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# Western Educational Longitudinal Study (WELS) Baseline Survey of Freshmen Entering Western in the Fall, 2012: Descriptive Statistics

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

Descriptive Statistics

Report 2012-06

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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 FRESHMEN ENTERING WESTERN IN THE FALL, 2012

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fall 2012 Baseline Survey of Freshmen Entering Western (Freshmen Survey) 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 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 efforts; (3) to assess student needs based upon their self-reported characteristics, perceptions, and concerns. To accomplish these, the Freshmen Survey integrates questions into five major sections: pre-collegiate engagement and experiences, the college application process, class scheduling and expectations, skills, goals and expectations, and expenses and employment. In addition to these, Western's Division of Enrollment and Student Services submitted questions regarding the expected use of technology. The questions on the Freshmen Survey are a mix 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 utilizes a mixture of online and telephone survey methodologies to obtain responses. 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 failing to complete the survey while at Summerstart were invited to complete the survey online. For these students, an initial e-mail was sent to their external e-mail address. Two follow-ups were sent to non-respondents and then non-respondents were called and asked to participate. The survey was left open until the weekend before Fall quarter courses began on campus. Of the 2,875 Fall 2012 freshmen, OSR received 2,583 responses; a response rate of 89.8%.

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 any survey data. Section A of this report compares respondents to all incoming freshmen. Relative to all freshmen, respondents were more likely to be women (60.2% of respondents were women as were 58.3% of all freshmen), were less likely to be a racial or ethnic minority (23.6% of respondents were a minority versus 24.2% of all freshmen). However, respondents and non-respondents were similar in terms of SAT scores, high school percentiles, age, first generation status, hours transferred to Western, and state of origin.

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 this survey, here we make a few observations regarding the survey results. Including Western, the median respondent applied to three universities and was accepted to two. Besides Western, the five most common schools applied to were the University of Washington, Washington State University, Central Washington University, the University of Oregon, and Seattle University; a list that has remained stable over the past few years. Among the universities students applied to, 61% of respondents listed Western as their first choice school to attend, a figure that is two percentage points higher than the prior year.

Thirty-four percent of incoming freshmen are certain about their major and an additional 55% of students have some idea of what they will study. Eighty-six percent of students expect to complete their bachelor's degree in four years or less.

Just about one-in-ten students claim they are either somewhat likely or very likely to transfer from Western to another university prior to graduation, again an amount similar to the prior year. For these students, the

most commonly provided reason for intending to transfer is that Western does not offer their intended degree program. When asked about their hoped for degree, the most common programs listed (in no particular order) were natural medicine, biomedical students, architecture, nutrition, dentistry and dental hygiene, film, veterinary studies, nursing, and environmental engineering.

For those students who responded to the survey after registering for courses, 41% claimed to be very satisfied with their course schedule, an increase over the prior year by a percentage point and from two years ago by 6 percentage points. For those who were dissatisfied with their class schedule, 86% stated that “the classes I need to take were full,” an increase over the prior year by seven percentage points.

For the coming year, the average student hopes to work 12 hours per week, an amount one hour lower than the prior year. Roughly 40% of students expect to use \$10,000 or more of their family resources to attend Western this year while one-in-five expect to borrow \$10,000 or more this year.

All of OSR’s survey data is linked by a unique student identifier which allows merging of this survey with future longitudinal surveys as well as Western’s data warehouse. OSR is excited to share this data with researchers interested and departments interested in improving Western’s educational experience.

#### 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 2,583 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 2012 Freshmen and Survey Respondents

### A.1. Characteristics of 2012 Freshmen and Survey Respondents

|                                  | Non-Respondents | Respondents | All 2012 Freshmen |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| N                                | 292             | 2,583       | 2,875             |
| Male                             | 49.3%           | 40.8%       | 41.7%             |
| Caucasian                        | 70.5%           | 76.4%       | 75.8%             |
| Black                            | 2.4%            | 3.5%        | 3.4%              |
| Hispanic                         | 5.8%            | 6.4%        | 6.3%              |
| Asian/Pacific Islander           | 15.1%           | 11.0%       | 11.4%             |
| Native American                  | 5.1%            | 2.2%        | 2.5%              |
| Other Race/Unknown               | 0.7%            | 0.4%        | 0.4%              |
| International                    | 0.3%            | 0.1%        | 0.1%              |
| Mean Admission Index*            | 52.5            | 55.6        | 55.3              |
| Median Admission Index*          | 54              | 56          | 56                |
| Mean Math SAT*                   | 557             | 558         | 558               |
| Mean Verbal SAT*                 | 558             | 566         | 565               |
| Mean High School Percentile      | 71.6%           | 73.7%       | 73.5%             |
| Mean Age in September 2012       | 18.2            | 18.2        | 18.2              |
| Median Age in September 2012     | 18              | 18          | 18                |
| First Generation College Student | 31.2%           | 30.4%       | 30.4%             |
| Running Start Student            | 23.6%           | 20.0%       | 20.4%             |
| WA High School                   | 80.1%           | 85.3%       | 84.8%             |
| OR High School                   | 2.7%            | 2.0%        | 2.1%              |
| ID High School                   | 1.0%            | 1.1%        | 1.1%              |
| AK High School                   | 1.7%            | 0.9%        | 1.0%              |
| Mean hours transferred to WWU    | 27.3            | 27.7        | 27.7              |

