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Office of Survey Research

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# Western Educational Longitudinal Study (WELS) Baseline Survey of Transfers Entering Western in the Fall, 2012

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WESTERN EDUCATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY (WELS)  
BASELINE SURVEY OF TRANSFERS ENTERING WESTERN  
IN THE FALL, 2012

Descriptive Statistics

Report 2012-05

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December, 2012  
OFFICE OF SURVEY RESEARCH  
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



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# WESTERN EDUCATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY (WELS) BASELINE SURVEY OF TRANSFERS ENTERING WESTERN IN THE FALL, 2012

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The WELS Baseline Survey of Transfers Entering Western in the Fall, 2012 (Transfer Survey) is the companion survey to the Office of Survey Research's (OSR) survey of incoming freshmen. Together, these surveys elicit information from students prior to the start of their Western academic careers and provide an initial contact in a longitudinal survey design that follows students through graduation and into their initial years as alumni. The Transfer Survey is designed with three purposes in mind: (1) to provide baseline observations of students prior to the Western experience that can be used to forecast and enhance student success; (2) to provide data that can assist university assessment and accreditation endeavors; and (3) to assess student needs based upon their self-reported characteristics, perceptions, and concerns. To accomplish these, the Transfer Survey integrates questions into seven sections: prior engagement and experiences, the college application process, course scheduling, academic skills and goals, major choice, expenses and employment, and demographics. In addition to these, various Western offices submitted questions that dealt with academic advising and the use of technology. The questions on the Transfer Survey are a mixture of open-ended, numerical and multiple choice types. This report lists all questions and reports basic descriptive statistics from equations which lend themselves to numerical analysis. Responses to open ended questions are available upon request.

OSR initially conducted the Transfer Survey as part of the Transitions Program. Non-participants in Transitions and non-respondents received an e-mail invitation to participate in the survey shortly after the conclusion of Transitions. Reminder e-mails were sent to non-respondents at both their internal and external e-mail addresses. Non-respondents to these e-mails received phone call requests and final e-mails through the month of August. The survey was closed the weekend prior to the beginning of fall quarter. Of the 1,096 transfer students entering the fall of 2012, OSR received responses from 804, a response rate of 73.4%.

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 on the Transfer 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 transfer students. Relative to all transfers, respondents were more likely to be female (49.5% of respondents versus 48.0% of all transfers), had a slightly higher average admissions index (48.7 for respondents versus 48.5 for all transfers), and transferred slightly fewer credits to WWU (average of 74.8 for respondents and 75.3 for all transfers). On the other hand, respondents and non-respondents were nearly identical in terms of ethnicity, SAT, prior collegiate GPAs, median age, first generation status, and state of origin.

In order to shorten the survey and increase respondent completion rates, OSR asked certain questions of a random group of students. In our report, these are noted by statements such as "asked of a random 50% of respondents." In programming this random group, OSR made an error that prevented some of these questions from being answered. As a result, the number of responses to these questions is less than what would have been hoped for. The report notes the questions in which this happened.

To familiarize readers with the content of the survey, here we make a few observations regarding the survey results. The median transfer student applied to only one school (Western), while about one-third applied to two or more schools. The most common school to apply to other than Western was the University of Washington. Among those students who had registered for classes prior to completing the survey, 29% expressed some level of dissatisfaction with their schedule, an amount five percentage points higher than the 2011 survey results and eight percentage points higher than 2010. The most common reasons given for the dissatisfaction were that their desired courses were full or were offered at times conflicting with other courses.

The median transfer student expects to take 6 quarters to graduate from Western, about the same as in the 2010 and 2011 surveys. However, almost one-third of transfers expect to take 9 or more quarters to graduate, a number significantly higher than respondents in 2010 or 2011.

Relative to 2011, the 2012 cohort of transfers are less certain about what their major will be (63% were certain relative to 75% in 2011), though 92% of transfers expect to declare a major sometime during their first year on campus. Among transfer students, Biology (10%), Psychology (9%) and English (7%) are the most frequently listed expected majors to declare. Over the coming year, transfers expect to work for pay 16.1 hours per week, an amount about one hour per week lower than the prior year.

OSR is pleased to share its data with interested campus researchers.

