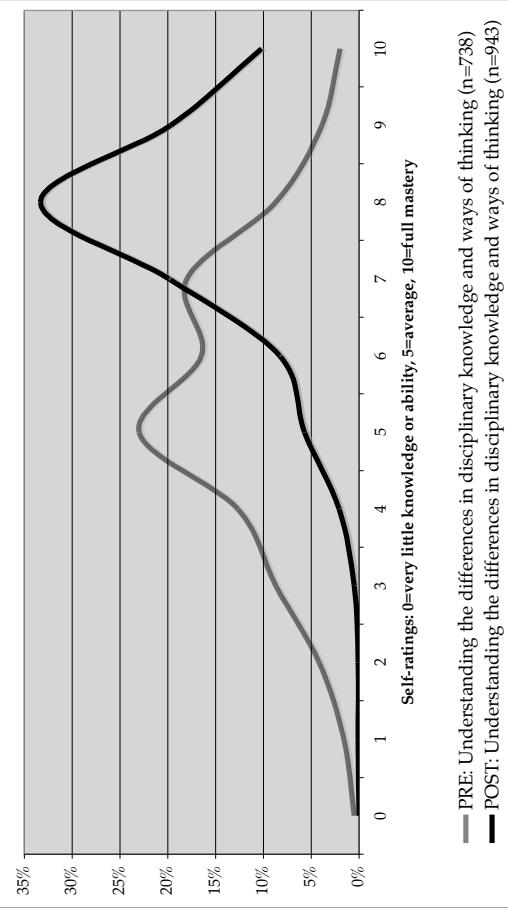


2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 12

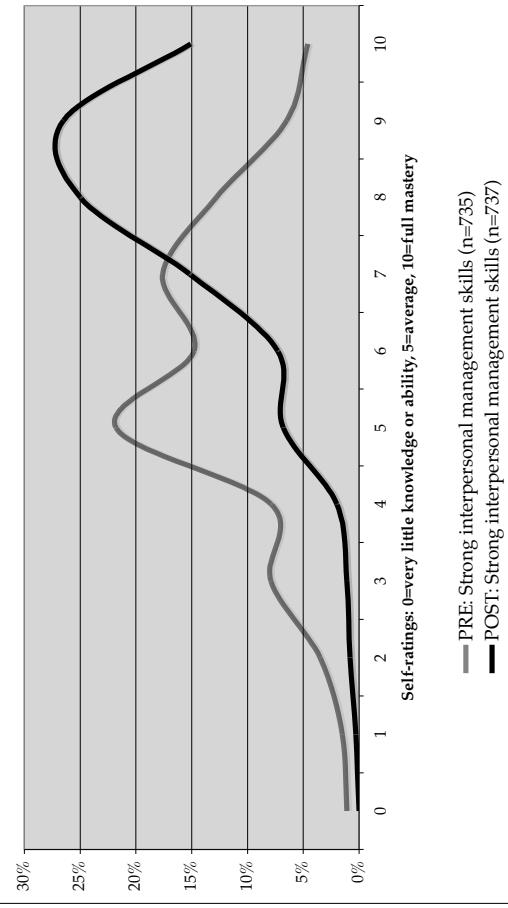


Please try to objectively rate yourself on each of the qualities listed below. First, think back and try to rate yourself on each dimension when you first started college. Put your ratings in the column on the left. Second, using the column on the right, rate yourself when you graduated from Western. For each rating, please use a 0-10 scale, where 0 means very little knowledge or ability in that area, 5 means average mastery, and 10 means full mastery.