\* N for these variables differs from the reported N because these measures are optional, or because Western does not have data for all students.

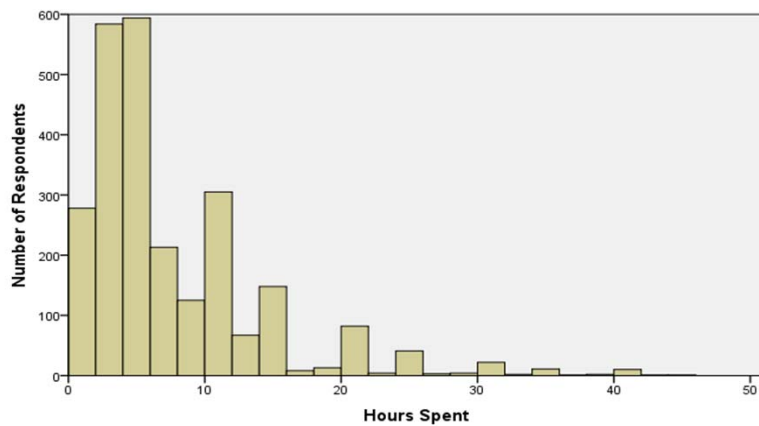
## B. Pre-College Engagement and Experiences

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:

|   | N     | Never | Once | 2-3 times | 4-5 times | More than 5 times |
|---|-------|-------|------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| Asked teachers to give me comments or criticisms about my work                | 2,580 | 7%    | 8%   | 35%       | 19%       | 30%               |
| Asked a teacher for help when I had difficulties in a course                  | 2,573 | 2%    | 5%   | 23%       | 23%       | 46%               |
| Wrote an academic paper of 5 pages or more                                    | 2,575 | 7%    | 14%  | 36%       | 20%       | 23%               |
| Talked about course material I was learning with someone other than a teacher | 2,574 | 2%    | 3%   | 15%       | 15%       | 66%               |

B.2. 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? (OSR excluded responses of 80 hours or more.)

B.2.a. Studying for classes

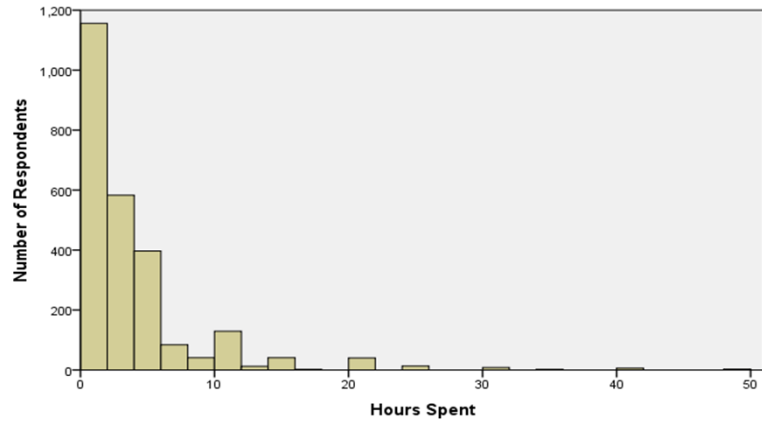


| N     | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-------|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 2,527 | 7.26 | 5      | 0       | 77      | 7.27               |

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

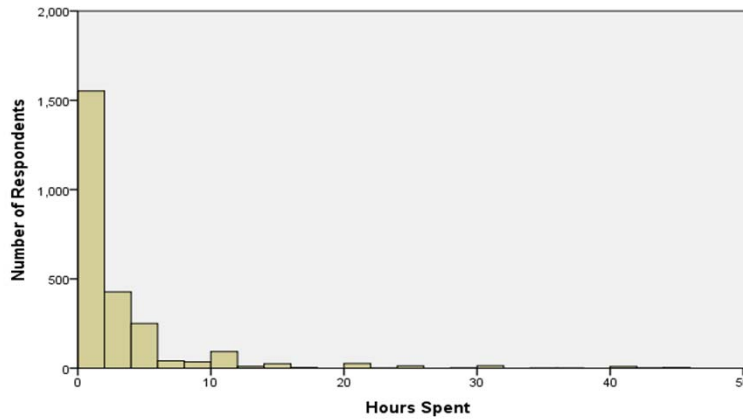
B.2. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester in high school, about how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following? (OSR excluded responses of 80 hours or more.)