#### 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 804 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 Fall 2012 Transfer Students and Survey Respondents

### A.1. Characteristics of Fall 2012 Transfer Students and Survey Respondents

	Non-Respondents	Respondents	All Fall 2012 Transfers
N	292	804	1,096
Male	56.2%	50.5%	52.0%
Caucasian	77.7%	76.1%	76.6%
Black	2.7%	2.9%	2.8%
Hispanic	4.5%	6.7%	6.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10.6%	9.0%	9.4%
Native American	2.7%	3.6%	3.4%
Other/Unknown	0.3%	0.6%	0.5%
International	1.4%	1.1%	1.2%
Mean admission index*	48.0	48.7	48.5
Median admission index*	50	50	50
Mean math SAT*	561	549	552
Mean verbal SAT*	563	557	558
Mean cumulative GPA from prior colleges	3.16	3.24	3.22
Mean age	21.6	22.3	22.1
Median age	20	20	20
First generation college student	42.1%	45.1%	44.3%
Washington residency	88.4%	92.4%	91.3%
OR high school*	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%
ID high school*	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
AK high school*	1.0%	0.6%	0.7%
Mean hours transferred to WWU	76.7	74.8	75.3
Peak Fall 2012 WWU hours registered	12.9	13.5	13.4
Transferred from 2-year college	78.4%	78.6%	78.6%

\* Because Western does not require this measure for transfers, the N for these variables differs from the reported N.

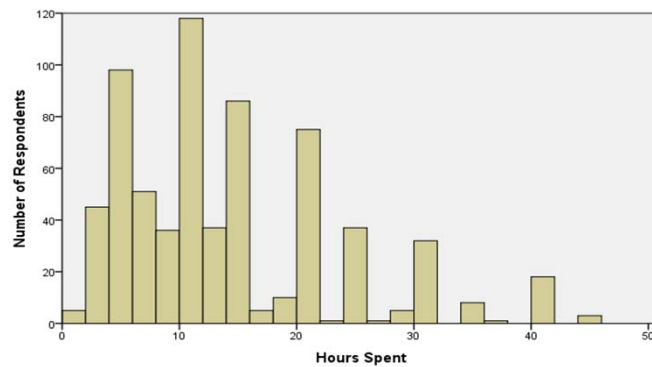
## B. Previous College: Engagement and Experiences

B.1. Please indicate how often you did each of the following during your last year at {the respondent's previous college}.

	N	Never	Once	2-3 times	4-5 times	More than 5 times
Wrote an academic paper of 5 pages or more for a course requirement	791	8%	10%	34%	22%	26%
Used tutoring services for help	781	49%	15%	16%	6%	15%
Asked a teacher for help when I had difficulties in a course	786	8%	9%	32%	16%	35%
Talked about course material I was learning with someone other than a teacher	788	2%	2%	12%	13%	70%

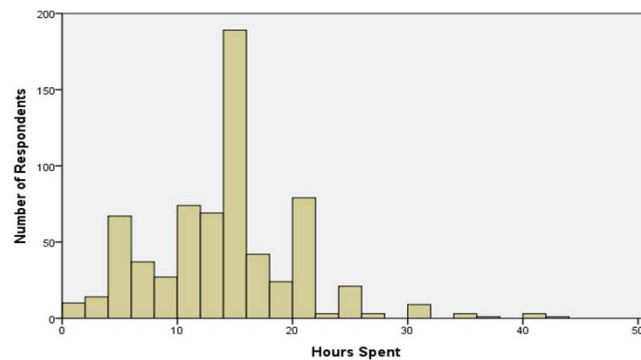
B.2. During your last quarter or semester at {the respondent's previous college}, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following? (OSR excluded values > 80 hours) (Technical error in survey resulted in fewer cases.)

### B.2.a. Studying for classes



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
675	13.77	10	0	60	9.71

### B.2.b. Attending classes

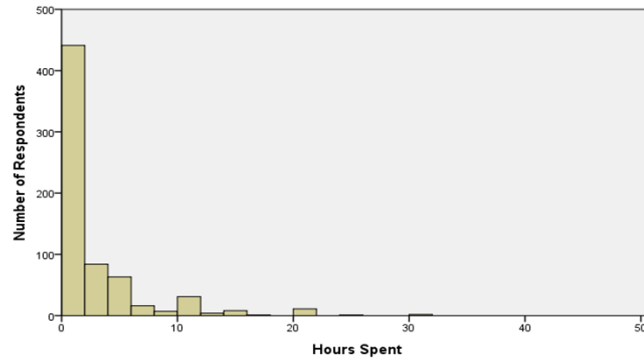


N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
676	13.56	15	0	42	6.41

## Previous College: Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

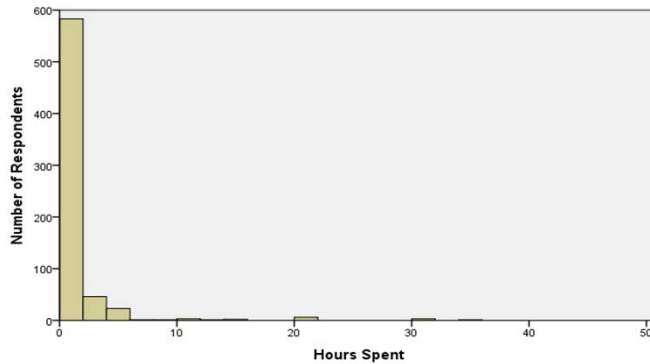
B.2. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester at {the respondent's previous college}, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

