

WESTERN EDUCATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY (WELS)  
BASELINE SURVEY OF FRESHMEN ENTERING WESTERN  
IN THE FALL, 2010

Descriptive Statistics

Report 2011-02

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WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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## WESTERN EDUCATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY (WELS) BASELINE SURVEY OF FRESHMEN ENTERING WESTERN IN THE FALL, 2010

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fall, 2010 Baseline Survey of Freshmen Entering Western continues the Office of Survey Research's (OSR) efforts to collect information on all students prior to the start of their academic careers at Western Washington University. This survey represents the initial contact in a longitudinal process that makes possible additional inquiries of students at the end of their sophomore year, when they graduate from the university, and one to two years after graduation.

The Freshmen Survey is designed with three purposes in mind: (1) to provide baseline observations of students prior to their Western experience which can be used to forecast and enhance student success; (2) to provide data that can assist university assessment and accreditation services; and (3) to assess student needs based upon their self-reported characteristics, perceptions and concerns. To accomplish these purposes, the Freshmen Survey integrates questions into five major sections: Pre-collegiate engagement and experiences; the college application process; familiarity and comfort with Western; academic skills, goals, and expectations; and expenses and employment. The questions on the Freshmen Survey were a mixture of open-ended, numerical, and multiple choice responses. This report lists all questions and reports basic descriptive statistics from questions which lend themselves to numerical analysis. Responses to the open ended questions are available upon request.

OSR used a mixture of online and telephone survey methodologies to obtain responses. Incoming freshmen who attended Western's Summerstart program were provided an opportunity to complete this survey as part of their Summerstart experience. Students not attending Summerstart and those who chose not to complete the survey while at Summerstart were invited to complete the survey online. E-mails were initially sent to the student's external e-mail address. After the initial e-mail, OSR sent e-mail reminders to non-responders twice. The survey was then left open online until the weekend before Fall quarter courses began on campus. Of the 2,920 Fall 2010 freshmen, 2,427 responded to the survey (a response rate of 83.1%).

As with any survey, readers should be concerned with sample selection bias; that is bias which arises because survey respondents are not a random selection of the population of survey recipients. While sample selection bias for Western's exit survey is mitigated through proper survey techniques and a high response rate, its presence should be considered when evaluating data. Section A of this document compares respondents to all incoming freshmen. Relative to all freshmen, respondents were more likely to be female (61.4% of respondents versus 59% of all freshmen), averaged a slightly higher admission index (57.2 versus 56.7), and were more likely to be first generation college students (32% of respondents versus 30.2% of all freshmen). On the other hand, respondents were nearly identical to non-respondents in measures of age, SAT, and high school percentile.

OSR is excited to share its individual survey results with campus researchers so they may answer their own questions. To familiarize readers with the content of the survey, here we make a few observations regarding the survey results. Out of a list of 16 possibilities, the three most important reasons why students claimed to come to Western were the recreational opportunities in the area, Western's good academic reputation, and Western's size. Almost two-thirds of students first learned about Western through a relative or friend and almost nine out of ten learned of Western prior to their senior year in high school. Including Western, the median student applied to three colleges and was accepted to two of them. Besides Western, the three schools most commonly applied to were the University of Washington, Washington State, and Central Washington although other common schools include the University of Oregon, University of Portland, Gonzaga, and Seattle University. Among the schools to which they applied, 69% of incoming freshmen claimed that Western was their first choice; the next closest was the University of Washington (14%).

Nearly one-third of students claim to be certain about their major and another half of students have some idea of what they will study. About three-fourths of students expect to graduate in four years or less; no students expect to take longer than five years to graduate. Twelve percent of students claimed some positive likelihood that they would transfer from Western prior to graduation and an additional 26% were unsure if they would

transfer or not. Among those likely to transfer, the most common reasons given were that Western did not offer a degree program that interested the student, a perceived lack of prestige, and friends/family attend a different school.

For students who attended Summerstart, 77% were either “very” or “somewhat” satisfied with their class schedule. For those expressing some level of dissatisfaction, the most common reason given was that needed classes were full.

All of OSR’s survey data is linked by a unique student identification number allowing for merging of the survey data with Western’s data warehouse or with data collected by future surveys. Using this identifier, OSR can provide open ended responses or specific data to departments who want to investigate further.

#### Clarifying Notes

1. Unless otherwise noted, percentages given are of the number responding to a question divided by the number asked that question. This denominator may contain fewer students than the 2,427 responding to the survey due to question branching, random selection of respondents for certain questions, and survey attrition.
2. In many cases percentages do not sum to one hundred because of rounding.
3. A blank space indicates no respondent chose that response option. A report of 0% indicates that the percent of responses rounded down to, but is not equal with, zero.
4. This report presents responses from all students completing any question regardless of whether the respondent completed the survey or not.

