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# Western Washington University Graduate Survey

Western Washington University. Office of Survey Research

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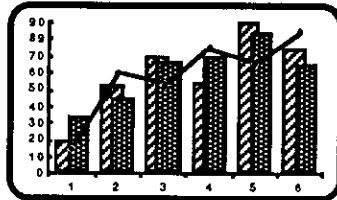
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WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

# ***GRADUATE SURVEY***



Office of Survey Research  
Western Washington University  
Bellingham, Washington 98225

Spring, 1990



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 scientific 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 the answer you choose. Please answer every question unless you are directed to skip particular questions. If any question does not fit your experience, 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

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

**Q.1.** Which of the following *best* describes your educational plans for the foreseeable future:

- 1. I am currently enrolled in a college or university program. ==> **continue**
- 2. I plan to enter a college or university within *five* years. ==> **skip to Q 5**
- 3. I plan to enter a college or university, but not within five years. ==> **skip to Q 5**
- 4. I do not plan to enroll in a college or university. ==> **skip to Q 6**

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

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

**Q.3.** How well did the courses you took in your *major* at Western prepare you for the program you are enrolled in?

- 1 . very      2 . moderately      3 . somewhat      4 . not at all      8 . can't say/not applicable

**Q.4** How well did the background you gained from *General University Requirement (GUR)* courses at Western prepare you for this program? (Circle "8" if you took no GURs at Western.)

- 1 . very      2 . moderately      3 . somewhat      4 . not at all      8 . can't say/not applicable

**Q.5.** What is the highest degree you plan to complete within the next ten years?

Degree: _____	Field: _____
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**Q.6.** Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

- 1 . . . Employed for pay ..... ==> **Skip to Question 8**
- 2 . . . Self-employed ..... ==> **Skip to Question 8**
- 3 . . . Unemployed, looking for work ..... ==> **Skip to Question 20**
- 4 . . . Not looking for work at this time ..... ==> **Answer Question 7**

**Q.7.** In the space below, please indicate what you are doing rather than seeking employment at this time.

<b>Skip to Question 20</b>
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**Q.8.** What is the nature of your work?  
(e.g. accountant, teacher.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q.9.** Approximately how many people are employed at your place of work?  
1. 1-5      2. 6-20      3. 21-100      4. 101-250      5. 250 or more

**Q.10.** 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

**Q.11.** How many hours per week do you normally work? \_\_\_\_\_ HOURS/ WEEK

**Q.12.** Approximately how long have you held this job? \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS

**Q.13.** What is your income before deductions? (All answers are confidential.)

- |                          |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. . Less than \$5,000   | 4. . \$15,000 - \$19,999 | 7. . \$30,000 - \$34,999 |
| 2. . \$5,000 - \$9,999   | 5. . \$20,000 - \$24,999 | 8. . \$35,000 - \$39,999 |
| 3. . \$10,000 - \$14,999 | 6. . \$25,000 - \$29,999 | 9. . \$40,000 or more    |

**Q.14.** 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      8. can't say

Q.15. What proportion of your job uses skills or knowledge you gained from attending Western?

- 1 . All      2 . Most      3 . About Half      4 . Some      5 . None      8 . can't say

Q.16. How valuable were the courses you took in your *major* at Western in preparing you for this job?

- 1 . very      2 . moderately      3 . somewhat      4 . not at all      9 . can't say/not applicable

Q.17. How valuable were the *General University Requirement* courses you took at Western in preparing you for this job? (Circle "9" if you took no GURs at Western.)

- 1 . very      2 . moderately      3 . somewhat      4 . not at all      9 . can't say/not applicable

Q.18. 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

Q.19. How likely are you to stay in the same type of work for the next ten years?

- 1 . Definitely      2 . Probably      3 . Probably Not      4 . Definitely Not      8 . can't say

The next questions ask about your experiences as an undergraduate at Western.

Q.20. What subject(s) did you major in as an undergraduate?

PRIMARY FIELD: \_\_\_\_\_

SECOND MAJOR, IF ANY: \_\_\_\_\_

MINOR FIELD, IF ANY: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer questions 21 and 22 for your primary major field.**

**Q.21.** How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your primary 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

**Q.22.** How satisfied are you with the opportunities provided by your primary 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

***If you graduated with a single major, please skip to Question 25.***

***If you graduated with a double major, please answer questions 23 and 24 for your second major field.***

***(However, if you listed education as your second major, please skip to question 25.)***

**Q.23.** How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your second 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

**Q.24.** How satisfied are you with the opportunities provided by your second 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

**Q.25.** Did you receive a teaching certificate at Western?

- 1 . yes, elementary      2 . yes, secondary      3 . yes, special education  
 4. no ==> Skip to Question 27.