B.2.c. Volunteering on or off campus outside of coursework



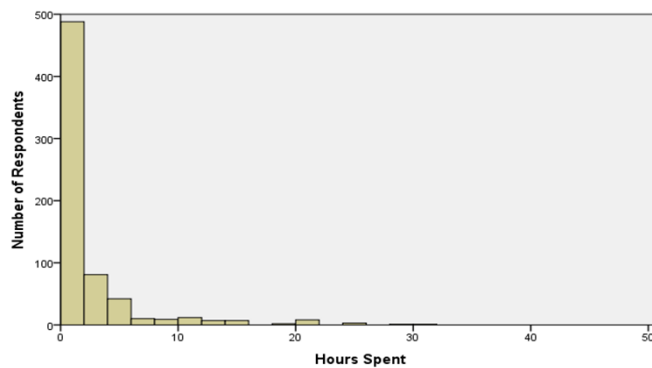
N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
669	2.22	0	0	30	4.27

B.2.d. Doing community service work as part of a course



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
670	0.85	0	0	35	3.37

B.2.e. Participating in a campus sponsored club or student organization



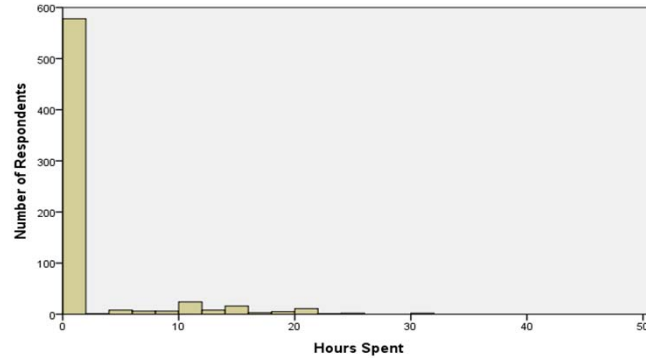
N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
673	1.96	0	0	60	5.04



## Previous College: Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

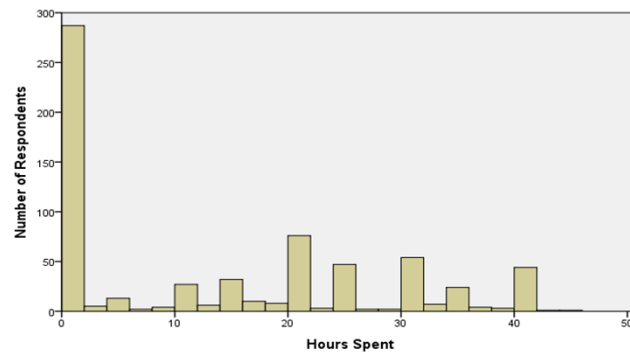
B.2. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester at {the respondent's previous college}, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

B.2.f. Working for pay on campus



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
671	1.79	0	0	30	4.95

B.2.g. Working for pay off campus



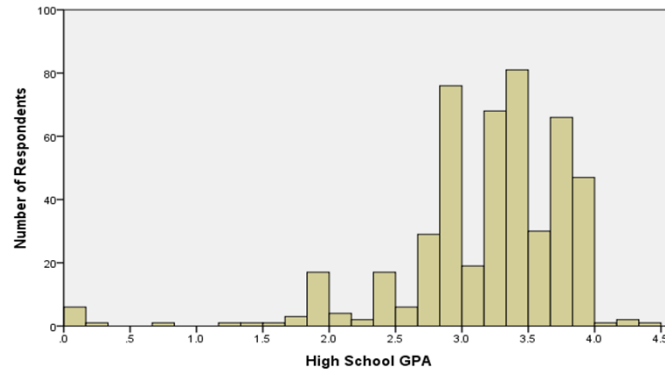
N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
667	13.82	10	0	72	14.58

B.3. How satisfied are you with the education you received at...

	N	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
{the respondent's previous college}	755	3%	7%	7%	38%	45%
The high school you graduated from	763	5%	12%	20%	35%	28%

## Previous College: Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

B.4. What was your high school GPA? (Asked of respondents for whom Western does not have a record of H.S. GPA.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
480	3.21	3.3	0	4.4	0.65

B.5. Did you ever attend a community college through the Running Start Program?

N	768
Yes	24%
No	76%

B.6. Have you ever served in the United States' Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or National Guard?

N	767
Yes	4%
No	96%

## C. College Application Process

C.1. How important were each of the following factors in your choice to attend {the respondent's previous college}? (Asked of students transferring from a four-year institution.)