#### THE OFFICE OF SURVEY RESEARCH

The Office of Survey Research provides high quality survey research and other applied social science research that supports the mission of Western Washington University. In particular, OSR surveys students, alumni, graduates, employers, and the campus community to provide valuable assessment data and analysis of reports which can be used for improvement of programs, instruction, faculty scholarship, and information services. OSR is responsible for developing and administering the Western Educational Longitudinal Study (WELS), Western’s Alumni Surveys, and Western’s exit surveys of graduating students.

<http://www.wvu.edu/socad/osr/>

## A. Characteristics of 2010 Freshmen and Survey Respondents

### A.1. Characteristics of 2010 Freshmen and Survey Respondents

	Non-Respondents	Respondents	All 2010 Freshmen
N	493	2,427	2,920
Male	53.1%	38.6%	41.0%
Caucasian	71.1%	76.1%	75.2%
Black	4.1%	3.3%	3.4%
Hispanic	8.1%	5.9%	6.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	11.0%	11.5%	11.4%
Native American	3.7%	2.5%	2.7%
Race Unknown	0.4%	0.7%	0.7%
Mean Admission Index*	53.1	57.2	56.7
Median Admission Index*	53	57	56
Mean Math SAT*	559	558	558
Mean Verbal SAT*	557	564	563
Mean High School Percentile	72.5%	75.7%	75.2%
Mean Age	18.2	18.1	18.2
Median Age	18	18	18
First Generation College Student	21.3%	32.0%	30.2%
Running Start Student	18.3%	15.5%	16.0%
WA High School	82.8%	88.1%	87.2%
OR High School	1.0%	1.5%	1.4%
ID High School	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
AK High School	2.4%	1.0%	1.2%
Mean hours transferred to WWU	28.6	24.8	25.3

\* Because these measures are optional for students, the N for these variables differs from the reported N.

## B. Pre-College Engagement and Experiences

B.1. During your senior year in high school (including any community college classes you may have taken during that time), how often did you do each of the following: (Randomly asked of 50% of respondents.)

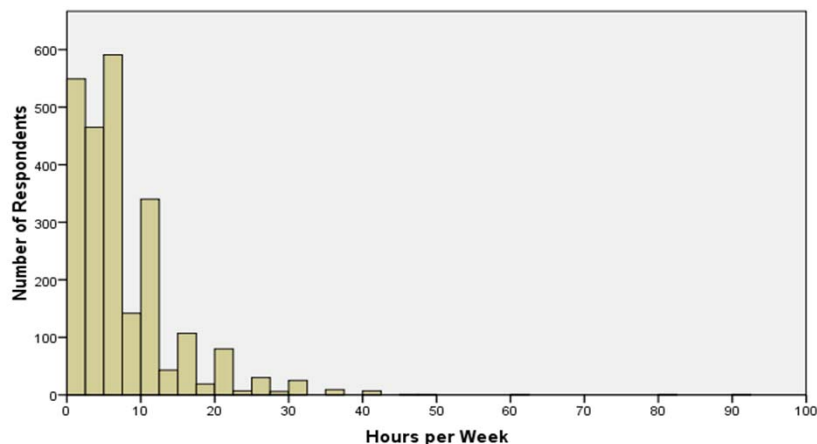
	N	Never	Once	2-3 times	4-5 times	More than 5 times
Asked teachers to give me comments or criticisms about my work	1,159	6%	8%	30%	20%	36%
Asked a teacher for help when I had difficulties in a course	1,159	2%	4%	22%	21%	52%
Wrote an academic paper of 5 pages or more	1,156	8%	15%	36%	19%	21%
Talked about course material I was learning with someone other than a teacher	1,161	1%	3%	12%	13%	72%

B.2. During your senior year in high school, how often would you say you felt each of the following ways? (Randomly asked of 50% of respondents.)

	N	Never	2	3	4	5	6	Always
I felt that I was overwhelmed with academic work	1,204	7%	21%	27%	22%	15%	4%	3%
I felt overwhelmed with non-academic responsibilities (work, family, other things)	1,202	9%	19%	21%	20%	18%	8%	5%
I felt that I didn't fit in with my peers	1,203	45%	30%	11%	6%	4%	3%	1%
I felt that I had at least one person I could talk with about personal difficulties	1,204	1%	3%	4%	5%	8%	10%	69%

B.3. During your last quarter or semester in high school, about how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