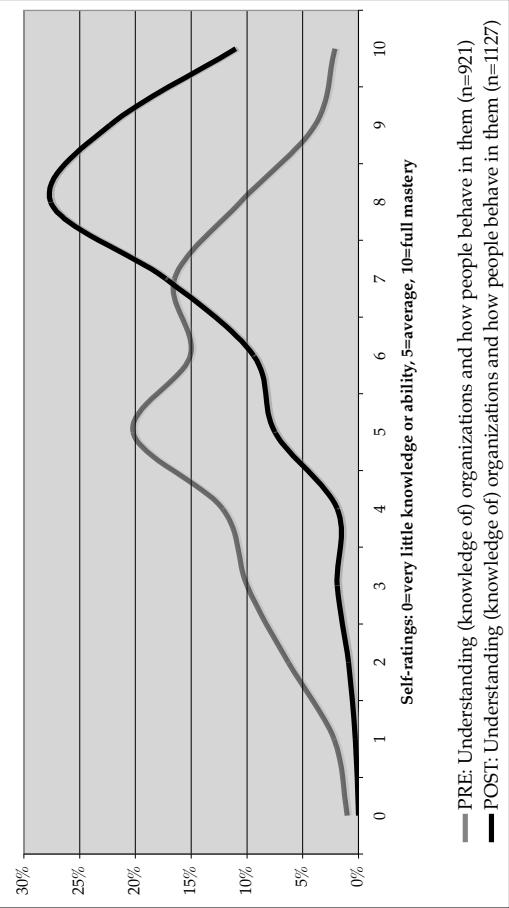
2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 13



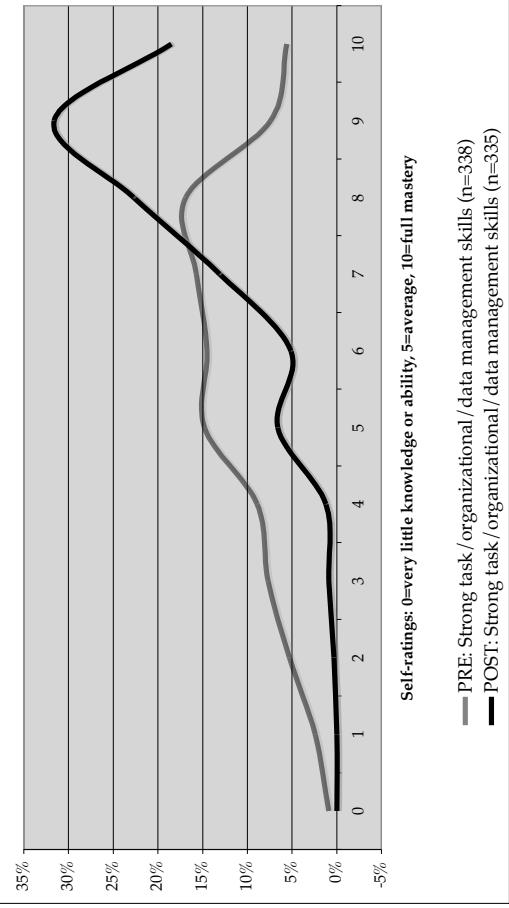
2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 14



2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 15



2006 WWU Alumni Survey
Entry (Pre) vs. Graduation (Post) Findings
FIGURE 16



VI. ACADEMIC MAJOR AND MAJOR DEPARTMENT

*Now we would like to collect information that can help academic departments at Western better serve their students.
Your reflections on your experiences at Western in your major are a very important part of this effort.*

What was the primary field of your undergraduate major at graduation (or primary major if you had a double major)?