	N	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Family or friends were attending {the respondent's previous college}	158	66%	12%	8%	10%	4%
My total financial cost was low	155	21%	14%	17%	25%	22%
I was interested in a specific academic program	156	17%	12%	19%	29%	24%
{The respondent's previous college} had a good academic reputation	155	12%	8%	27%	33%	21%
{The respondent's previous college} was close to home	158	46%	11%	15%	15%	13%
{The respondent's previous college} was far away from home	157	48%	20%	19%	6%	6%
I liked the size of the community in which {the respondent's previous college} was located	158	25%	27%	20%	18%	10%
I liked the size of {the respondent's previous college}	156	21%	19%	28%	21%	12%
I liked the recreational opportunities in the area	158	27%	14%	27%	27%	6%
The religious orientation at {the respondent's previous college} fit with my own	156	79%	5%	8%	3%	5%
{The respondent's previous college} had a Greek system	157	86%	4%	5%	3%	3%
I played on a varsity athletic team	157	85%	1%	4%	1%	9%
{The respondent's previous college} offered opportunities to participate in art and music events	157	52%	19%	13%	12%	5%

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.2. How important were each of the following factors in choosing to attend {the respondent's previous college}? (Asked of respondents transferring from a two-year college.) (Eighth question asked of respondents who indicated in B.5. that they attended a community college through the Running Start program.)

	N	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
The college was close to home	598	11%	9%	17%	27%	36%
I wanted to finish the requirements for an associates degree	601	7%	4%	10%	25%	54%
I wanted to earn a specific certificate or degree offered at {the respondent's previous college}	598	39%	12%	18%	14%	17%
It was less expensive than a four-year school	597	6%	3%	12%	23%	57%
I was not accepted at the four year school(s) to which I applied	595	83%	3%	7%	3%	3%
I wanted to strengthen my academic record	596	19%	11%	22%	23%	26%
I missed the application deadline for four-year school(s)	593	86%	4%	5%	4%	1%
I continued at the same two-year college I had attended for Running Start	157	20%	3%	7%	24%	45%
I was unsure about my direction	595	30%	10%	20%	21%	19%
Friends or family were attending {the respondent's previous college}	599	65%	13%	12%	6%	4%
{The respondent's previous college} offered opportunities to participate in art and music events	600	69%	12%	11%	5%	4%

C.3. Out of all your college options, how important were 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	755	52%	17%	16%	11%	4%
A Western faculty member recruited me	752	88%	5%	5%	2%	1%
An instructor, teacher or advisor encouraged me to go to Western	750	57%	12%	15%	11%	5%
I am interested in a specific academic program at Western	757	9%	6%	15%	28%	43%
Western has a good academic reputation	755	3%	3%	14%	37%	44%
Western has a good reputation for its social activities	753	13%	8%	22%	30%	26%
Western is more affordable than my other choices	755	16%	9%	22%	26%	28%
Western offered me financial assistance	752	35%	11%	12%	17%	25%
I want to live near home	756	36%	15%	19%	17%	13%
I want to live far away from home	751	61%	12%	16%	9%	3%
I like the size of Western	753	9%	6%	23%	36%	25%
I like the size of Bellingham	751	10%	7%	22%	32%	29%
I like the recreational opportunities in this area	752	9%	7%	20%	29%	35%
Western does not have a Greek system	752	58%	8%	12%	9%	12%
I will be playing on a varsity athletic team	751	84%	7%	6%	2%	2%
Western offers opportunities to participate in arts and music events	752	39%	15%	21%	15%	11%

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.4. How did you first learn about Western? (Technical problem with the survey resulted in fewer cases.)

N	673
A parent/sibling/relative told me about Western	29%
A friend told me about Western	36%
A coach or teacher told me about Western	9%
An admissions counselor visited my school	3%
I spoke with an admissions counselor at a college fair	2%
I conducted a general college web search	10%
I conducted a search for institutions that participate in the Western Undergraduate Exchange program	0%
While I was researching Bellingham	3%
Western contacted me	0%
Other	7%

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C.4.a. How did you first learn about Western? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.4.) (N=45) (Responses included: I live in Bellingham so I've been aware of Western my whole life; I live in Washington and know of all the major colleges in the state; high school announcements; grade school field trip.) (Text responses available on request.)

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C.5. When did you first learn about Western? (Technical problem with survey resulted in fewer cases.)

N	670
Before entering high school	26%
As a high school freshmen or sophomore	18%
As a high school junior	14%
As a high school senior	13%
After high school	29%

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C.6. Which of the following sources were most valuable in helping you to learn about Western? Please check the three most valuable sources. (Technical problem with survey resulted in fewer cases.)