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



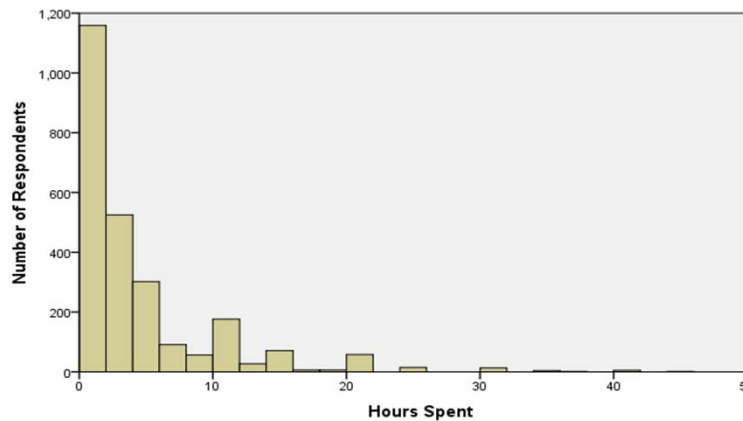
| N     | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-------|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 2,524 | 3.44 | 2      | 0       | 60      | 5.69               |

B.2.c. Doing community service work as part of a course or graduation requirement



| N     | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-------|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 2,521 | 2.87 | 0      | 0       | 75      | 6.70               |

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



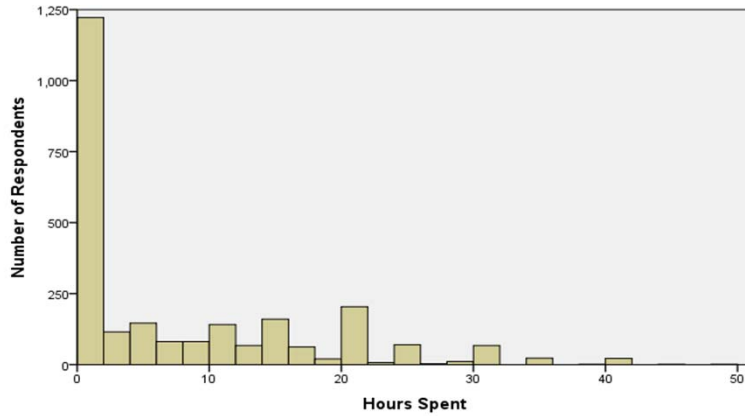
| N     | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-------|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 2,526 | 4.02 | 2      | 0       | 70      | 6.55               |



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

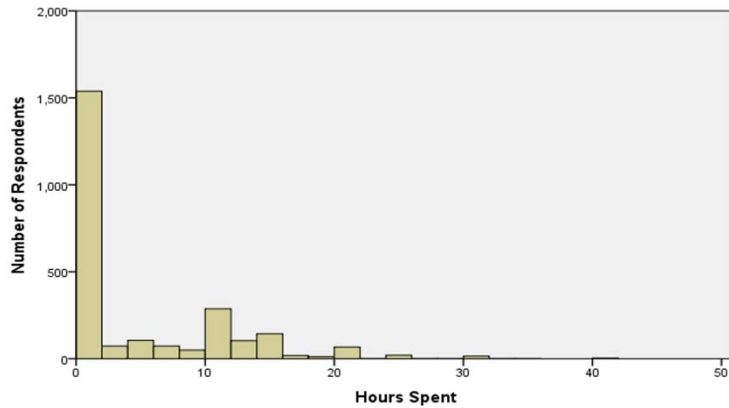
B.2. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester in high school, about how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following? (OSR excluded responses of 80 hours or more.)

B.2.e. Working for pay



| N     | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-------|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 2,515 | 7.53 | 2      | 0       | 75      | 10.10              |

B.2.f. Participating in school athletics



| N     | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-------|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 2,524 | 4.54 | 0      | 0       | 75      | 7.34               |

B.3. 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 |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 2,563 | 3%                | 5%                    | 14%                                | 55%                | 22%            |

B.4. 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 |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 505 | 1%                | 3%                    | 14%                                | 43%                | 38%            |

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

B.5. Have you ever served in the United States' Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or National Guard?

| N     | Yes  | No    |
|-------|------|-------|
| 2,561 | 0.5% | 99.5% |

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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?

