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Western Washington University 1994 Survey of Recent Graduates

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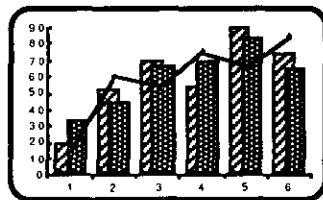
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WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

***1994 SURVEY OF
RECENT GRADUATES***



**Office of Survey Research
Western Washington University
Bellingham, Washington 98225-9081
Winter, 1994**

Thank you for your assistance with this important project. The information you provide will be used to improve education and student life at Western.

Your participation is extremely important to the validity of this study. We very much appreciate your prompt reply.

All questionnaires are guaranteed complete confidentiality.

To return your survey, fold it in half and insert it in the postage-paid return envelope provided. Thanks!

For most questions in this survey, please circle the number next to or under the answer you choose. Please answer every question unless you are directed to skip particular questions.

Some questions may not fit your experience, because we are contacting people with very different experiences. If any questions do not apply to you, just circle the number beside "not applic." or leave the question blank.

Thank you.

To return this questionnaire, use the self-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided or send to:

OFFICE OF SURVEY RESEARCH
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225-9081

First, we would like to ask some questions about your educational plans and employment at this point.

1. Which of the following *best* describes your educational plans for the foreseeable future (please circle the number corresponding to your answer and follow skip directions):

- 1. I am currently enrolled in a college or university program. ==> **Continue with Q. 2**
- 2. I plan to enter a college or university within *five* years. ==> **Skip to Q. 3**
- 3. I plan to enter a college or university, but not within five years. ==> **Skip to Q. 3**
- 4. I do not plan to enroll in a college or university or am uncertain. ==> **Skip to Q. 4**

2. Please record the information below, describing the program in which you are enrolled.

College or University: _____		
_____	_____	_____
Major Field	Degree Sought	Year Expected

3. What is the highest degree you plan to complete within the next ten years? (Write in "same" if identical to question 2)

Degree: _____	Field: _____
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4. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

- 1. Employed for pay ==> **Continue**
- 2. Self-employed ==> **Continue**
- 3. Unemployed, looking for work ==> **Skip to Q. 13, top of page 3**
- 4. Not looking for work at this time ==> **Skip to Q. 13, top of page 3**

5. What is the nature of your work?
(e.g. accountant, teacher) _____

6. Various departments at Western would like to know who hires their graduates. If you are willing, would you please indicate the name of your employer and the kind of business or industry you work in (e.g. health, banking).

_____ Employer Name	_____ Industry
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7. When were you offered your current job: _____ 19_____
 month year

8. When did you begin your current job: _____ 19_____
 month year

9. How many hours per week do you normally work? _____ HOURS/WEEK

10. Is your job in the same field as your undergraduate major, in a related field, or in a different field?

- 1 . same 2 . related 3 . different 9 . don't know

11. Please indicate your total annual income before deductions, rounded to the nearest \$1,000. (All answers are confidential.)

\$ _____ thousand

12. How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your job?

	VERY	MOSTLY	SOME- WHAT	NOT AT ALL	NOT APPLIC.
a. The amount you earn	1	2	3	4	9
b. Your job security	1	2	3	4	9
c. Your opportunity for advancement	1	2	3	4	9
d. The kinds of daily work you do	1	2	3	4	9
e. How important and worthwhile your work is	1	2	3	4	9
f. The self-fulfillment you receive from the job	1	2	3	4	9
g. The entire job, overall	1	2	3	4	9

Now we have some questions about your experiences at Western.

13. Was your undergraduate major at Western ...

1. In a single department
2. A combined major - (What would you consider your "primary" major: _____)
3. A dual major (two complete majors) - (Your "primary" major: _____)
4. A student-faculty designed major

14. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your primary or only major at Western:

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MOSTLY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>NOT APPLIC.</u>
a. The availability of courses	1	2	3	4	9
b. The quality of instruction	1	2	3	4	9
c. How well you were challenged to do your very best	1	2	3	4	9
d. Departmental/faculty advising concerning courses	1	2	3	4	9
e. Departmental/faculty advising concerning careers	1	2	3	4	9

15. How satisfied are you with the opportunities provided by your primary or only major at Western for each of the following:

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MOSTLY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>NOT APPLIC.</u>
a. Getting involved in faculty projects	1	2	3	4	9
b. Pursuing internships or other experiential courses	1	2	3	4	9
c. Developing informal relationships with professors	1	2	3	4	9
d. Pursuing challenging individual projects	1	2	3	4	9

16. What proportion of your General University Requirement (GUR) courses did you take at Western?

- 1 . all 2 . most 3 . half 4 . some
- 5 . none ==> Skip to Question 19

17. How much would you say the (GURs) you took at Western . . .

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MOSTLY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>NOT APPLIC.</u>
a. Challenged you to learn	1	2	3	4	9
b. Gave you insight into diverse groups and cultures	1	2	3	4	9
c. Broadened your interests	1	2	3	4	9
d. Stimulated you to think about new ideas	1	2	3	4	9

18. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your General University Requirements (GURs) at Western:

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MOSTLY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>NOT APPLIC.</u>
a. The quality of instruction in GURs	1	2	3	4	9
b. The choice of courses that satisfied GURs	1	2	3	4	9
c. The way the GURs are organized and explained	1	2	3	4	9
d. The size and structure of most GUR classes	1	2	3	4	9

19. Overall, how satisfied are you with

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MOSTLY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>NOT APPLIC.</u>
a. Undergraduate courses at Western	1	2	3	4	9
b. Professors at Western	1	2	3	4	9
c. Western/Bellingham as a place to live	1	2	3	4	9
d. Academic standards at Western	1	2	3	4	9
e. The amount of ethnic and cultural diversity in the student body	1	2	3	4	9
f. Western Washington University, in total	1	2	3	4	9

20. Did you first enter Western as a freshman, or as a transfer from another college or university?

1. A freshman 2. A transfer with an A.A. 3. A transfer without an A.A.

21. How many times, if at all, did you change your intended major while at Western?

0. never ==> **SKIP TO QUESTION 23** 9. don't know
1. once 2. twice 3. three or more times

22. Was each of the following a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why you decided to leave (any of) your earlier major(s) at Western?

	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Not</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. Too hard to get into required courses	1	2	3	9
b. Was unable to gain admission into the major	1	2	3	9
c. Would have taken too long to complete the major	1	2	3	9

23. In what year of school did you decide on the major(s) you graduated with?

1. freshman 2. sophomore 3. junior 4. senior 9. don't know

24. Was each of the following a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why you chose the major(s) you graduated with?

	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Not</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. Job opportunities in this major field	1	2	3	9
b. Enjoying the nature of the work	1	2	3	9
c. Grades you received in this field	1	2	3	9
d. Improving yourself as a person	1	2	3	9
e. Income levels in this field	1	2	3	9
f. Liking the professors or intro courses in this major	1	2	3	9
g. Feeling you could contribute to society in this field	1	2	3	9
h. Ability to complete the major within an acceptable time	1	2	3	9

25. Please indicate the relative importance you placed on each pair of opposing educational goals while you were attending Western.

		<u>Relative Importance:</u>			
		<u>more</u>	<u>equal</u>	<u>more</u>	
a.	To obtain a degree	1	2	3	To learn a great deal
b.	To get training preparing me for a specific occupation	1	2	3	To get a well-rounded education preparing me for life as a whole

26. Please indicate how many hours per week you typically studied during your first year in college, at Western or elsewhere, and during your Senior year at Western.

	<u>0-4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>15-19</u>	<u>20-24</u>	<u>25-29</u>	<u>30-34</u>	<u>35+</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Freshman	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Senior	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

27. During the time you were enrolled as a student at Western, how many hours per week on average were you employed for pay, if at all? Please give an approximate average for your first and last years at Western, to the best of your memory.

	<u>Employed?</u>		<u>Don't Recall</u>
First year at WWU	No: 0	Yes: _____ hours per week	99
Last year at WWU	No: 0	Yes: _____ hours per week	99

IF YOU WERE NEVER EMPLOYED WHILE AT WESTERN, SKIP TO QUESTION 30, NEXT PAGE.

28. Please record the following information, as well as memory serves, for your first and your last jobs while you were at Western. (If you held only one job while at Western, answer for the first and last quarters you held that job.)

	<u>First Job</u>	<u>Last Job</u>
a. Hourly pay	\$____.____/hr	\$____.____/hr
b. Was this a work study position?	1. No 2. Yes	1. No 2. Yes
c. Did you get this job through the Student Employment Center?	1. No 2. Yes	1. No 2. Yes
d. Was this job on or off campus	1. On 2. Off	1. On 2. Off
e. Flexibility the job provided	1. Lot 2. Little 3. None	1. Lot 2. Little 3. None
f. Amount of responsibility you had	1. Lot 2. Little 3. None	1. Lot 2. Little 3. None
g. Relevance of job to your education	1. Lot 2. Little 3. None	1. Lot 2. Little 3. None
h. Amount job interfered with school	1. Lot 2. Little 3. None	1. Lot 2. Little 3. None

29. How satisfied were you with each of the following aspects of your first and last jobs while enrolled at Western?

	<u>First Job</u>				<u>Last Job</u>			
	Very	Mostly	Some	Not	Very	Mostly	Some	Not
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
a. Your earnings on this job	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
b. How well the pay matched the work	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
c. Convenience of the job	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
d. Flexibility of the job	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
e. Recognition your boss/others gave you	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
f. How worthwhile the work was	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
g. The entire job, overall	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

36. If you participated in less volunteer community service than you might have wanted to while at Western, how much, if at all, did each of the following limit your participation?