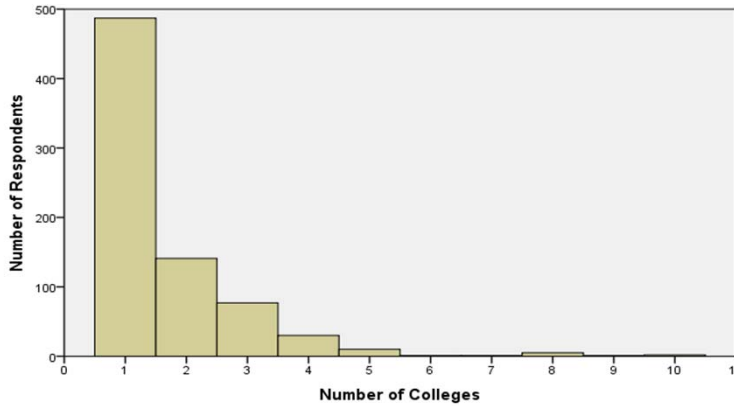
N	674
Western's website	63%
Friends at Western	56%
Western's admissions website	22%
Western's alumni	9%
Visit to campus	49%
High school counselor	3%
High school teacher or coach	5%
An advisor from {respondent's previous college}	16%
Paper mailings from the Office of Admissions	6%
Email communication from the Office of Admissions	4%
Parent/sibling/relative	20%
Summer program at Western	2%
Personal contact with an admissions counselor	7%
Personal contact with a Western faculty member	8%
Other	6%

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.6.a. What other source(s) of information was valuable in helping you to learn about Western? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.6.) (N=16) (Responses included: visits to Bellingham over the course of many vacations; living in Bellingham; coaches at Western; word of mouth.) (Text responses available on request.)

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C.7. Including Western, to how many four-year colleges did you apply for admission this fall? (OSR recoded responses of 0 as 1, and increased responses to match the count in C.8. if it exceeded response in C.7.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
755	1.66	1	1	10	1.20

## College Application Process (cont.)

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

N	754
Western Washington University	100%
University of Washington - Seattle	13%
Central Washington University	8%
Washington State University - Pullman	5%
Eastern Washington University	4%
University of Washington - Bothell	3%
Evergreen State College	2%
Seattle University	2%
Seattle Pacific University	1%
University of Oregon	1%
University of Portland	1%
University of Puget Sound	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	1%
Willamette University	1%
Gonzaga University	0%
Lewis & Clark 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%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Washington State University - Spokane	0%
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	0%
Whitman College	0%
Linfield College	
Other	9%

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.9. Of all the schools to which you applied, which was your *first* choice to attend? (Recoded by OSR to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

N	755
Western Washington University	89%
University of Washington - Seattle	5%
University of Washington - Bothell	1%
Central Washington University	0%
Pacific Lutheran University	0%
Seattle Pacific University	0%
Seattle University	0%
University of Portland	0%
University of Puget Sound	0%
University of Washington - Tacoma	0%
Willamette University	0%
Eastern Washington University	
Evergreen State College	
Gonzaga University	
Lewis & Clark College	
Linfield College	
Oregon State University	
University of British Columbia	
University of Colorado at Boulder	
University of Montana	
University of Oregon	
Washington State University - Pullman	
Washington State University - Spokane	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
Washington State University - Vancouver	
Whitman College	
Other	2%
Did not specify first choice	2%

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C.9.a. Which school was your *first* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.9.) (N=12)  
 (Responses included: University of Southern California; University of San Diego; New York University; Iowa State University; Chapman University.) (Text responses available on request.)



## College Application Process (cont.)

C.10. Of all the schools to which you applied, which was your *second* choice to attend? (Recoded by OSR to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

N	755
Western Washington University	7%
University of Washington - Seattle	5%
Central Washington University	3%
Eastern Washington University	2%
Evergreen State College	2%
Washington State University - Pullman	2%
Seattle University	1%
University of Washington - Bothell	1%
Lewis & Clark College	0%
Oregon State University	0%
Seattle Pacific University	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
University of Montana	0%
University of Oregon	0%
University of Portland	0%
University of Puget Sound	0%
University of Washington - Tacoma	0%
Washington State University - Spokane	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Gonzaga University	
Linfield College	
Pacific Lutheran University	
University of British Columbia	
Willamette University	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
Whitman College	
Other	4%
Did not specify second choice	5%
Applied only to Western	65%

C.10.a. Which school was your *second* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.10.) (N=6)  
 (Responses included: Virginia Tech; Pacific University; Columbia College Hollywood; Chaminade University Hawaii; Brandeis University; Arizona State University.) (Text responses available on request.)

