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# WWU 1996 Survey of Recent Graduates (Class of '95)

Western Washington University. Office of Survey Research

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TELEPHONE VERSION

Interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

1. To begin...which of the following *best* describes your educational plans for the foreseeable future? Are you .....

- 1. Currently enrolled in a college or university program. ==> Continue with Q. 2
- 2. Planning to enter a university within *five* years. ==> Skip to Q. 3
- 3. Planning to enter a university, but not within five years. ==> Skip to Q. 3
- 4. Or...not planning to enroll in a college or university? ==> Skip to Q. 4

2. Where are you currently enrolled?... (PROBE WITH QUESTIONS IN THE BOX)

College or University: _____		
_____	_____	_____
What is your major?	What degree are you seeking?	When do you expect to finish?

3. What is the highest degree you plan to complete within the next ten years?... And what field?

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

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

5. What is the nature of your work? (PROBE FOR JOB TITLE, AND WRITE OUT FULLY)

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Various departments at Western would like to know who hires their graduates. If you're willing, would you please tell us the name of your employer and the kind of business or industry you work in (e.g. health, banking)? (WRITE OUT FULLY)

Employer Name	Industry

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

8. Approximately how many months have you held this job? \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS

9. Is your current 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. DK/NA

10. Bearing in mind that all your answers are confidential, what is your annual income from all sources before deduction-- rounded to the nearest thousand?

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

11. How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your job? First, the amount you earn. Would you say you're...very, mostly, somewhat, or not at all satisfied?

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

12. How likely are you to stay in the same type of work for the next ten years?  
Would you say...

1. Definitely    2. Probably    3. Probably Not    4. Definitely Not    9. DK/NA

13. How important are each of the following for good performance in this particular job?  
First, the ability to work well independently, without supervision. Would you say it is...very, moderately, somewhat, or not at all important to this particular job?

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MODER- ATELY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>CANT SAY/ NOT APPLIC</u>
a. ABILITY TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY, WITHOUT SUPERVISION	1	2	3	4	9
b. Strong writing skills (REPEAT SCALE AS NEC.)	1	2	3	4	9
c. Ability to cooperate well, work in teams, & so forth	1	2	3	4	9
d. Strong mathematical skills	1	2	3	4	9
e. Strong <u>oral</u> communication skills	1	2	3	4	9
f. Strong interpersonal management skills	1	2	3	4	9
g. Strong tasks, organizational, or data management skills	1	2	3	4	9
g. Ability to locate and solve problems	1	2	3	4	9
h. Reliability--that is, being on time& carrying through	1	2	3	4	9
i. Ability to deal with the unexpected	1	2	3	4	9
j. Ability to organize well	1	2	3	4	9
k. Mastery of the relevant <u>specific</u> knowledge and skills before being hired	1	2	3	4	9
l. Ability to master new information and skills on the job	1	2	3	4	9
m. Awareness of cultural and personal differences	1	2	3	4	9
n. Strong computer skills	1	2	3	4	9
o. Ability to critically analyze written information	1	2	3	4	9
q. Ability to listen well to directives and do what your supervisor wants done	1	2	3	4	9
s. Productivity -- the ability to get a lot done quickly	1	2	3	4	9
t. Ability to deal with monotony and repetition	1	2	3	4	9
u. Ability to deal with multiple demands and a frenetic pace without burning out	1	2	3	4	9

14. What proportion of your job uses skills or knowledge you gained from attending Western? Would you say...

1. All    2. Most    3. About half    4. Some    5. None    9. CANT SAY

15. How valuable were the courses you took *in your major at Western* in preparing you for this job? (PROBE)

1. Very      2. Moderately      3. Somewhat      4. Not at all      9. Can't say

16. How valuable were the *General University Requirement courses you took at Western* in preparing you for this job?

1. Very      2. Moderately      3. Somewhat      4. Not at all      9. Can't say/Not Applicable

17. How well would you say Western prepared you regarding each of the following?  
First...specific technical skills needed for your job. Would you say Western prepared you...very, moderately, somewhat, or not at all well?