Accounting	2.4%	Geography	0.9%
American Cultural Studies	0.4%	Geology	1.2%
Anthropology / Archaeology	2.1%	German	0.5%
Art	2.7%	History	3.1%
Art History	0.3%	Human Services	4.5%
Biochemistry	0.9%	Humanities	0.5%
Biology	3.3%	Industrial Design	0.4%
Canadian-American Studies	0.1%	Industrial Technology	1.2%
Chemistry	0.8%	Journalism	1.8%
Communication	3.3%	Linguistics	1.1%
Communication Sciences and Disorders	1.5%	Management	3.8%
Community Health	1.2%	Manufacturing & Supply-Chain Management	0.6%
Computer Science	1.7%	Manufacturing Engineering Technology	0.2%
Dance	0.0%	Mathematics	1.2%
Decision Sciences	0.9%	Music	1.2%
East Asian Studies	0.2%	Philosophy	0.5%
Economics	1.7%	Physical Education and Health	1.2%
Electronics Engineering Technology	0.7%	Physics	0.2%
Elementary Education	7.0%	Planning & Environmental Policy	0.3%
English	6.8%	Plastics Engineering Technology	0.2%
Environmental Education	0.2%	Political Science	2.5%
Environmental Science	2.1%	Psychology	6.0%
Environmental Studies	0.8%	Recreation	1.8%
Exercise and Sports Science	1.2%	Secondary Education	0.5%
Fairhaven	0.7%	Sociology	3.7%
Finance & Marketing	3.3%	Spanish	1.5%
Financial Economics	0.3%	Special Education	1.8%
French	0.5%	Theatre Arts	1.6%
General Studies	2.1%	Other (Please Specify:	6.4%

How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your primary major and department within which it was located?

	Not at all	A Little	Somewhat	Mostly	Very
Course Availability (n=1156)	4%	8%	17%	45%	27%
Knowledge and Expertise of Faculty (n=940)	1%	1%	8%	35%	55%
Quality of Instruction (n=1149)	0%	2%	12%	43%	43%
Course requirements and Sequences (n=348)	0%	4%	14%	51%	31%
Opportunities for Class Interaction and Projects (n=1153)	1%	3%	13%	38%	46%
Challenge Level of Courses (n=345)	1%	1%	5%	42%	51%
Department Internships and Service Learning Opportunities (n=1040)	12%	16%	25%	21%	26%
Opportunities for Independent Study and Research (n=1024)	6%	13%	25%	28%	28%
Opportunities for Involvement in Faculty Research (n=917)	21%	19%	25%	19%	17%
Opportunities for Informal Relationships with Professors (n=332)	5%	8%	18%	27%	41%
Overall Department Climate (n=346)	1%	4%	16%	38%	41%
Department Advising for Courses (n=1132)	8%	13%	21%	28%	31%
Department Advising for Careers (n=1086)	16%	17%	25%	23%	20%
Adequacy of Lab or Studio Space and Equipment (n=955)	5%	9%	20%	37%	29%
Adequacy of Technology and Software Available (n=1069)	4%	7%	18%	37%	34%
Library Resources in Your Field (n=1094)	3%	8%	20%	37%	33%
Classroom Space and Technology (n=932)	3%	8%	19%	39%	30%

When did you officially declare this major? (n=356)

	Declared
Freshman Year (less than 45 credits)	9%
First Quarter Sophomore (45-60 credits)	8%
Second Quarter Sophomore (61-75 credits)	11%
Third Quarter Sophomore (76-90 credits)	17%
First Quarter Junior (91-105 credits)	33%
Second Quarter Junior (106-120 credits)	11%
Third Quarter Junior (121-135 credits)	7%
First Quarter Senior (136-150 credits)	2%
Second Quarter Senior (151-165 credits)	1%
Third Quarter Senior (166-180 credits)	1%
Super Senior (181 credits or more)	1%

**Did you graduate with a combined major or a double major?
(n=364)**

No, Single Major Only	89%
Yes, Combined Major	7%
Yes, Double Major	5%

When did you officially declare this second major? (n=18)

Freshman Year (less than 45 credits)	11%
First Quarter Sophomore (45-60 credits)	11%
Second Quarter Sophomore (61-75 credits)	28%
Third Quarter Sophomore (76-90 credits)	0%
First Quarter Junior (91-105 credits)	17%
Second Quarter Junior (106-120 credits)	11%
Third Quarter Junior (121-135 credits)	6%
First Quarter Senior (136-150 credits)	11%
Second Quarter Senior (151-165 credits)	0%
Third Quarter Senior (166-180 credits)	6%
Super Senior (181 credits or more)	0%