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.11. Of all the schools to which you applied, which was your *third* choice to attend? (Recoded by OSR to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

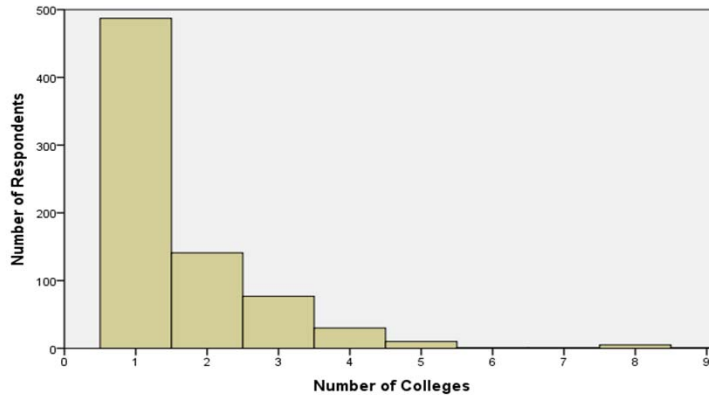
N	755
Seattle Pacific University	0%
Seattle University	0%
University of Montana	0%
University of Oregon	0%
University of Washington - Tacoma	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Western Washington University	0%
Whitman College	0%
Willamette University	0%
Eastern Washington University	1%
Evergreen State College	1%
University of Portland	1%
University of Washington - Bothell	1%
University of Washington - Seattle	2%
Washington State University - Pullman	2%
Central Washington University	3%
Gonzaga University	
Lewis & Clark College	
Linfield College	
Oregon State University	
Pacific Lutheran University	
University of British Columbia	
University of Colorado at Boulder	
University of Puget Sound	
Washington State University - Spokane	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
Other	2%
Applied to fewer than three schools	83%
Did not specify third choice	4%

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C.11.a. Which school was your *third* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.11.) (N=2)  
(Responses included: Reed College; Portland State University.) (Text responses available on request.)

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.12. Including Western, to how many four year colleges were you accepted for admission this fall? (OSR recoded to reflect responses implied by the skip pattern and in C.13.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
743	1.50	1	1	8	0.97

C.13. To which of the following four-year colleges were you accepted? (OSR recoded to assume acceptance in cases where the response in C.12. = response in C.7. (accepted to same number of colleges applied.)

N	743
Western Washington University	100%
Central Washington University	7%
University of Washington - Seattle	6%
Washington State University - Pullman	5%
Eastern Washington University	3%
Evergreen State College	2%
Seattle University	2%
University of Washington - Bothell	2%
Seattle Pacific University	1%
University of Portland	1%
University of Puget Sound	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	1%
Willamette University	1%
Gonzaga University	0%
Lewis & Clark College	0%
Oregon State University	0%
Pacific Lutheran University	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
University of Montana	0%
University of Oregon	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Washington State University - Spokane	0%
Whitman College	0%
Linfield College	
University of British Columbia	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	

## D. Class Schedule and Expectations

### D.1. 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
754	14%	7%	18%	7%	31%	23%

#### D.1.a. Why are you dissatisfied with your class schedule? (Asked of respondents who answered "very dissatisfied" or "dissatisfied" in D.1.)

N	186
The classes I need to take were full	88%
The classes I need to take are scheduled at conflicting times	32%
My classes are spread too far across campus	2%
My classes are spread too far throughout the day	12%
My classes are spread too far throughout the week	3%
My class schedule does not work well with my job schedule	10%
My classes begin too early in the morning	7%
My classes end too late in the evening	8%
One or more of my classes meet every day	5%
Other	19%

D.1.b. What is your other reason for being dissatisfied with your class schedule? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in D.1.) (N=35) (Responses included: My math classes didn't transfer as I thought they would; I wasn't sure exactly which classes to take; I wasn't properly educated about how I couldn't take classes that were part of the program I plan to enter because I wasn't admitted yet; my transfer classes didn't transfer; I couldn't register because the system did not recognize my math placement test score; Western did not process my transcripts prior to registering so I couldn't sign up for the classes I wanted.) (Text responses available on request.)

### D.2. 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	753	46%	31%	18%	5%	1%
Preparing for and presenting my work in front of a class	751	29%	31%	22%	12%	6%
Completing coursework and reading on time	752	43%	31%	18%	7%	1%
Getting good grades	751	28%	39%	24%	7%	2%
Managing my finances	749	18%	29%	27%	18%	9%

## E. Academic Skills and Goals

E.1. Please rate your ability on the following academic skills relative to your peers at {the respondent's previous college}. Also please rate the importance of these skills to you.

	N	Well below average	Below average	About average	Above average	Well above average
Writing skills	749	0%	3%	27%	48%	22%
Oral communication skills	748	1%	7%	39%	38%	16%
Critically evaluate information	749	0%	1%	35%	45%	19%
Work or learn independently	751	0%	2%	22%	46%	30%
Work cooperatively in a group	747	0%	4%	32%	44%	20%
Appreciation of the arts	749	2%	12%	34%	30%	22%
Apply scientific principles and methods	751	1%	12%	41%	32%	14%
Apply quantitative principles and methods	747	2%	11%	42%	32%	13%
Awareness of cultural and social differences among people	749	1%	3%	27%	40%	31%
Using computing and information technology	747	1%	6%	43%	31%	19%
Use library resources for research	748	0%	9%	52%	27%	11%
Identify and analyze complex problems	750	1%	4%	39%	42%	16%

E.2. When do you expect to graduate from Western with your bachelor's degree?