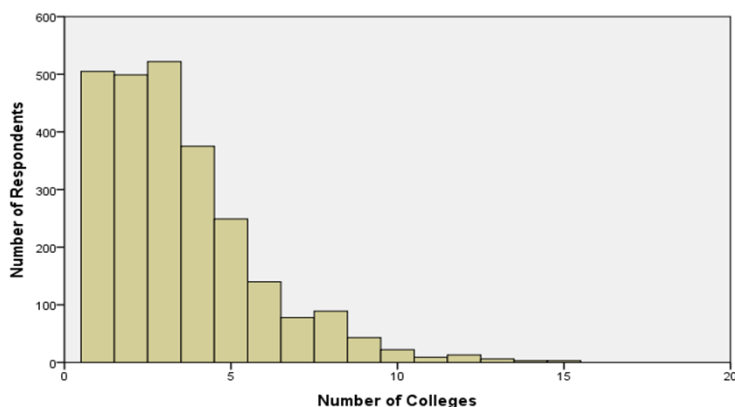
|   | N     | Not at all important | A little important | Somewhat important | Important | Very important |
|---|-------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|
| My family wants me to go to college                       | 2,560 | 5%                   | 11%                | 17%                | 32%       | 34%            |
| A mentor/role model encouraged me to go                   | 2,550 | 19%                  | 15%                | 24%                | 26%       | 15%            |
| To get away from home                                     | 2,556 | 15%                  | 19%                | 27%                | 24%       | 15%            |
| To improve my job prospects after graduation              | 2,556 | 1%                   | 1%                 | 5%                 | 21%       | 73%            |
| To gain a general education and appreciation of new ideas | 2,554 | 1%                   | 2%                 | 8%                 | 32%       | 58%            |
| To increase my earnings after graduation                  | 2,546 | 1%                   | 3%                 | 12%                | 30%       | 55%            |
| To prepare myself for graduate/professional school        | 2,553 | 6%                   | 10%                | 20%                | 25%       | 40%            |
| To make a difference in society                           | 2,559 | 2%                   | 5%                 | 17%                | 29%       | 48%            |

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                                  | 2,549 | 34%                  | 19%                | 24%                | 16%       | 7%             |
| A Western faculty member recruited me                                | 2,533 | 75%                  | 11%                | 9%                 | 4%        | 1%             |
| An instructor, teacher, or advisor encouraged me to go to Western    | 2,529 | 47%                  | 20%                | 19%                | 12%       | 3%             |
| Friends and/or family currently attend Western                       | 2,536 | 45%                  | 15%                | 19%                | 15%       | 6%             |
| I am interested in a specific academic program at Western            | 2,542 | 15%                  | 12%                | 21%                | 27%       | 25%            |
| Western has a good academic reputation                               | 2,547 | 2%                   | 4%                 | 17%                | 48%       | 29%            |
| Western has a good reputation for its social activities              | 2,544 | 6%                   | 9%                 | 22%                | 41%       | 23%            |
| Western is more affordable than my other choices                     | 2,541 | 11%                  | 10%                | 19%                | 29%       | 31%            |
| Western offered me financial assistance                              | 2,540 | 35%                  | 11%                | 16%                | 19%       | 19%            |
| I want to live near home   | 2,540 | 35%                  | 20%                | 23%                | 15%       | 9%             |
| I want to live far away from home                                    | 2,545 | 40%                  | 19%                | 23%                | 11%       | 6%             |
| I like the size of Western   | 2,547 | 4%                   | 5%                 | 20%                | 43%       | 29%            |
| I like the size of Bellingham  | 2,545 | 6%                   | 7%                 | 21%                | 38%       | 28%            |
| I like the recreational opportunities in this area                   | 2,532 | 5%                   | 6%                 | 19%                | 34%       | 36%            |
| Western does not have a Greek system                                 | 2,537 | 41%                  | 13%                | 16%                | 15%       | 15%            |
| I will be playing on a varsity athletic team                         | 2,527 | 80%                  | 8%                 | 7%                 | 3%        | 3%             |
| Western offers opportunities to participate in arts and music events | 2,544 | 27%                  | 18%                | 22%                | 18%       | 15%            |

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.3. Including Western, to how many four year colleges did you apply for admission this fall? (OSR recoded. If number of colleges checked in C.6. exceeded number of colleges reported in applied count, OSR increased value to match number of colleges checked.)



| N     | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-------|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 2,556 | 3.50 | 3      | 1       | 15      | 2.31               |

C.4. To which of the following four-year colleges did you apply for admission this fall?