### B.3.a. Studying for classes

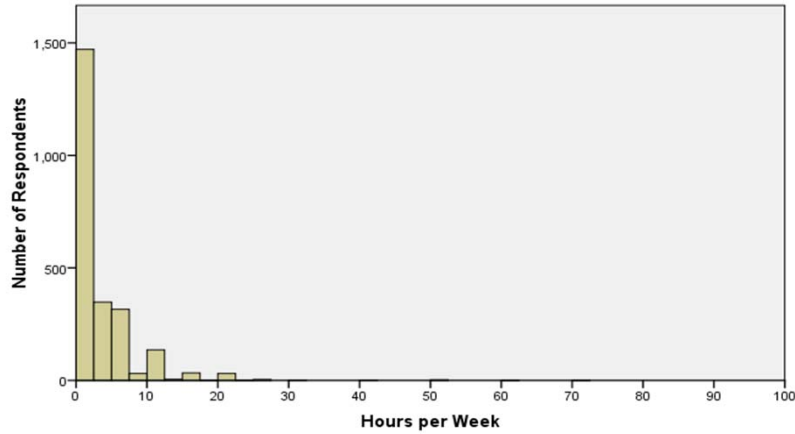


N=2,425, Mean=7.14, Median=5, Min=0, Max=90, St. Dev.=6.91

## Pre-College Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

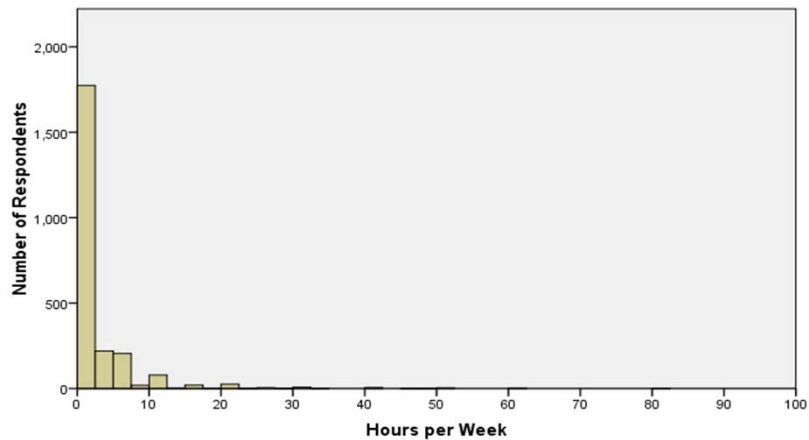
B.3. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester in high school, about how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

B.3.b. Volunteering on or off campus outside of coursework



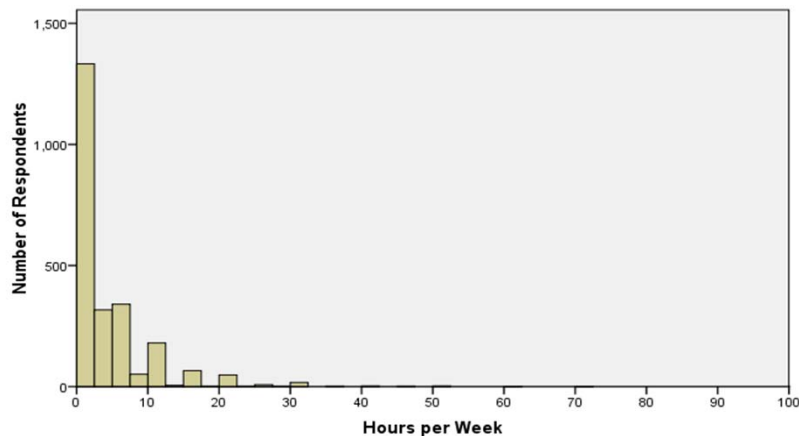
N=2,393, Mean=3.18, Median=2, Min=0, Max=150, St.Dev.=6.29

B.3.c. Doing community service work as part of a course or graduation requirement