N	750
Spring 2013	2%
Summer 2013 through winter 2014	5%
Spring 2014	40%
Summer 2014 through winter 2015	24%
Spring 2015	22%
Summer 2015 or later	7%

E.3. What is the highest degree you expect to earn in your lifetime?

N	748
Bachelor's (B.A., B.S., etc.)	24%
Master's (M.A., M.S., etc.)	49%
Professional (M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M., J.D., etc.)	8%
Doctorate (Ph.D. or Ed.D., etc.)	19%

## Academic Skills and goals (cont.)

E.4. What is the highest level of education attained by your mother or step-mother?

N	750
Less than high school	4%
High school graduate	18%
Some college or post-high school education	25%
Community college degree	12%
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	27%
Master's degree or equivalent	11%
Law degree, medical degree, or Ph.D.	3%

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E.5. What is the highest level of education attained by your father or step-father?

N	749
Less than high school	7%
High school graduate	22%
Some college or post-high school education	21%
Community college degree	9%
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	25%
Master's degree or equivalent	12%
Law degree, medical degree, or Ph.D.	5%

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E.6. 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
751	68%	15%	13%	2%	2%

## Academic Skills and goals (cont.)

E.6.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 "uncertain", "somewhat likely" or "very likely" in E.6.)

N	123
Western is too expensive	13%
Western does not offer the degree program I am interested in	17%
Friends or family attend a different school	7%
Western is not prestigious enough for me	2%
Western is too rigorous for me	1%
Western is too small	2%
Western is too large	2%
Western is too far from friends or family	9%
Other	47%

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E.6.b. What degree program are you interested in? (Asked of respondents who answered "Western does not offer the degree program I am interested in" in E.6.a.) (N=20) (Responses included: Gender and Sexuality Studies; Computer Engineering; Civil Engineering; Pharmacy; Physical Therapy; Nursing; Animation and Illustration.) (Text responses available on request.)

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E.6.c. 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.6.a.) (N=52) (Responses included: Change in interests; not being able to get the classes I need because they are full; I do not fit with the Western community; don't like the environment; family reason; relationship; UW has better research opportunities.) (Text responses available on request.)

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## F. Major Choice and Declaration

F.1. How certain are you of what your major will be?

N	I have no idea	I have some idea	I am certain
751	3%	34%	63%

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F.2. Have you met with a departmental advisor about your potential major?

N	Yes	No
750	63%	37%

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F.3. Have you completed the paperwork to officially declare your major?

N	Yes	No
750	28%	72%

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F.4. What resources have you used to learn about majors at Western? (Check all that apply.)

N	751
An advisor at your transfer school	28%
A Western Admissions Counselor	30%
Western's website	75%
A departmental advisor or faculty member at Western	43%
Western's Academic Advising Center	12%
Western's Major Guides	52%
Western's Online Catalog	40%
Other	7%
None	3%

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F.5. When do you plan to declare your major? (Asked if the respondent indicated in F.1. they are certain of their major but in F.3. that they have not filled out paperwork.)

N	297
During my first quarter at Western	50%
During winter, spring or summer quarter of my first year	42%
During my second year	3%
I don't know	5%



## Major Choice and Declaration (cont.)

F.6. Why haven't you declared your major? (Asked if the respondent indicated in F.1. they are certain of their major but in F.3. have not filled out paperwork.)

N	295
I am unaware of the process to declare my major	36%
I don't yet meet the requirements of my major	51%
It is not urgent that I declare my major now	20%
Other	16%

F.7. When did you decide what your major would be? (Asked of respondents who answered "certain" in F.1.)

N	472
Before high school	4%
During high school	21%
During your first year at your transfer institution	34%
After your first year at your transfer institution	41%

F.8. Which department houses the major you plan to declare? (Asked of those who indicated in F.1. that they are certain of their major choice.)