|  |      |
|--|------|
| N  | 2557 |
| Western Washington University            | 100% |
| University of Washington - Seattle       | 26%  |
| Washington State University - Pullman    | 25%  |
| Central Washington University            | 13%  |
| Seattle University                       | 8%   |
| University of Oregon                     | 8%   |
| Eastern Washington University            | 7%   |
| Seattle Pacific University               | 7%   |
| University of Portland                   | 7%   |
| Pacific Lutheran University              | 6%   |
| Gonzaga University                       | 5%   |
| Oregon State University                  | 5%   |
| University of Washington - Bothell       | 5%   |
| Willamette University                    | 5%   |
| Evergreen State College                  | 4%   |
| University of Montana                    | 4%   |
| University of Puget Sound                | 4%   |
| Lewis & Clark College                    | 3%   |
| Whitman College                          | 3%   |
| University of Colorado at Boulder        | 2%   |
| University of Washington - Tacoma        | 2%   |
| Linfield College                         | 1%   |
| University of British Columbia           | 1%   |
| Washington State University - Vancouver  | 1%   |
| Washington State University - Tri-Cities | 0%   |
| Other                                    | 34%  |

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.5. At the time when you filled out college applications, which of the following schools was your *first* choice? (OSR recoded to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| N                                     | 2,557 |
| Western Washington University         | 61%   |
| University of Washington - Seattle    | 12%   |
| Washington State University - Pullman | 2%    |
| Central Washington University         | 1%    |
| Gonzaga University                    | 1%    |
| Lewis & Clark College                 | 1%    |
| Oregon State University               | 1%    |
| Seattle Pacific University            | 1%    |
| Seattle University                    | 1%    |
| University of Colorado at Boulder     | 1%    |
| University of Oregon                  | 1%    |
| University of Portland                | 1%    |
| University of Puget Sound             | 1%    |
| Whitman College                       | 1%    |
| Willamette University                 | 1%    |
| Eastern Washington University         | 0%    |
| Evergreen State College               | 0%    |
| Linfield College                      | 0%    |
| Pacific Lutheran University           | 0%    |
| University of British Columbia        | 0%    |
| University of Montana                 | 0%    |
| University of Washington - Bothell    | 0%    |
| University of Washington - Tacoma     | 0%    |
| Other                                 | 10%   |
| Did not specify a first choice        | 4%    |

---

C.5.a. Which of the schools to which you applied was your *first* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.5.) (N=255) (Text responses available on request.)

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.6. At the time when you filled out college applications, which of the following schools was your *second* choice? (Recoded by OSR to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| N  | 2,557 |
| Western Washington University            | 24%   |
| University of Washington - Seattle       | 8%    |
| Washington State University - Pullman    | 8%    |
| Central Washington University            | 3%    |
| Eastern Washington University            | 2%    |
| Pacific Lutheran University              | 2%    |
| Seattle University                       | 2%    |
| University of Oregon                     | 2%    |
| University of Portland                   | 2%    |
| Evergreen State College                  | 1%    |
| Gonzaga University                       | 1%    |
| Lewis & Clark College                    | 1%    |
| Oregon State University                  | 1%    |
| Seattle Pacific University               | 1%    |
| University of Colorado at Boulder        | 1%    |
| University of Montana                    | 1%    |
| University of Puget Sound                | 1%    |
| University of Washington - Bothell       | 1%    |
| Willamette University                    | 1%    |
| Linfield College                         | 0%    |
| University of British Columbia           | 0%    |
| University of Washington - Tacoma        | 0%    |
| Washington State University - Tri-Cities | 0%    |
| Washington State University - Vancouver  | 0%    |
| Whitman College                          | 0%    |
| Other                                    | 8%    |
| Applied only to Western                  | 20%   |
| Did not specify a second choice          | 11%   |

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C.6.a. Which of the schools to which you applied was your *second* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.6.) (N=112) (Text responses available on request.)