N=2,382, Mean=2.42, Median=0, Min=0, Max=80, St.Dev.=5.82

B.3.d. Participating in a campus sponsored club or student organization

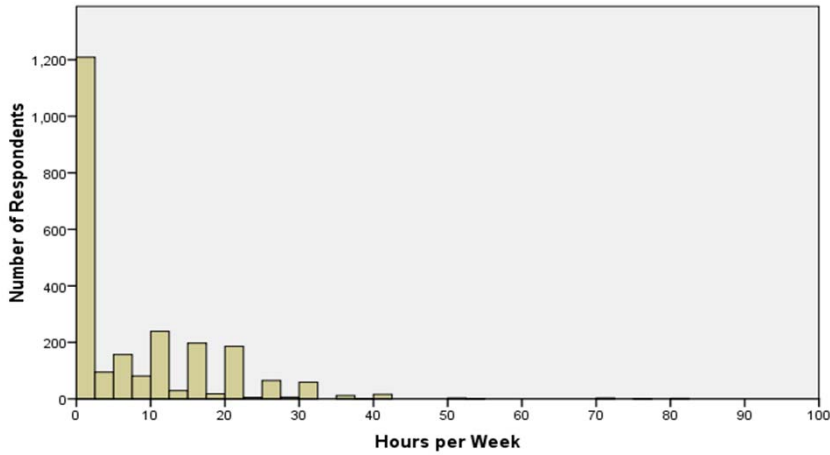


N=2,394, Mean=4.36, Median=2, Min=0, Max=168, St.Dev.=9.08

## Pre-College Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

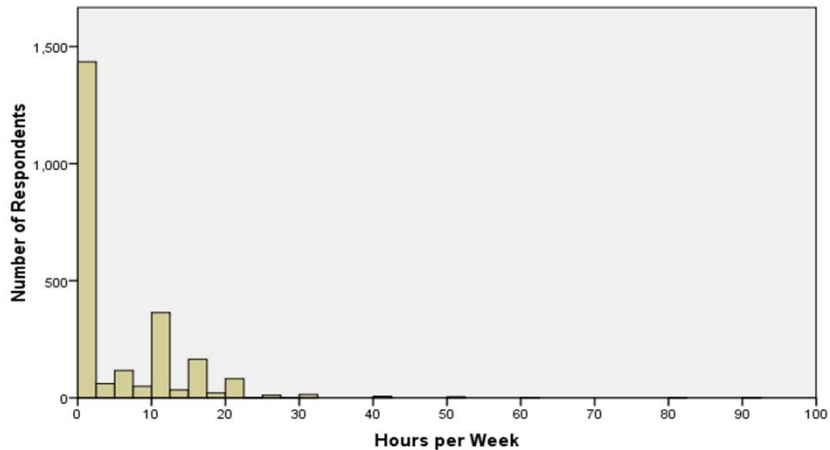
B.3. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester in high school, about how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

B.3.e. Working for pay



N=2,392, Mean=7.47, Median=2, Min=0, Max=130, St.Dev.=10.49

B.3.f. Participating in school athletics



N=2,376, Mean=5.04, Median=0, Min=0, Max=150, St.Dev.=8.44

B.4. Have you ever served in the United States' Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or National Guard?

N	Yes	No
2429	0%	100%

B.5. How satisfied are you with the education you received at your high school?

N	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
2,430	2%	5%	14%	55%	24%



## Pre-College Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

B.6. How satisfied are you with the education you received at your Running Start college? (Asked only of Running Start students.)

N	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
370	2%	2%	12%	45%	39%

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## C. College Application Process

C.1. How important are each of the following reasons you decided to attend college this fall? (Randomly asked of 50% of total respondents.)

	N	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
My family wants me to go to college	1,161	6%	11%	19%	32%	32%
A mentor/role model encouraged me to go	1,153	20%	17%	24%	25%	14%
To get away from home	1,156	15%	18%	26%	29%	12%
To improve my job prospects after graduation	1,161	1%	1%	4%	22%	72%
To gain a general education and appreciation of new ideas	1,161	1%	2%	9%	31%	58%
To increase my earnings after graduation	1,160	2%	3%	12%	32%	51%
To prepare myself for graduate/professional school	1,155	6%	10%	20%	26%	39%
To make a difference in society	1,157	2%	6%	19%	29%	45%

C.2. Out of all your college options, how important are each of the following in your decision to attend Western?

	N	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
My family wants me to go to Western	2,426	33%	22%	24%	15%	5%
A Western faculty member recruited me	2,412	74%	13%	9%	3%	1%
An instructor, teacher, or advisor encouraged me to go to Western	2,407	42%	22%	21%	12%	3%
Friends and/or family currently attend Western	2,412	41%	17%	21%	16%	6%
I am interested in a specific academic program at Western	2,417	13%	12%	21%	29%	25%
Western has a good academic reputation	2,419	2%	3%	15%	48%	32%
Western has a good reputation for its social activities	2,421	4%	9%	24%	41%	23%
Western is more affordable than my other choices	2,417	10%	11%	20%	27%	31%
Western offered me financial assistance	2,414	34%	13%	17%	17%	19%
I want to live near home	2,416	33%	19%	24%	15%	9%
I want to live far away from home	2,417	41%	19%	23%	11%	6%
I like the size of Western	2,416	3%	5%	19%	42%	32%
I like the size of Bellingham	2,419	5%	7%	21%	39%	28%
I like the recreational opportunities in this area	2,417	3%	7%	19%	35%	36%
Western does not have a Greek system	2,418	44%	13%	17%	14%	12%
I will be playing on a varsity athletic team	2,400	79%	9%	6%	2%	3%
Western offers opportunities to participate in arts and music events	2,423	25%	18%	24%	18%	16%

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.3. How did you first learn about Western? (Randomly asked of 50% of total respondents.)

N	1,220
A parent/sibling/relative told me about Western	32%
A friend told me about Western	30%
I conducted a general college web search	10%
A coach or teacher told me about Western	8%
I grew up in Whatcom County and learned about Western by living nearby	5%
I spoke with an admissions counselor at a college fair	4%
An admissions counselor visited my school	3%
Western contacted me	3%
I conducted a search for institutions that participate in the Western Undergraduate Exchange program	1%
While I was researching Bellingham	0%
Other	5%

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C.3.a. How did you first learn about Western? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.3.) (N =50) (Responses included: Visited and toured Western, attended summer camps at WWU, high school field trip, word of mouth.) (Text responses available on request.)

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C.4. When did you first learn about Western? (Randomly asked of 75% of total respondents.)

N	1,867
Before entering high school	26%
As a high school freshmen or sophomore	29%
As a high school junior	30%
As a high school senior	14%
After high school	0%

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.5. Which of the following sources were most valuable in helping you to learn about Western? Please check the three most valuable sources. (Randomly asked of 75% of total respondents.)