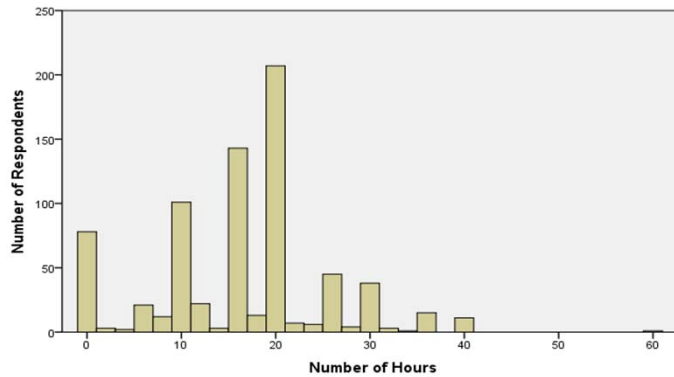
N	460	General Studies	0%
Accounting	4%	Geography	0%
American Cultural Studies	0%	Geology	2%
Anthropology	3%	History	2%
Art	2%	Human Services and Rehabilitation	2%
Biology	10%	International Studies	0%
Chemistry	4%	Journalism	2%
Communication	3%	Linguistics	1%
Communication Sciences & Disorders	2%	Management	3%
Computer Science	6%	Mathematics	3%
Decision Sciences	0%	Modern and Classical Languages	1%
East Asian Studies	1%	Music	2%
Economics	1%	Philosophy	1%
Educational Curriculum and Instruction	1%	Physical Education, Health & Recreation	5%
Elementary Education	3%	Physics and Astronomy	1%
Engineering Technology	3%	Political Science	2%
English	7%	Psychology	9%
Environmental Sciences	1%	Science Education	0%
Environmental Studies	2%	Secondary Education	1%
Fairhaven College	2%	Sociology	1%
Finance & Marketing	3%	Special Education	1%
Finance, Marketing & Decision Sciences	0%	Theatre Arts and Dance	2%

## G. Expenses and Employment

G.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	\$1 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$2,999	\$3,000 to \$5,999	\$6,000 to \$9,999	\$10,000 or more
Family resources (parents, relatives, spouse, etc.)	730	33%	13%	12%	10%	12%	20%
My own resources (savings, employment, other income)	731	14%	27%	27%	19%	9%	6%
Aid which need not be repaid (grants, scholarships, military funding, etc.)	725	41%	8%	13%	13%	11%	15%
Aid which must be repaid (loans, etc.)	720	39%	3%	8%	15%	16%	20%

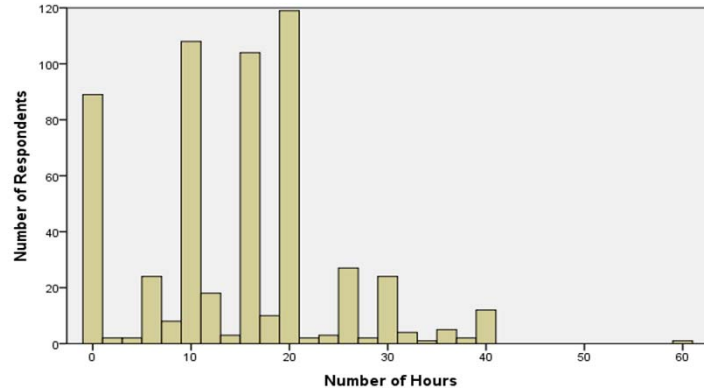
G.2. During the coming year, about how many hours per week do you hope to work while attending Western?



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
736	16.15	15	0	60	8.9

## Expenses and Employment (cont.)

G.3. 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 of respondents who indicated in G.1. that they expect to cover first year education expenses with their own resources, and in G.2. that they hope to work more than 0 hours.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
570	14.35	15	0	60	9.5

## H. Technology

H.1. Which of the following electronic devices will you have with you at Western during fall quarter? Check all that apply.

N	748
Personal laptop computer	91%
Personal desktop computer	15%
Smart phone	60%
Cell phone	47%
Tablet computer	7%
E-reader or device that has a book reader application	13%
Mp3 player (e.g. iPod)	59%
Other wi-fi enabled device (e.g. iPod Touch)	20%
None of the above	0%

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H.2. Each year, new students receive a copy of the Western Reads common reading book. If given a choice, which would you be most likely to select?

N	744
Print version of the book	76%
E-book/digital version of the book	24%

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# I. Demographics and Comments

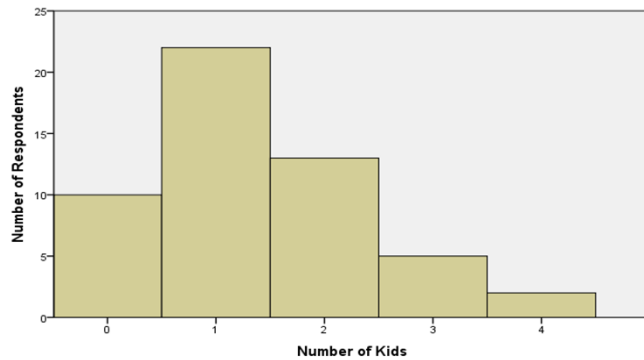
## I.1. What is your marital status?

N	Single, never married	Married (or legal equivalent)	Single, divorced	Single, widowed
748	91%	6%	3%	0%

## I.2. Do you have children?

N	Yes	No
748	7%	93%

### I.2.a. How many children will be living with you over the coming year? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in I.2.) (OSR excluded one response greater than 5.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
52	1.37	1	0	4	1.02

### I.3. Please use the space below for any additional comments or suggestions. (Open-ended question asked of all respondents.) (N=94) (Text responses available on request.)