## College Application Process (cont.)

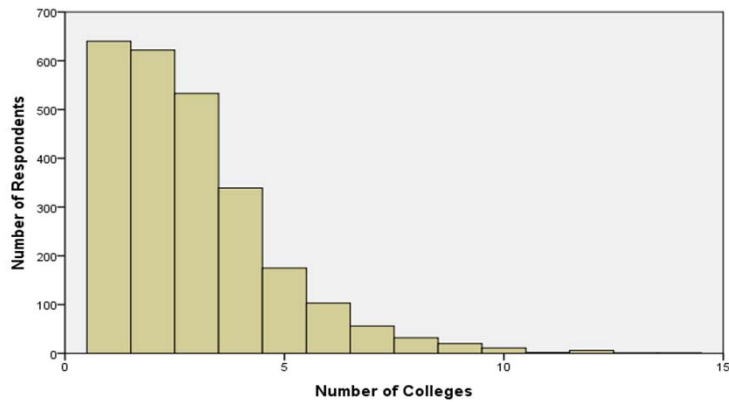
C.7. At the time when you filled out college applications, which of the following schools was your *third* choice? (Recorded by OSR to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| N  | 2,557 |
| Washington State University - Pullman    | 7%    |
| Western Washington University            | 5%    |
| University of Washington - Seattle       | 3%    |
| Central Washington University            | 3%    |
| Eastern Washington University            | 2%    |
| University of Oregon                     | 2%    |
| Seattle University                       | 2%    |
| Pacific Lutheran University              | 1%    |
| Gonzaga University                       | 1%    |
| University of Portland                   | 1%    |
| University of Washington - Bothell       | 1%    |
| Seattle Pacific University               | 1%    |
| University of Puget Sound                | 1%    |
| Oregon State University                  | 1%    |
| University of Montana                    | 1%    |
| Willamette University                    | 1%    |
| Evergreen State College                  | 1%    |
| Lewis & Clark College                    | 1%    |
| University of Washington - Tacoma        | 0%    |
| Whitman College                          | 0%    |
| Linfield College                         | 0%    |
| Washington State University - Vancouver  | 0%    |
| University of Colorado at Boulder        | 0%    |
| Washington State University - Tri-Cities | 0%    |
| University of British Columbia           | 0%    |
| Other                                    | 6%    |
| Applied to fewer than three schools      | 39%   |
| Did not specify a third choice           | 16%   |

C.7.a. Which of the schools to which you applied was your *third* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.7.) (N=62) (Text responses available on request.)

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.8. Including Western, to how many four year schools were you *accepted* for admission this fall?



| N     | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-------|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 2,541 | 2.91 | 3      | 1       | 14      | 1.87               |

C.9. Including Western, to which of the following four-year colleges were you *accepted* for admission this fall?

|  |      |
|--|------|
| N  | 2493 |
| Western Washington University            | 100% |
| Washington State University - Pullman    | 23%  |
| Central Washington University            | 12%  |
| University of Washington - Seattle       | 9%   |
| University of Oregon                     | 7%   |
| Eastern Washington University            | 6%   |
| Pacific Lutheran University              | 6%   |
| Seattle Pacific University               | 6%   |
| Seattle University                       | 6%   |
| Oregon State University                  | 5%   |
| University of Portland                   | 5%   |
| Evergreen State College                  | 4%   |
| University of Montana                    | 4%   |
| University of Puget Sound                | 4%   |
| University of Washington - Bothell       | 4%   |
| Willamette University                    | 4%   |
| Gonzaga University                       | 3%   |
| Lewis & Clark College                    | 2%   |
| University of Washington - Tacoma        | 2%   |
| Linfield College                         | 1%   |
| University of British Columbia           | 1%   |
| University of Colorado at Boulder        | 1%   |
| Whitman College                          | 1%   |
| Washington State University - Vancouver  | 0%   |
| Washington State University - Tri-Cities | 0%   |



## D. Class Schedule and Expectations

D.1. Before Summerstart, did you do any of the following to help you prepare for your first quarter at Western?

|  | N     | No  | Yes |
|--|-------|-----|-----|
| Read about at least one possible major field   | 2,547 | 17% | 83% |
| Identify courses you might want to take        | 2,539 | 33% | 67% |
| Visit campus (other than at Summerstart)       | 2,544 | 14% | 86% |
| Speak with a Western faculty member or advisor | 2,542 | 52% | 48% |

D.2. 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 |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 2,554 | 13%                                   | 2%                | 6%                    | 5%                                 | 35%                | 41%            |

D.2.a. Why are you dissatisfied with your class schedule? (Asked of students who responded "very dissatisfied" or "somewhat dissatisfied in D.2.)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| N   | 177 |
| The classes I need to take were full                          | 86% |
| The classes I need to take are scheduled at conflicting times | 36% |
| My classes are spread too far across campus                   | 2%  |
| My classes are spread too far throughout the day              | 16% |
| My classes are spread too far throughout the week             | 5%  |
| My class schedule does not work well with my job schedule     | 6%  |
| My classes begin too early in the morning                     | 15% |
| My classes end too late in the evening                        | 11% |
| One or more of my classes meet every day                      | 15% |
| Other   | 19% |

## Class Schedule and Expectations (cont.)

D.2.b. What is your other reason for being dissatisfied with your class schedule? (Asked of respondents who indicated in D.2. that they were dissatisfied with their class schedule for some "other" reason.) (N=28)  
(Responses included: need major status to enroll in classes I need; my credits haven't been transferred over; the class I wanted filled up really fast; conflicting class times; limited options.) (Text responses available on request.)