What was the academic field of your second undergraduate major or combined major at graduation? (n=42)

Accounting	2%
Anthropology / Archaeology	7%
Biology	5%
Canadian-American Studies	2%
East Asian Studies	2%
Economics	2%
Elementary Education	5%
English	10%
French	5%
History	2%
Linguistics	5%
Management	2%
Mathematics	2%
Philosophy	5%
Political Science	2%
Psychology	5%
Secondary Education	5%
Spanish	7%
Theatre Arts	2%
Other (Please Specify):	21%

**How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your second major and department within which it was located?
Not at all; a little; somewhat; mostly; very; not applicable.**

	Not at all	A Little	Somewhat	Mostly	Very
Course Availability (n=39)	3%	10%	21%	44%	23%
Knowledge and Expertise of Faculty (n=39)	3%	5%	3%	41%	49%
Quality of Instruction (n=39)	3%	3%	18%	44%	33%
Course requirements and Sequences (n=39)	3%	10%	13%	39%	36%
Opportunities for Class Interaction and Projects (n=39)	5%	3%	23%	44%	26%
Challenge Level of Courses (n=37)	3%	3%	19%	32%	43%
Department Internships and Service Learning Opportunities (n=32)	19%	19%	22%	13%	28%
Opportunities for Independent Study and Research (n=32)	13%	25%	13%	25%	25%
Opportunities for Involvement in Faculty Research (n=30)	20%	17%	23%	23%	17%
Opportunities for Informal Relationships with Professors (n=39)	8%	8%	31%	23%	31%
Overall Department Climate (n=39)	5%	10%	21%	33%	31%
Department Advising for Courses (n=38)	5%	13%	24%	32%	26%
Department Advising for Careers (n=35)	20%	11%	23%	23%	23%
Adequacy of Lab or Studio Space and Equipment (n=29)	0%	14%	14%	35%	38%
Adequacy of Technology and Software Available (n=33)	0%	12%	9%	39%	39%
Library Resources in Your Field (n=38)	0%	13%	26%	26%	34%
Classroom Space and Technology (n=38)	3%	13%	13%	40%	32%

Did you ever drop a major or pre-major that you had previously declared while at Western? (n=829)

	No	Yes, once	Yes, more than once
	76%	20%	4%

Did you ever change your intended major while at Western? (n=364)

	No	Yes, once	Yes, more than once
	68%	25%	8%

*Note: No respondent answered both of the above questions because they took different versions of the survey.

Thinking back to the last time that you changed your major, to what extent was each of the following one of the reasons for doing so. Not at all; a minor reason; a major reason

	Not At All	A Minor Reason	A Major Reason
Unable to meet the requirements for admission to the major (difficulties in meeting admissions requirements) (n=309)	74%	18%	9%
Too hard to get into required courses (n=309)	67%	18%	15%
Would have taken too long to complete (n=307)	53%	24%	23%
Material was too difficult to master (n=253)	70%	18%	13%
Professors were unfriendly, unfair, or unprofessional (n=256)	71%	17%	13%
Later career or employment prospects were not good enough (n=255)	64%	16%	20%
Changed my interests (n=256)	21%	24%	55%
Workload in courses was too great (n=256)	75%	15%	10%
Department advising was inadequate or lacking (n=306)	67%	22%	12%

VII. PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND STUDENT SERVICES RESOURCES

Western is much more than just a place of learning. It is a social community where students from diverse backgrounds and from distant towns come together and need to live independently, often for the first time. We understand that what happens outside the classroom can have significant impacts on students' ability to perform in the classroom. As a result, Western provides many opportunities and resources to help foster student adjustment. Therefore, we would like you to think back to your time at Western along these lines and answer the following questions.

