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Excerpts From All 8 Freshman Focus Groups

Office of Survey Research

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Excerpts from all 8 freshmen focus groups

Estimated Time to Graduation

Total of 92 participants

Group 1

Low credit and low score. Eleven participants. The majority were interested in a particular major when they first started at Western. However as of Winter Quarter, the majority are uncertain.

Six of eleven in this group plan to graduate in four years (for two students it's because parents will only pay for four years). Three students believe it will be four to five years to graduation. One believes it will be three years, and one is not sure how long it will take.

Group 2

Low credit and high score. Ten participants. The majority came to Western with a major in mind. For some this has remained the same, while others have changed their minds. Current major interests include Creative Writing, Science Education, Engineering, Linguistics, Liberal arts (2), Business Management (2). One student is undecided as she has several interests. One student's major was not understandable on the tape.

Projected graduations vary from two years (because of transfer credits) to four and a half years (due to the program, or if it's necessary).

Group 3

High credit and low score. Twelve participants. Six students in this group have a certain major in mind—Pre-Pharmacy, Elementary Education, Financial Economics, Music Education and Performance, Special Education, Technical Theatre. Six students are exploring majors—possibly Political Science or English, Biology or Business, Elementary Education or Communication Sciences and Disorders, music education, and physical education.

One student plans to leave Western in three years for pharmaceutical school. Another plans to graduate in two years as he came into western with an AA degree (two years of Running Start). Five students plan to graduate "hopefully in 4 years"; two students say it will probably take 5 years (both majoring in music education); and three don't know how long it will take.

Some students believe it may take longer than 4 years to graduate if they can't get the classes they need—particularly prerequisites. Students also say it may

take longer if they double-major, or because certain programs take longer (teaching); or because they are undecided as to major. (p11)

Group 4

High credit and high score. Thirteen participants. Students in this group have a wide variety of major interests. Several are still exploring possibilities. Interests include Music, Journalism, Creative Writing, Political Science or Economics or Philosophy, , English, Psychology or Canadian studies, possibly Art, English with a minor in Music, Fairhaven (not sure of focus), Environmental Studies, Philosophy (possibly a double-major with Environmental Science), Political Science or Economics; and one undecided.

Plans for graduation vary: 2-3 years (2); 3-4 years (1); 4 years (but that could change) (5); More than 4 years (3, double-majors); don't know (2).

Group 5

Low credit and undecided Summersetart advising group. Eleven participants. The majority in this group are undecided as to major. Students are tentatively interested in the following areas: medicine (possibly dermatology), business marketing, engineering (2), environmental science, pre-law, physics, communication sciences and disorders, biology.

Most are hoping to graduate in four years, however two students are athletes so they estimate they will be here four and half to five years. One student may take longer than four years because he doesn't want to "cram", and another plans to transfer to the U.W. for law school.

Group 6

Low credit and transferred credits from high school. Eleven participants. Students in this group have a wide variety of major interests: Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Studies, Computer Science or accounting, Industrial Design, Journalism, History and Spanish double-major, Political Science/Philosophy/Economics, Environmental Science and Philosophy. Two students are undecided.

Plans for graduation vary: Four years (6), 3-4 years (2), 4-6 years (1, Industrial Design major), and 5 years (1, double-major and working part-time).

Group 7

Low credit and math/science or health Summerstart advising group. Thirteen participants. Students in this group attended Math/Science or Health Summerstart sessions. Major areas of interest include: Industrial Design, Marine Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Molecular Biology or Physical Anthropology, pre-dentistry (but now undecided), Geography, pre-med and Psychology, Japanese. Two

students plan to complete math and sciences course here (pre-x-ray tech and pre-pharmacy), then transfer.

Plans for graduation vary: 2 years (1, had two years of Running Start); four years (4); a little over four years "to accomplish everything" (1); four to five years (2; one doesn't want to rush, and the other is undecided as to major); and five years (2 undecided majors. One doesn't want to rush; and the other says it will probably take that long).

Group 8

Currently distilling transcript into summary. Low credit and business/economics Summerstart advising group. Ten participants. Estimated time to graduation varies: 1 ½ to 2 years (2 students, with 80-95 Running Start credits); 4 years (3); over 4 years (1 business major); 4-5 years (4 students: Three are business/marketing majors and 1 is undecided. A marketing student said "something could happen or maybe take a quarter off, or I want to study abroad.")