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D.3. 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         | 2,550 | 32%                  | 35%                | 24%                | 8%        | 2%             |
| Preparing for and presenting my work in front of a class | 2,546 | 17%                  | 30%                | 27%                | 18%       | 8%             |
| Getting good grades                                      | 2,548 | 10%                  | 36%                | 35%                | 16%       | 3%             |
| Managing my finances                                     | 2,546 | 11%                  | 27%                | 29%                | 23%       | 10%            |

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## 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.

|  | N     | Well below average | Below average | About average | Above average | Well above average |
|--|-------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Writing skills   | 2,541 | 0%                 | 4%            | 33%           | 47%           | 17%                |
| Oral communication skills                                  | 2,535 | 1%                 | 7%            | 40%           | 37%           | 15%                |
| Critically evaluate information                            | 2,536 | 0%                 | 3%            | 40%           | 44%           | 13%                |
| Work or learn independently                                | 2,532 | 0%                 | 3%            | 26%           | 46%           | 24%                |
| Work cooperatively in a group                              | 2,533 | 0%                 | 4%            | 32%           | 45%           | 19%                |
| Appreciation of the arts                                   | 2,538 | 2%                 | 15%           | 27%           | 28%           | 27%                |
| Apply scientific principles and methods                    | 2,541 | 1%                 | 15%           | 44%           | 29%           | 11%                |
| Apply quantitative principles and methods                  | 2,536 | 1%                 | 16%           | 45%           | 29%           | 9%                 |
| Awareness of cultural and social differences among people  | 2,539 | 0%                 | 5%            | 25%           | 40%           | 30%                |
| Work effectively with appropriate technology in your field | 2,536 | 0%                 | 4%            | 41%           | 38%           | 17%                |
| Use library resources for research                         | 2,534 | 1%                 | 13%           | 47%           | 30%           | 10%                |
| Identify and analyze complex problems                      | 2,539 | 0%                 | 6%            | 42%           | 39%           | 13%                |

E.2. How certain are you of what your major will be?

| N     | I have no idea | I have some idea | I am certain |
|-------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| 2,547 | 10%            | 55%              | 34%          |

E.3. When do you expect to graduate from Western with your bachelor's degree?

| N     |   |
|-------|---|
| 2,545 |   |
| 1%    | Winter 2014 or earlier (fewer than two years) |
| 7%    | Spring 2014 through winter 2015               |
| 7%    | Spring 2015 through winter 2016               |
| 71%   | Spring 2016 (exactly four years)              |
| 11%   | Summer 2016 through winter 2017               |
| 3%    | Spring 2017 or later (five or more years)     |

## Skills, Goals and Expectations (cont.)

E.4. 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 |
|-------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| 2,519 | 44%           | 24%               | 23%       | 7%              | 2%          |

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E.4.a. Which of the following reasons best explains why you are likely to transfer from Western to another college before you graduate? (Mark all that apply.) (Asked of respondents who indicated in table E.5. that they were "uncertain", "somewhat likely" or "very likely" to transfer from Western to another college or university before they graduate.) (Previous years did not ask this of students indicating they were "uncertain" about leaving Western. See OSR for further analysis.)

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| N  | 810 |
| Western is too expensive                                     | 13% |
| Western does not offer the degree program I am interested in | 33% |
| Friends or family attend a different school                  | 16% |
| Western is not prestigious enough for me                     | 14% |
| Western is too rigorous for me                               | 2%  |
| Western is too small   | 7%  |
| Western is too large   | 4%  |
| Western is too far from friends or family                    | 14% |
| Other  | 44% |

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E.4.a.1. What degree program are you interested in? (Asked of respondents who indicated in E.4.a. that "Western does not offer the degree program I am interested in.") (N=254) (Responses included: Natural Medicine; Biomedical Studies, Architecture and Materials Science; Nutrition; Sports Physical Therapy; Dentistry; Film; Forestry; Dental Hygiene; Veterinarian; Environmental Engineering, Nursing; Culinary Arts.) (Text responses available on request.)

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## Skills, Goals and Expectations (cont.)

E.4.a.2.. 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.4.a.) (N=301) (Responses included: I want to move from Washington and see what else the world has to offer; Western is too close to home; It's always been my goal to go to the U.W.; Parents want me to graduate from a more prestigious school; Not sure how well Western will fit.) (Text responses available on request.)

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

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| N  | 2,541 |
| Less than high school                      | 4%    |
| High school graduate                       | 12%   |
| Some college or post-high school education | 20%   |
| Community college degree                   | 8%    |
| Bachelor's degree or equivalent            | 35%   |
| Master's degree or equivalent              | 18%   |
| Law degree, medical degree, or Ph.D.       | 4%    |

E.6. What is the highest level education attained by your father or step-father?

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| N  | 2,535 |
| Less than high school                      | 5%    |
| High school graduate                       | 13%   |
| Some college or post-high school education | 17%   |
| Community college degree                   | 6%    |
| Bachelor's degree or equivalent            | 33%   |
| Master's degree or equivalent              | 19%   |
| Law degree, medical degree, or Ph.D.       | 8%    |

E.7. What is the highest degree you expect to earn in your lifetime?