During your time at Western, to what extent did any of the following interfere with the quality of your educational experience?

	Not at all	Hardly at all	A little	Somewhat	A lot
Feelings of loneliness (n=878)	39%	24%	21%	11%	4%
Spiritual dilemmas or issues (n=871)	64%	16%	12%	6%	2%
Feeling overwhelmed (n=354)	12%	15%	30%	29%	14%
Uncertainty about the future (n=352)	17%	16%	26%	26%	15%
Financial problems or worries (n=875)	31%	18%	23%	17%	10%
Missing classes or assignments (n=352)	51%	26%	14%	7%	2%
Unfair treatment by professors, instructors or TAs (n=874)	49%	29%	14%	7%	1%
Problems dealing with the administration (e.g., registrar) (n=874)	49%	23%	16%	8%	4%
Drinking or drug use on campus (n=877)	76%	17%	5%	2%	1%
Experiencing a crime against yourself (Short: Being the victim of a crime) (n=879)	91%	5%	3%	1%	0%
Problem with motivation or study habits (n=878)	32%	22%	26%	15%	6%
Level of work involvement (n=874)	41%	23%	20%	12%	4%
Involvement in Associated Students activities (n=354)	70%	18%	7%	3%	2%
(Short Version) Health issues (n=415)	52%	26%	15%	5%	2%

Below is a list of student support services provided by Western. If you used any of these services at any time while at Western, please indicate your level of satisfaction with that service in the column to the right.

	Used
Orientation and First Year Programs for Freshmen (n=859)	52%
Transfer Advising and Support (n=846)	42%
Financial Aid Office (n=341)	63%
Registrar's Office (n=341)	92%
Academic Advising and Tutorial Services (n=860)	59%
Library Collections and Services (n=857)	88%
Academic Technology and User Services (Computer Labs and Help Desk) (n=859)	90%
Writing Center (n=852)	27%
Career Services Center	27%
Counseling Center (n=848)	27%
Alcohol, Drug, and/or Sexual Assault Services (n=335)	8%
Student Health and/or Self-Care Center (n=856)	68%
Student Assistance Services (Grievances, Hardships, etc.) (n=335)	12%
University Residence Halls and Programs (n=856)	60%
Student Disability Resources (n=849)	9%
Viking Union (n=344)	85%
Ethnic Student Center (n=849)	13%
AS Bookstore (n=343)	94%
Intramural Athletics and Intercollegiate Sports Clubs (n=339)	45%
Student Recreation / Athletic Center (n=342)	73%
Non-Credit Recreational, Fitness and Sports Classes (n=338)	39%

Below is a list of student support services provided by Western. If you used any of these services at any time while at Western, please indicate your level of satisfaction with that service in the column to the right.

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
Orientation and First Year Programs for Freshmen (n=449)	5%	13%	18%	44%	21%
Transfer Advising and Support (n=353)	8%	14%	20%	39%	18%
Financial Aid Office (n=215)	1%	9%	21%	43%	26%
Registrar's Office (n=312)	4%	17%	22%	41%	17%
Academic Advising and Tutorial Services (n=505)	5%	13%	17%	44%	21%
Library Collections and Services (n=756)	1%	3%	11%	42%	43%
Academic Technology and User Services (Computer Labs and Help Desk) (n=769)	2%	4%	7%	40%	47%
Writing Center (n=230)	3%	13%	20%	39%	25%
Career Services Center (n=460)	7%	12%	19%	41%	21%
Counseling Center (n=230)	7%	11%	18%	27%	37%
Alcohol, Drug, and/or Sexual Assault Services (n=26)	4%	0%	46%	23%	27%
Student Health and/or Self-Care Center (n=582)	3%	8%	10%	36%	44%
Student Assistance Services (Grievances, Hardships, etc.) (n=41)	2%	15%	29%	22%	32%
University Residence Halls and Programs (n=517)	3%	10%	15%	45%	27%
Student Disability Resources (n=77)	3%	0%	34%	20%	44%
Viking Union (n=291)	2%	2%	14%	44%	38%
Ethnic Student Center (n=111)	3%	5%	25%	29%	38%
AS Bookstore (n=323)	5%	10%	17%	40%	27%
Intramural Athletics and Intercollegiate Sports Clubs (n=152)	1%	5%	10%	43%	41%
Student Recreation/Athletic Center (n=248)	3%	1%	7%	25%	64%
Non-Credit Recreational, Fitness and Sports Classes (n=132)	2%	5%	8%	46%	41%