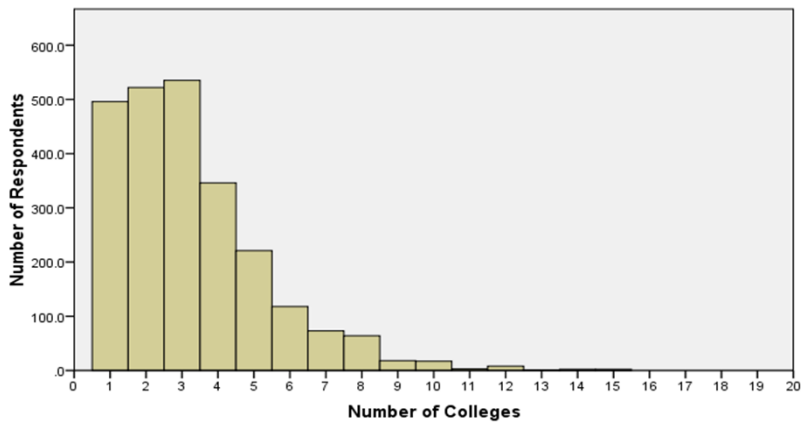
N	1,864
Visit to campus	65%
Western's website	57%
Friends from Western	44%
Parent/sibling/relative	21%
Summer program at Western	20%
Paper mailings from the Office of Admissions	15%
Western's alumni	13%
Western's admissions website	12%
High school counselor	11%
Email communication from the Office of Admissions	7%
Personal contact with a Western faculty member	6%
Personal contact with an admissions counselor	5%
Other	7%

C.5.a. What other source(s) of information was valuable in helping you to learn about Western? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.5.) (N=50) (Responses included: College Board Website, college fairs, career cruiser, athletic recruiting, brochures sent to my high school.) (Text responses available on request.)

C.6. How did the information you received from Western compare with the information provided by other schools that you considered attending? (Randomly asked of 50% of total respondents.)

	N	Not applicable	Not as good	Similar	Better
Mailings before you applied	1,264	13%	14%	58%	16%
Mailings/information after your admission	1,263	7%	6%	47%	40%
Personal contact from Western	1,262	11%	16%	44%	29%
Western's website	1,265	5%	13%	54%	28%
Email communication	1,262	7%	7%	52%	34%

C.7. Including Western, to how many four year colleges did you apply for admission this fall?



N=2,431, Mean=3.22, Median=3, Min=0, Max=99, St.Dev.=2.88

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.8. To which four-year colleges did you apply for admission this fall?

N	2,428
Western Washington University	100%
University of Washington - Seattle	36%
Washington State Universtiy - Pullman	23%
Central Washington University	15%
University of Oregon	9%
University of Portland	7%
Gonzaga University	6%
Seattle University	6%
Eastern Washington University	5%
Pacific Lutheran University	5%
Seattle Pacific University	5%
Willamette University	5%
Evergreen State College	4%
Oregon State University	4%
University of Montana	4%
University of Puget Sound	4%
University of Washington - Bothell	4%
Lewis & Clark College	3%
Whitman College	3%
University of Colorado at Boulder	2%
Linfield College	1%
University of British Columbia	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	1%
Washington State Universtiy - Tri-Cities	0%
Washington State Universtiy - Vancouver	0%

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.9. Which of the schools to which you applied was your *first* choice?

N	2,431
Western Washington University	69%
University of Washington - Seattle	14%
Gonzaga University	1%
Seattle Pacific University	1%
Seattle University	1%
University of Oregon	1%
University of Puget Sound	1%
Washington State University - Pullman	1%
Whitman College	1%
Central Washington University	0%
Eastern Washington University	0%
Evergreen State College	0%
Lewis & Clark College	0%
Linfield College	0%
Oregon State University	0%
Pacific Lutheran University	0%
University of British Columbia	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
University of Montana	0%
University of Portland	0%
University of Washington - Tacoma	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Willamette University	0%
Other	8%

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C.9.a. Which of the schools to which you applied was your first choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.9.) (N=188) (Text responses available on request.)

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.10. Which of the schools to which you applied was your *second* choice?

N	2,431
Western Washington University	24%
Only applied to Western	22%
University of Washington - Seattle	12%
Washington State University - Pullman	8%
Central Washington University	4%
Evergreen State College	2%
Pacific Lutheran University	2%
University of Oregon	2%
University of Portland	2%
Eastern Washington University	1%
Gonzaga University	1%
Lewis & Clark College	1%
Oregon State University	1%
Seattle Pacific University	1%
Seattle University	1%
University of Montana	1%
University of Puget Sound	1%
University of Washington - Bothell	1%
Whitman College	1%
Linfield College	0%
University of British Columbia	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
University of Washington - Tacoma	0%
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Willamette University	0%
Other	10%
Did not specify second choice	2%

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C.10.a. Which of the schools to which you applied was your second choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.10.) (N=235) (Text responses available on request.)

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.11. Which of the schools to which you applied was your *third* choice?