**Q.26.** How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your teacher education courses 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. Your practice teaching	1	2	3	4	9
e. Informal relationships with professors	1	2	3	4	9

**Q.27.** 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 30.

**Q.28.** How much would you say your (GURs) at Western . . .

	<u>A GREAT DEAL</u>	<u>QUITE A BIT</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



**Q.29.** 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
c. The choice of courses that satisfied GURs	1	2	3	4	9

**Q.30.** How satisfied were you with the following facilities at Western? (Circle "9" if you never used a particular facility.)

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MOSTLY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW/ DID NOT USE</u>
a. Computer Center and Labs	1	2	3	4	9
b. Wilson Library and specialized libraries	1	2	3	4	9
c. Outdoor recreation facilities on campus	1	2	3	4	9
d. Student health facilities	1	2	3	4	9
e. Indoor workout facilities	1	2	3	4	9
f. Dining and coffee shops	1	2	3	4	9
g. The Student Bookstore	1	2	3	4	9

**Q.31.** 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. Academic advising at Western	1	2	3	4	9
d. Career and employment advising at Western	1	2	3	4	9
e. The quality of instruction in your major field(s)	1	2	3	4	9
f. The quality of instruction outside your major field(s)	1	2	3	4	9
g. Non-academic services available to students	1	2	3	4	9
h. Western/Bellingham as a place to live	1	2	3	4	9
i. Academic standards at Western	1	2	3	4	9
j. Interaction with faculty outside of the classroom	1	2	3	4	9
k. The amount of ethnic and cultural diversity in the student body	1	2	3	4	9
l. Student life activities at Western	1	2	3	4	9
m. Western Washington University, in total	1	2	3	4	9

**Q. 32.** Did you first enter Western as a freshman, or as a transfer from another college?

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

**Q.33.** 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 . can't say

**Q.34.** How many times, if at all, did you change your major while at Western?

- 0 . never    1 .once    2 . twice    3 . three or more times.    8 . can't say

**Q.35.** In what year of school did you decide on the major(s) you graduated with?

- 1 . freshman    2 . sophomore    3 . junior    4 . senior    8 can't say

**Q.36.** 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>Can't Say</u>
a. Job opportunities in this major field	1	2	3	8
b. Enjoying the nature of the work	1	2	3	8
c. Grades you received in this field	1	2	3	8
d. Improving yourself as a person	1	2	3	8
e. Income levels in this field	1	2	3	8
f. Liking the professors or intro courses in this major	1	2	3	8
g. Feeling you could contribute to society in this field	1	2	3	8

**Q.37.** 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
c.	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

**Q.38.** Please indicate how many hours per week you typically studied, during your freshman year 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>can't say</u>
Freshman	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Senior	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

**Q.39.** How much of the time you were enrolled at Western did you . . .

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MOST</u>	<u>HALF</u>	<u>SOME</u>	<u>NONE</u>
a. Receive financial aid of any type	1	2	3	4	5
b. Work for pay 10 or more hours per week	1	2	3	4	5
c. Work for pay 20 or more hours per week	1	2	3	4	5

**Q.40.** When you graduated from Western, what was the total you owed for guaranteed student loans or other loans taken entirely to finance your education? (Please round to the nearest \$500.)

TOTAL LOANS: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . 00

**Q.41.** Please indicate how satisfied you are with Western's contribution to your academic and/or personal 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 advanced education	1	2	3	4	5	9
o. Being able to deal with people from different cultures and walks of life	1	2	3	4	5	9
p. Being able to cope with life changes and stresses	1	2	3	4	5	9
q. Being able to use leisure time well	1	2	3	4	5	9
r. Being able to develop a satisfying meaning for life	1	2	3	4	5	9

**Q.42.** During the past year or so, have you . . .

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>CANT SAY</u>
a. Been an active member of a community group	1	2	9
b. Been an officer in any organization	1	2	9
c. Participated in political activities beyond voting	1	2	9