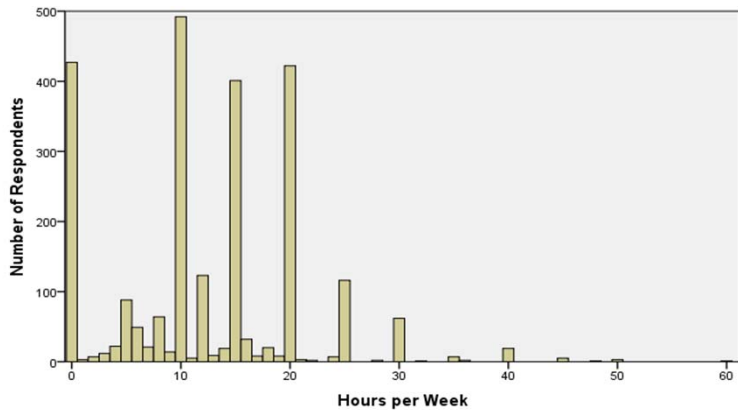
| N     | Bachelors (B.A.,<br>B.S., etc.) | Masters (M.A.,<br>M.S., etc.) | Professional<br>(M.D., D.O.,<br>D.D.S, D.V.M.,<br>J.D., etc.) | Doctorate<br>(Ph.D., Ed.D.,<br>etc.) | Not sure |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 2,545 | 18%                             | 40%                           | 8%  | 13%                                  | 20%      |

## 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 \$1,000 | \$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.)                         | 2,509 | 10%  | 10%               | 13%                | 13%                | 16%                | 39%              |
| My own resources (savings, employment, other income)                        | 2,498 | 11%  | 31%               | 33%                | 16%                | 6%                 | 3%               |
| Aid which need not be repaid (grants, scholarships, military funding, etc.) | 2,496 | 33%  | 11%               | 18%                | 13%                | 11%                | 15%              |
| Aid which must be repaid (loans, etc.)                                      | 2,494 | 38%  | 6%                | 10%                | 16%                | 12%                | 18%              |

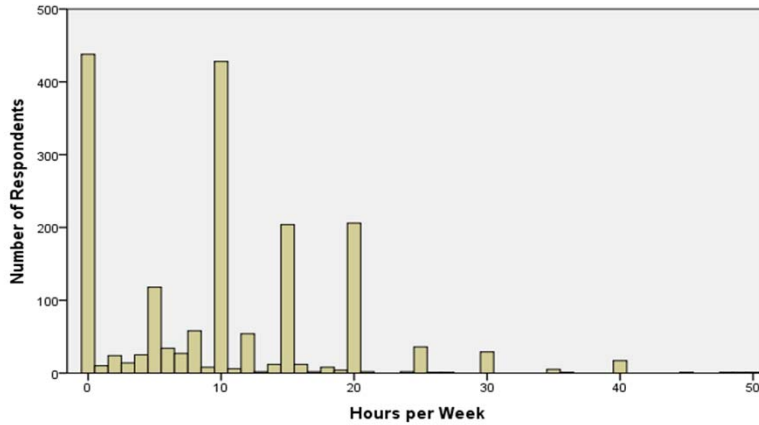
F.2. During this coming year, about how many hours per week do you hope to work while attending Western? (OSR excluded responses of 60 hours or greater, a total of 7 responses.)



| N     | Mean  | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-------|-------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 2,477 | 12.43 | 12     | 0       | 60      | 8.57               |

## Expenses and Employment (cont.)

F.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 if respondents indicated in F.1. that they planned to use their own resources to pay for educational expenses, and in F.2. that they hoped to work more than 0 hours/week while attending Western.) (OSR eliminated values > 60 hours.)



| N     | Mean | Median | Minimum | Maximum | Standard Deviation |
|-------|------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| 1,792 | 9.78 | 10     | 0       | 50      | 8.35               |

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## G. Technology

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

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| N   | 2,537 |
| Personal laptop computer                              | 97%   |
| Personal desktop computer                             | 6%    |
| Smart phone   | 63%   |
| Cell phone  | 48%   |
| Tablet computer                                       | 8%    |
| E-reader or device that has a book reader application | 14%   |
| Mp3 player (e.g. iPod)                                | 76%   |
| Other wi-fi enabled device (e.g. iPod Touch)          | 30%   |
| None of the above                                     | 0%    |

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

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| N                                  | 2,515 |
| Print version of the book          | 84%   |
| E-book/digital version of the book | 16%   |

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## H. Comments

H.1. Please use the space below for any additional comments or suggestions. (N=346) (Text responses available on request.)

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