	<u>VERY</u>	<u>MODER- ATELY</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>CANT SAY/ NOT APPLIC</u>
a. SPECIFIC TECHNICAL SKILLS NEEDED FOR JOB	1	2	3	4	9
b. Broad educational background relevant to performing well in this job.	1	2	3	4	9
c. Employment skills such as reliability and working cooperatively with others	1	2	3	4	9
d. Critical thinking skills that allow flexible, creative problem solving on the job	1	2	3	4	9

18. On an average day, approximately how much time do you spend at work using a computer? (WRITE IN ZERO IF NONE. USE DECIMALS FOR PARTIAL HOURS...e.g.. 2.5 HOURS)

\_\_\_\_\_ Hours

19. Do you own a computer?

1. NO ==> skip to Q20

2. YES

19a On an average day, approximately how much time do you spend at home using a computer? (ZERO IF NONE; USE DECIMALS)

\_\_\_\_\_ Hours

20. How well did your education at Western prepare you for working with computers?  
Would you say...

1. Very well      2. Moderately      3. Somewhat      4. Or Not at all well      9. DK

Now we have some questions about your experiences at Western.

22. Did you first enter Western as a freshman, or as a transfer from another college?  
(PROBE: Was that with an AA, or not?)

1. FRESHMAN    2. TRANSFER WITH A.A.    3. TRANSFER WITHOUT A.A.

23. What was your undergraduate major at Western? (PROBE)  
(WRITE BY #1, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED)

1. IN A SINGLE DEPARTMENT (WHAT FIELD?) \_\_\_\_\_
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

24. Looking back, how satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your  
(PRIMARY OR ONLY) major at Western ? First, the availability of courses...  
Would you say...very, mostly, somewhat, or not at all satisfied?

	VERY	MOSTLY	SOME- WHAT	NOT AT ALL	NOT APPLIC.
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. How well you learned problem solving & critical thinking	1	2	3	4	9
e. Faculty or other departmental advising concerning courses	1	2	3	4	9
f. Faculty or other departmental advising concerning careers	1	2	3	4	9
g. How well the department facilitated students' progress through the major	1	2	3	4	9
h. Course requirements and sequences	1	2	3	4	9

25. How satisfied are you with each of the following opportunities provided by your major at Western:

	<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
e. Taking small classes where students can participate	1	2	3	4	9
f. Working in teams with other students	1	2	3	4	9

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

1. FRESHMAN    2. SOPHOMORE    3. JUNIOR    4. SENIOR    9. DK

27. Was each of the following a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason why you chose the major you graduated with? First.... job opportunities in this major field. Was it a major reason, minor reason, or not a reason....

	<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 that the demands made by professors were not as difficult as in other fields	1	2	3	9
h. Feeling that course materials were easier to learn than in other fields	1	2	3	9
i. Feeling you could contribute to society in this field	1	2	3	9
j. Ability to complete the major within an acceptable time	1	2	3	9
k. Being able to gain admission into the major	1	2	3	9

29. How many times, if at all, did you change your intended major while at Western? (PROBE)

0. NEVER ==> SKIP TO QUESTION 36

1. ONCE      2. TWICE      3. THREE OR MORE TIMES

30. 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
d. Material was too difficult to master; you were not prepared	1	2	3	9
e. Professors were unfriendly, unfair, or unprofessional	1	2	3	9
f. Employment prospects were not good enough	1	2	3	9
g. Changed interests; did not like the type of work	1	2	3	9
h. The work load was too great; professors assigned too much	1	2	3	9
i. You had not taken the pre-requisites for required courses	1	2	3	9
j. That department treated students poorly	1	2	3	9

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

1. ALL      2. MOST      3. HALF      4. SOME      5. NONE

37. How much would you say the "GURs" you took at Western ....

**Or took prior to Western ...challenged you to learn. Please answer "very, mostly, somewhat, or not at all...."**

	<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



38. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your General University Requirements (GURs) at Western... or answer if taken at prior college.