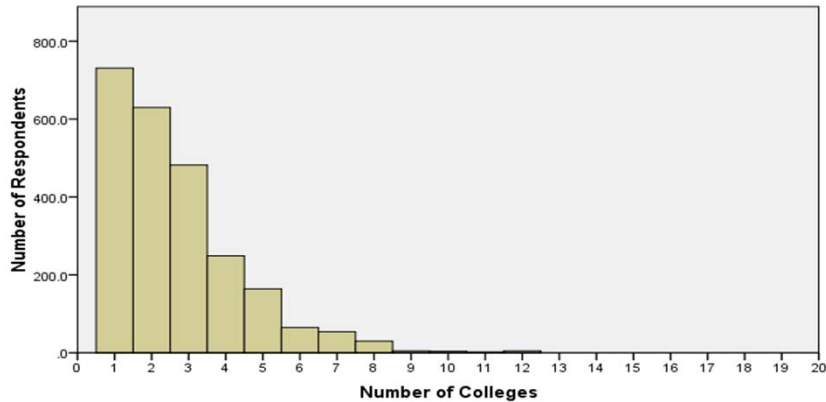
N	2,325
Applied to fewer than three schools	24%
Washington State University - Pullman	14%
University of Washington - Seattle	13%
Central Washington University	9%
Western Washington University	5%
University of Washington - Bothell	4%
University of Oregon	3%
Eastern Washington University	2%
Evergreen State College	2%
Pacific Lutheran University	2%
Seattle University	2%
Gonzaga University	1%
Oregon State University	1%
Seattle Pacific University	1%
University of Montana	1%
University of Portland	1%
University of Puget Sound	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	1%
Whitman College	1%
Willamette University	1%
Lewis & Clark College	0%
Linfield College	0%
University of British Columbia	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Other	4%
Did not specify third choice	5%

C.11.a. Which of the schools to which you applied was your third choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.11.) (N=234) (Text responses available on request.)



## College Application Process (cont.)

C.12. Including Western, to how many four year schools were you *accepted* for admission this fall?



N=2,422, Mean=2.69, Median=2, Min=1, Max=99, St.Dev.=2.61

C.13. To which of the following four-year colleges were you *accepted* for this fall?

N	2,431
Western Washington University	100%
Washington State Universtiy - Pullman	20%
Central Washington University	14%
University of Washington - Seattle	10%
University of Oregon	8%
University of Portland	5%
Seattle University	5%
Eastern Washington University	5%
Pacific Lutheran University	4%
Seattle Pacific University	4%
University of Washington - Bothell	4%
Oregon State University	4%
Evergreen State College	4%
Gonzaga University	4%
University of Montana	3%
Willamette University	3%
University of Puget Sound	3%
Lewis & Clark College	2%
University of Colorado at Boulder	2%
Linfield College	1%
Whitman College	1%
University of British Columbia	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	1%
Washington State Universtiy - Vancouver	0%
Washington State Universtiy - Tri-Cities	0%

## D. Familiarity and Comfort with Western

D.1.a. At Summerstart I participated in the following (please select all that apply): (Asked of respondents who attended Summerstart.)

N	2,324
Class registration	98%
Academic advising	96%
Welcome	96%
Information fair	68%
Evening orientation session	66%
Tips for students	64%
Evening social	61%
Math Placement Test	61%
Afternoon computer lab assistance	36%
Workshop-Financial Aid and Student Accounts	17%
Interest Session: International Programs and Exchanges	14%
Interest Session: College of Fine and Performing Arts	11%
Interest Session: Teacher Education Programs	11%
Campus tour	9%
Interest Session: Pre-Health Sciences	9%
Interest Session: Running Start	7%
Interest Session: The Biology Major	6%
Interest Session: Huxley College of the Environment: Beyond Cycling and Recycling	6%
Library tour	6%
Interest Session: Engineering Technology	5%
Interest Session: First-Year Academic Programs	4%
Interest Session: Viking Launch	4%
Workshop-Social Health and Responsibility Education	4%
Interest Session: Being a Student Leader at WWU: A Home for Student Leaders	3%
Interest Session: Honors Program	3%
Interest Session: The Community as the Classroom: Service-Learning at WWU	3%
Interest Session: Coming from out of State	2%
Interest Session: Diverse Empowerment Opportunities: Find Your Passion	2%
Interest Session: Fairhaven College	2%
Interest Session: AccessAbility: Resources that Support Students with disAbilities at WWU	1%
Interest Session: Veterans Benefits and Services at WWU	0%

## Familiarity and Comfort with Western (cont.)

D.2. Did you do any of the following to help you prepare for your first quarter at Western? (Asked of 75% of respondents.)

	N	No	Yes
Read about at least one possible major field	1,813	19%	81%
Identify courses you might want to take	1,811	16%	84%
Visit campus (other than at Summerstart)	1,810	16%	84%
Speak with a Western faculty member or advisor	1,805	44%	56%

D.3. How familiar are you with each of the following? (Asked of all respondents who did not attend Summerstart and 50% of Summerstart attendees.)