**Q.43.** How many times, if at all, have you changed employers since graduating from Western?

1. never    2. once    3. twice    4. three or more times    9. never employed

**Q.44.** During the past month or so, how many times have you attended a musical or theatrical performance?

1. none    2. 1-2    3. 3-5    4. 6-9    5. 10 or more

**Q.45.** During the past month or so, how many full-length books have you read?

1. none    2. 1-2    3. 3-5    4. 6-9    5. 10 or more

**Q.46.** Do you own a personal computer?

1. No    2. Yes

**Q.47.** Approximately how many hours of television do you watch on a typical weekday?

- 0    1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8+    HOURS

**Q.48.** If you could go back in time and repeat your education knowing what you know now, how likely is it that you would make each of the changes listed below?

	<u>DEFIN- ITELY</u>	<u>PROB- ABLY</u>	<u>PROB. NOT</u>	<u>DEFIN. NOT</u>	<u>DONT KNOW</u>
a. Take more courses inside my major field	1	2	3	4	8
b. Broaden my interests and take more courses outside the major	1	2	3	4	8
c. Concentrate more on developing my mathematical skills	1	2	3	4	8
d. Concentrate more on developing my writing skills	1	2	3	4	8
e. Complete my education in less time	1	2	3	4	8
f. Wait longer before beginning college	1	2	3	4	8
g. Choose a different major field	1	2	3	4	8

**Q.49.** If you could repeat your education, would you make the same decisions about whether to attend one school all four years or to transfer, and about which school(s) to attend?

- 1.. Yes, would make all the same decisions      ==> SKIP TO QUESTION 51  
2.. No, would make some different decisions

**Q.50.** What changes would you make?

The following questions ask about a variety of issues. For most of these, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement and whether or not your opinion is a strong one.

**Q.51.** 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

**Q.52.** Western does too little to encourage students' creativity.

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

**Q.53.** Professors at Western expect you to think, not just memorize.

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

**Q.54.** 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

**Q.55.** 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

**Q.56.** Attending Western often made me question my assumptions, values, and attitudes.

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

**Q.57.** One of the best things about attending Western was getting to interact with students from so many different cultures, ethnic groups, and ways of life.

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

**Q.58.** Not many Western students take learning seriously or seek out intellectual challenges.

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

**Q.59.** The offices at Western that deal with student life and student services are really friendly and helpful.

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

**Q.60.** Western should have four smaller graduation ceremonies, one after each quarter, instead of one large ceremony in Spring.

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

**Q.61.** 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

**Q.62.** Requiring students to spend one hour in class for every credit interferes with a good education by leaving too little time for studying and research.

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

**Q.63.** My education was hurt by the fact that Western does not offer enough seminar classes.

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

**Q.64.** It was difficult to find good places to study on campus at Western.

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

**Q.65.** 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

**Q.66. (Answer only if you ever pursued a teaching certificate at Western:)** Educational foundations courses should be offered by academic departments in the appropriate subject areas, not by the school of education.

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

**Q.67.** 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.    8 can't say

**Q.68.** What proportion of your courses at Western demanded your independent use of Library materials?

- 1 . all    2 . most    3 . about half    4 . some    5 . few    6 . none.    8 can't say

**Q.69.** What proportion of your courses at Western would you say scheduled the final exam during the last week of classes instead of during finals week?

- 1 . all    2 . most    3 . about half    4 . some    5 . few    6 . none.    8 can't say

**Q.70.** If Western had offered a much larger summer session than it does, how many more credits, if any, do you think you would have taken during summer?

- 1 . none    2 . 3-10    3 . 11-20    4 . 21-45    9 . can't say

**Q.71.** If Western had offered graduation ceremonies after each quarter, when would you have chosen to graduate?

- 1 . Winter    2 . Spring    3 . Summer    4 . Fall    9 . Can't say

**Thank you for completing this survey.**

We also have an **optional request**. We would appreciate your responses to either or both of the questions on the next page. If you don't have time to answer these questions, however, please return the questionnaire now. We'll be pleased to receive it without these final questions completed.

**Option 1.** From the perspective of your experience since graduating, what would you say were the most intellectually and personally meaningful aspects of the work you did in your major(s) at Western?

**Option 2.** What recommendations, if any, do you have for improving WWU?

Sequence Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(This number is essential for our record keeping and does not in any way compromise the confidentiality of your questionnaire.)

Again, thank you for helping with this important project.