First, the quality of instruction in GURs. Would you say very, mostly, somewhat...

	<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

39. 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. Interaction with faculty outside of the classroom	1	2	3	4	9
f. Western and Bellingham as a place to live	1	2	3	4	9
g. Academic standards at Western	1	2	3	4	9
h. The amount of ethnic and cultural diversity in the student body	1	2	3	4	9
i. Extra-curricular activities at Western	1	2	3	4	9
j. Western Washington University, in total	1	2	3	4	9

40. How many hours per week did you typically study during your first year in college, at Western or elsewhere? (PROBE)

	<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
... and during your Senior year at Western?									
Senior	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

41. The next questions ask about the relative importance you placed on some opposing educational goals while attending Western. First, ...was it more important for you to earn a degree, or was it more important to learn a great deal...or were these two goals about equal?

		Relative Importance:			
		more	equal	more	
a.	TO OBTAIN A DEGREE. . . . .	1	2	3	TO LEARN A GREAT DEAL

41b. How about this pair of goals....

b.	To get training that prepared you for a specific occupation . . . .or. . . .	1	2	3	To get a well-rounded education preparing you for life as a whole
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42. I'm going to read a list of factors that sometimes hinder people from completing a degree in 4 years. Please indicate whether each one of these slowed your progress a great deal, quite a bit, somewhat, or not at all. First....

	<u>A GREAT DEAL</u>	<u>QUITE A BIT</u>	<u>SOME- WHAT</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL</u>	<u>CANT SAY/ NOT APPLIC</u>
a. Scheduling conflicts made courses unavailable to you	1	2	3	4	9
b. Courses you needed were filled by the time you registered	1	2	3	4	9
c. You were uncertain about your educational goals and took some courses you didn't need	1	2	3	4	9
d. You took courses you did not need while waiting for access into courses required by your major	1	2	3	4	9
e. Poor grades forced you to retake courses	1	2	3	4	9
f. You graduated with more credits than you needed because there were some interesting courses you wanted to take	1	2	3	4	9
g. You received poor advising or a lack of adequate advising	1	2	3	4	9
h. Your major required more credits than could be completed in 4 years	1	2	3	4	9
i. You changed majors at least once	1	2	3	4	9
j. You sometimes took fewer than 15 credits in order to keep your grades up	1	2	3	4	9
k. You sometimes took fewer than 15 credits because you prefer learning at that pace	1	2	3	4	9
l. You lost time because you lacked support and direction when making the transition to Western	1	2	3	4	9

47. While enrolled at Western, how much of the time did you . . . (PROBE)

	<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

48. While you were at Western, approximately what percent, if any, of the cost of your education did you provide by working during school and summers?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

49. When you graduated from Western, what was the total you or your family owed for loans taken entirely to finance your education?

(PLEASE ROUND TO NEAREST \$500.)

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

50. From your current perspective, how satisfied are you with Western's contribution to your growth in each of the following areas. First, writing effectively...are you very, mostly, somewhat, a little, or not at all satisfied with Western's contribution?

	<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

51. When you were a senior in high school, what was the highest degree you planned to complete? (PROBE)

1. HIGH SCHOOL    2. ASSOCIATE    3. BACHELORS    4. MASTERS    5. POST-MASTERS    9. DK

52. 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 . DK

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

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

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

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

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

55. I would feel more prepared for life if my education at Western had included more small classes where students are able to discuss and exchange ideas.

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

56. 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

57. 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

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

59. 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

60. 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

61. 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

62. 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

63. At least one introductory course I took at Western discouraged my interest in majoring in that field.

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

**IF MARKED "1" or "2," what field(s):**

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

1 . all      2 . most      3 . about half      4 . some      5 . few      6 . none.      9 . DK

**Thank you very much for completing this survey. We really appreciate it.**

**Any comments you want to make?**

**Okay, thanks again.**