	N	Not at All familiar	A Little familiar	Somewhat familiar	Familiar	Very familiar
How to declare a major	1,259	27%	30%	28%	11%	4%
Western's tuition and fee structure	1,257	9%	27%	37%	23%	4%
Western's graduation requirements	1,256	4%	13%	35%	38%	10%
General University Requirements (GURs)	1,258	3%	11%	25%	42%	20%
Western's online catalog	1,259	14%	18%	29%	29%	10%
Web4U	1,256	4%	12%	31%	38%	15%
Classfinder	1,261	3%	4%	15%	44%	34%

D.4. How comfortable are you with each of the following? (Asked of all respondents who did not attend Summerstart and 50% of Summerstart attendees.)

	N	Not at all comfortable	A little comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Comfortable	Very comfortable
Understanding how your transfer credits align with graduation requirements	1,161	12%	21%	32%	25%	9%
Navigating Western's campus	1,165	2%	9%	27%	44%	19%
Getting advice from faculty and staff on which classes to take	1,167	2%	8%	26%	44%	19%

## Familiarity and Comfort with Western (cont.)

D.5. How satisfied are you with your class schedule?

N	I have not yet registered for classes	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
2,429	6%	2%	9%	6%	42%	35%

D.5.a. Why are you dissatisfied with your class schedule? (Asked of students who responded "very dissatisfied" or "somewhat dissatisfied in D.5.)

N	266
The classes I need to take were full	82%
The classes I need to take are scheduled at conflicting times	32%
My classes are spread too far across campus	4%
My classes are spread too far throughout the day	15%
My classes are spread too far throughout the week	4%
My class schedule does not work well with my job schedule	4%
My classes begin too early in the morning	12%
My classes end too late in the evening	9%
One or more of my classes meet every day	12%
Other	24%

D.6. Please indicate how difficult, if at all, you expect each of the following to be for you this fall:

	N	Not at all difficult	A little difficult	Somewhat difficult	Difficult	Very difficult
Participating in discussion groups in my courses	1,765	28%	40%	24%	7%	2%
Preparing for and presenting my work in front of a class	1,764	15%	32%	28%	17%	8%
Getting good grades	1,764	9%	39%	34%	16%	2%
Managing my finances	1,764	11%	31%	32%	19%	8%

## E. Skills, Goals and Expectations

E.1. For the following skills, please rate your ability relative to your peers at the school you most recently attended, and then rate the importance of these skills to you.

### E.1.a. Ability

	N	Well below average	Below average	About average	Above average	Well above average
Writing skills	2,398	0%	4%	34%	49%	13%
Oral communication skills	2,398	0%	8%	40%	38%	14%
Critically evaluate information	2,380	0%	3%	44%	43%	10%
Work or learn independently	2,391	0%	2%	28%	45%	25%
Work cooperatively in a group	2,389	0%	3%	32%	46%	20%
Appreciation of the arts	2,399	2%	15%	29%	27%	27%
Apply scientific principles and methods	2,395	1%	13%	51%	27%	8%
Apply quantitative principles and methods	2,397	1%	16%	48%	27%	8%
Awareness of cultural and social differences among people	2,399	0%	3%	27%	41%	28%
Work effectively with appropriate technology in your field	2,393	0%	4%	39%	40%	16%
Use library resources for research	2,399	1%	11%	47%	31%	9%
Identify and analyze complex problems	2,391	0%	5%	42%	39%	13%

### E.1.b. Importance

	N	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Writing skills	2,357	1%	4%	16%	42%	38%
Oral communication skills	2,354	0%	2%	13%	41%	44%
Critically evaluate information	2,340	0%	3%	19%	46%	31%
Work or learn independently	2,356	0%	2%	14%	44%	40%
Work cooperatively in a group	2,353	1%	2%	15%	41%	41%
Appreciation of the arts	2,349	5%	15%	25%	26%	29%
Apply scientific principles and methods	2,343	2%	10%	32%	39%	16%
Apply quantitative principles and methods	2,345	3%	10%	35%	38%	15%
Awareness of cultural and social differences among people	2,357	1%	4%	17%	35%	43%
Work effectively with appropriate technology in your field	2,353	0%	3%	19%	46%	32%
Use library resources for research	2,354	1%	6%	26%	42%	25%
Identify and analyze complex problems	2,357	0%	2%	18%	46%	33%

## Skills, Goals and Expectations (cont.)

E.3. How certain are you of what your major will be?

N	Uncertain	Have some idea	Certain
2,430	17%	51%	32%

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E.4. How long do you think it will take you to complete your bachelors degree?

N	Less than 3 years	3-4 years	Exactly 4 years	4-5 years	5 or more years
2,428	6%	21%	45%	28%	0%

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E.5. How likely is it that you will transfer from Western to another college or university before you graduate?

N	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Uncertain	Somewhat likely	Very likely
2,424	40%	23%	26%	9%	3%

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E.5.a. Which of the following reasons best explains why you are likely to transfer from Western to another college before you graduate? (Asked of respondents who answered "somewhat likely" or "very likely" in E.5.)