	<u>A Great Deal</u>	<u>Moderately</u>	<u>Some-what</u>	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>Not Applicable</u>
a. Did not know about opportunities	1	2	3	4	9
b. Did not have time	1	2	3	4	9
c. Was not a relevant part of education	1	2	3	4	9
d. Was not a part of any of my classes	1	2	3	4	9
e. Was not interested	1	2	3	4	9
f. No way to receive credit	1	2	3	4	9

37. In your opinion, should Western increase opportunities to combine community service activities with course work?

1. Definitely 2. Probably 3. Probably not 4. Definitely not 9. Don't know

38. Thinking only of the time you attended Western, how much, if at all, did each of the following factors hinder you from completing your degree in four years? (Please indicate any factors that hindered you, even if you finished in four years.)

	<u>A GREAT DEAL</u>	<u>QUITE A BIT</u>	<u>SOME-WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>CAN'T SAY/ NOT APPLIC</u>
a. Scheduling conflicts made courses unavailable to me	1	2	3	4	9
b. Courses I needed were filled by the time I registered	1	2	3	4	9
c. I was uncertain about my educational goals and took some courses I didn't need	1	2	3	4	9
d. I took courses I did not need while I waited for access into courses required by my major	1	2	3	4	9
e. Poor grades forced me to retake courses	1	2	3	4	9
f. I graduated with more credits than I needed because there were some interesting courses I wanted to take	1	2	3	4	9
g. I received poor advising or a lack of adequate advising	1	2	3	4	9
h. My major required more credits than could be completed in 4 years	1	2	3	4	9

39. When you were a senior in high school, what was the highest degree you planned to complete?

1. High school 2. Associate 3. Bachelors 4. Masters 5. Post-Masters 9. don't know

40. What was your approximate high school grade point average?

1. Below C 2. C to C+ 3. B- 4. B 5. B+ 6. A- 7. A 9. don't recall

41. Please indicate how satisfied you are with Western's contribution to your growth in each of the following areas.

	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>A Little</u>	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>Not Applic.</u>
a. Writing effectively	1	2	3	4	5	9
b. Speaking effectively	1	2	3	4	5	9
c. Critically analyzing written information	1	2	3	4	5	9
d. Understanding and applying quantitative principles and methods	1	2	3	4	5	9
e. Understanding and appreciating the arts	1	2	3	4	5	9
f. Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods	1	2	3	4	5	9
g. Recognizing your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a citizen	1	2	3	4	5	9
h. Defining and solving problems	1	2	3	4	5	9
i. Working cooperatively in a group	1	2	3	4	5	9
j. Learning independently	1	2	3	4	5	9
k. Understanding differing philosophies and cultures	1	2	3	4	5	9
l. Understanding the interaction of society and the environment	1	2	3	4	5	9
m. Being ready for a career	1	2	3	4	5	9
n. Being ready for graduate study	1	2	3	4	5	9
o. Being able to cope with life changes and stresses	1	2	3	4	5	9
p. Being able to develop a satisfying meaning for life	1	2	3	4	5	9

The following questions ask about a variety of issues. For each statement, please indicate whether you agree or disagree and how strongly.

42. Most courses I took at Western required a lot of study and preparation out of class.

1 . strongly agree 2 . agree 3 . undecided 4 . disagree 5 . strongly disagree

43. Professors at Western expect you to think, not just memorize.

1 . strongly agree 2 . agree 3 . undecided 4 . disagree 5 . strongly disagree

44. I took courses from some Western faculty who were so outstanding that they have had a special impact on my life.

1 . strongly agree 2 . agree 3 . undecided 4 . disagree 5 . strongly disagree

45. I took courses from some Western faculty who were such poor instructors that they spoiled the entire experience.

1 . strongly agree 2 . agree 3 . undecided 4 . disagree 5 . strongly disagree

46. Not many Western students take learning seriously or seek out intellectual challenges.

1 . strongly agree 2 . agree 3 . undecided 4 . disagree 5 . strongly disagree

47. While I was at Western, social life and "getting through" mattered more to me than studying and learning.

1 . strongly agree 2 . agree 3 . undecided 4 . disagree 5 . strongly disagree

48. Many of my courses at Western included material on the perspectives of ethnic minorities, women, or people from other nations.

1 . strongly agree 2 . agree 3 . undecided 4 . disagree 5 . strongly disagree

49. The exposure to diverse cultures that I received at Western has been extremely valuable in my life since graduating.

1 . strongly agree 2 . agree 3 . undecided 4 . disagree 5 . strongly disagree

50. The exposure to new and challenging ideas that I received at Western has been extremely valuable in my life since graduating.

1 . strongly agree 2 . agree 3 . undecided 4 . disagree 5 . strongly disagree

51. What proportion of your courses at Western would you say challenged you to do your very best work?

1 . all 2 . most 3 . about half 4 . some 5 . few 6 . none. 9 . don't know

Thank you for helping with this important project.

If you wish to offer any feedback to your major department, please enclose your comments on a separate sheet of paper, which will be forwarded to the department.

To return your survey, fold it in half and use the postage-paid envelope provided with the survey.

Sequence Number: _____ (this number is essential for our record keeping. It will not compromise the confidentiality of your questionnaire.)