What is your current educational indebtedness? (n=120)

None	40%
Less than \$2,500	4%
\$2,500 - \$4,999	5%
\$5,000 - \$7,499	7%
\$7,500 - \$9,999	6%
\$10,000 or more	37%
Prefer Not To Answer	2%

How would you rate your current financial well-being along each of the following dimensions? (Financial well-being)

a. Home ownership (n=358)	No	Yes	None	Low	Moderate	High	Very high
b. Indebtedness (n=352)	82%	18%	33%	21%	26%	15%	7%
c. Other investments (n=337)	47%	30%	20%	3%	7%		

To what extent have you been involved in each of the following civic activities?

	Not at all	A Little	Somewhat	Very	Extremely
Volunteering for civic organizations (n=969)	46%	20%	18%	10%	5%
Political causes and activities (n=971)	65%	17%	13%	4%	2%
Environment causes and activities (n=969)	57%	23%	14%	5%	1%
International causes and activities (n=967)	71%	14%	9%	4%	2%
Ecological practices (n=966)	61%	15%	14%	8%	3%

Since graduating, have you worked in the Peace Corps or a similar type of service organization? (n=997)

	No	Yes
	96%	4%

What is the name of this service organization? (n=43)

Peace Corps	12%
AmeriCorps	67%
EarthCorps	0%
Student Conservation Association	0%
Teach for America	2%
Religious Mission	2%
Lutheran World Relief	0%
Other (please specify): _____	16%

When did you begin your service in this organization? (n=42)

	Aug04-Dec04	Jan05-June05	July05-Dec05	Jan06-May06
	17%	19%	43%	22%

Are you still working for this organization? (n=42)

	No	Yes
	41%	60%

How long did you serve or do you plan to serve in this organization?

	< than a year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	> than 3 years
	0%	55%	10%	35%

Are you planning to work in the Peace Corp or similar type of service activity in the foreseeable future? No; Yes (n=997)

	No	Yes
	92%	8%

What is the name of the service organization you hope to work in? (n=83)

Peace Corps	39%
AmeriCorps	11%
EarthCorps	6%
Student Conservation Association	0%
Teach for America	6%
Religious Mission	8%
Lutheran World Relief	0%
Other	30%

Since graduating, have you served in the armed forces? (n=997)

	No	Yes
	99%	1%

In what branch of the armed forces have you served since graduating? (n=7)

Army	43%
Navy	29%
Air Force	0%
Marines	0%
National Guard	0%
Coast Guard	0%
Other	29%

When did you begin your service in this branch of the military? (n=7)

	< Aug04	Sept04-Dec04	Jan05-June05	July05-Dec05	Jan06-May06
	57%	0%	29%	14%	0%

Are you still serving in this branch of the armed forces? (n=7)

	No	Yes
	0%	100%

How long did you serve or do you plan to continue your service?

	Less than 5 years	5 to 6 years	6 to 7 years	7 to 8 years
	0%	33%	0%	67%

Are you planning to join and serve in the armed forces sometime in the foreseeable future? (n=997)

	No	Yes
	99%	1%

In what branch of the armed forces do hope to serve? (n=7)

Army	57%
Navy	29%
Air Force	0%
Marines	0%
National Guard	0%
Coast Guard	14%
Other	0%