N	282
Western does not offer the degree program I am interested in	41%
Friends or family attend a different school	16%
Western is not prestigious enough for me	16%
Western is too far from friends or family	14%
Western is too small	7%
Western is too expensive	5%
Western is too large	2%
Western is too rigorous for me	0%
Other	38%

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E.5.b. What other reason best explains why you are likely to transfer from Western to another college before you graduate? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in E.5.a.) (N=97) (Responses included: "fit" for me, geographic location, always wanted to attend a different university (Western isn't first choice), change of scenery, to try new things, travel.) (Text responses available on request.)

## Skills, Goals and Expectations (cont.)

E.6. What is the highest degree you expect to earn in your lifetime?

N	Bachelors (B.A., B.S., etc.)	Masters (M.A., M.S., etc.)	Professional (M.D., D.O., D.D.S, D.V.M., J.D., etc.)	Doctorate (Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)	Not sure
2,430	14%	38%	10%	11%	27%

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## F. Expenses and Employment

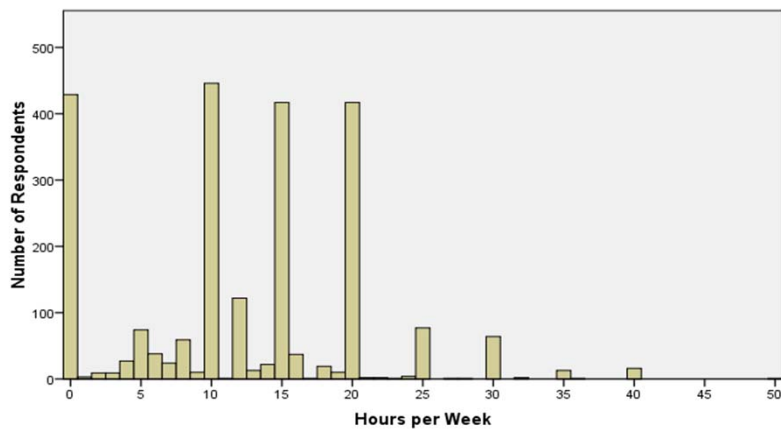
F.1. In your first year at Western, how much of your educational expenses (room, board, tuition, and fees) do you expect to cover from each of the sources listed below?

	N	None	Less than \$1000	\$1000 to \$2999	\$3000 to \$5999	\$6000 to \$9999	\$10000 or more
Family resources (parents, relatives, spouse, etc.)	1,802	10%	9%	12%	15%	15%	39%
My own resources (savings, employment, other income)	1,783	13%	33%	34%	12%	4%	3%
Aid which need not be repaid (grants, scholarships, military funding, etc.)	1,784	34%	13%	19%	12%	10%	12%
Aid which must be repaid (loans, etc.)	1,769	41%	5%	9%	16%	13%	15%

F.2. Would you be willing to pay a \$X per quarter fee to receive reduced or free admission to art and music performances at Western? (X was chosen randomly between four possible values.)

	N	X = 1	X = 5	X = 10	X = 20
N	2,313	569	570	594	580
Yes	62%	75%	65%	56%	51%
No	38%	25%	35%	44%	49%

F.3. During the coming year, about how many hours per week do you hope to work while attending Western?

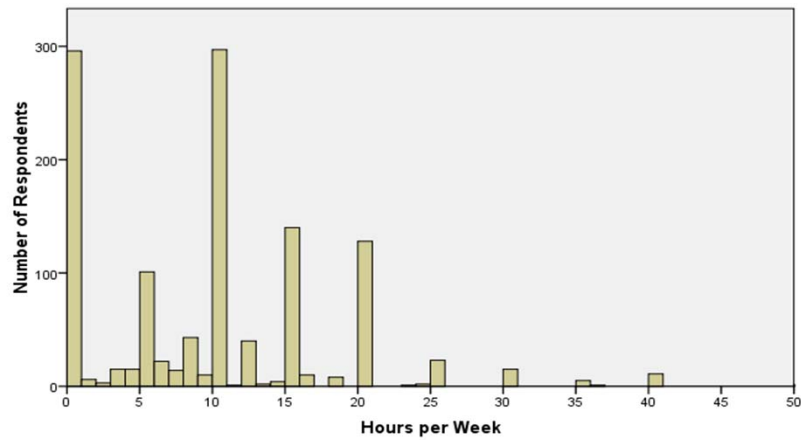


N=2,376, Mean=12.22, Median=12, Min=0, Max=50, St.Dev.=8.31



## Expenses and Employment (cont.)

F.4. During this coming year, what is the minimum number of hours per week you will need to work while attending Western to pay for tuition and living expenses? (Asked if F.1. was greater than zero and if respondent claimed to use "my own resources" in F.1.)



N=1,216, Mean=9.54, Median=10, Min=0, Max=50, St.Dev.=8.06

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## G. Comments

G.1. Please use the space below for any additional comments or suggestions. (N=420) (Text responses available on request.)

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