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Western Educational Longitudinal Study (WELS) Baseline Survey of Transfer Students Entering Western in the Fall, 2014, Descriptive Statistics

John M. Krieg

Western Washington University, john.krieg@wwu.edu

Beth Hartsoch

Western Washington University, beth.hartsoch@wwu.edu

Chris Stark

Western Washington University, chris.stark@wwu.edu

Office Survey Research, Western Washington University

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WESTERN EDUCATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY (WELS)
BASELINE SURVEY OF TRANSFER STUDENTS
ENTERING WESTERN IN THE FALL, 2014

Descriptive Statistics

Report 2015-03

John Krieg
Beth Hartsoch
Chris Stark

March, 2015

OFFICE OF SURVEY RESEARCH
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



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Western Educational Longitudinal Study (WELS) Baseline Survey of Transfer Students Entering Western in the Fall, 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The WELS Baseline Survey of Transfers Entering Western in the Fall, 2014 (Transfer Survey) is the companion survey to the Office of Survey Research's (OSR) survey of incoming freshmen. Together, these surveys elicit information from students prior to the start of their Western academic careers and provide an initial contact in a longitudinal survey design that follows students through graduation and into their initial years as alumni. The Transfer Survey is designed with three purposes in mind: (1) to provide baseline observations of students prior to the Western experience that can be used to forecast and enhance student success; (2) to provide data that can assist university assessment and accreditation endeavors; and (3) to assess student needs based upon their self-reported characteristics, perceptions, and concerns. To accomplish these, the Transfer Survey integrates questions into seven sections: previous engagement and experiences, the college application process, class scheduling and expectations, academic skills and goals, major choice, expenses and employment, and demographics. In addition to these, various Western offices submitted questions that dealt with the use of technology. The questions on the Transfer Survey are a mixture of open-ended, numerical and multiple choice types. This report lists all questions and reports basic descriptive statistics from equations which lend themselves to numerical analysis. Responses to open ended questions are available upon request.

OSR initially conducted the Transfer Survey as part of the Transitions Program. Non-participants in Transitions and non-respondents received an e-mail invitation to participate in the survey shortly after the conclusion of Transitions. Reminder e-mails were sent to non-respondents at both their internal and external e-mail addresses. Non-respondents to these e-mails received phone call requests and final e-mails through the month of August. The survey was closed the weekend prior to the beginning of fall quarter. Of the 1,136 transfer students entering the fall of 2014, OSR received responses from 801, a response rate of 70.5%.

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 on the Transfer Survey is mitigated through proper survey techniques and a high response rate, its presence should be considered when evaluating data. Section A of this document compares respondents to all incoming transfer students. Relative to all transfers, respondents were more likely to be female (56.7% of respondents versus 54.4% of all transfers), and were more likely to be first generation college students (45.1% of respondents versus 43.4% of all transfers). On the other hand, respondents and non-respondents were nearly identical in terms of ethnicity, prior collegiate GPAs, admission index, mean and median age, hours transferred to WWU, and state of origin.

To familiarize readers with the content of the survey, here we make a few observations regarding the survey results. The median transfer student applied to only one school (Western), while about one-third applied to two or more schools. The most common schools to apply to other than Western were the University of Washington followed by Central Washington and Washington State University. Among those students who had registered for classes prior to completing the survey, 18% expressed some level of dissatisfaction with their schedule, twelve percentage points lower than the 2013 survey results. Indeed, one of the largest changes between last year and this is that students "very satisfied" with their class schedule increased by 10 percentage points. The median transfer student expects to graduate from Western between summer 2016 and winter, 2017, though 38% of students expect to graduate in spring 2016.

2014 transfers are more sure of their future academic major, with 70% of students responding that they are certain of what they will study (up from 2012 figure of 63%). 85% of transfers expect to declare a major

sometime during their first year on campus. Among transfer students, Biology (7%), Psychology (6%) English (6%), Computer Science (6%) and PEHR (7%) are the most frequently listed expected majors to declare. Over the coming year, transfers expect to work for pay 17.1 hours per week, an amount about one-half of one hour per week higher than the prior year and almost a full hour per week over two years ago.

OSR is pleased to share its data with interested campus researchers and departments using it for accreditation and assessment purposes.

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 total number 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.
5. The sample for this survey is comprised of students who confirmed as first-time transfer students (student type "T") for fall quarter and had not withdrawn prior to dorm move-in weekend. This includes 28 cases of students who did not end up enrolling for fall term.

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/osr/>

A. Characteristics of Fall 2014 Transfer Students and Survey Respondents

A.1. Characteristics of Fall 2014 Transfer Students and Survey Respondents

	Non-Respondents	Respondents	All Fall 2014 Transfers
N	335	801	1,136
Male	51.0%	43.3%	45.6%
Caucasian	73.1%	76.4%	75.4%
Black	3.6%	1.9%	2.4%
Hispanic	7.2%	8.1%	7.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	8.4%	8.1%	8.2%
Native American	3.6%	3.5%	3.5%
Other/Unknown	1.2%	0.7%	0.5%
International	3.0%	1.2%	1.8%
Mean admission index*	47.9	50.3	49.5
Median admission index*	49	51	51
Mean math SAT*	551	533	539
Mean verbal SAT*	554	545	548
Mean cumulative GPA from prior colleges	3.26	3.26	3.26
Mean age	21.6	22.1	22.0
Median age	20	20	20
First generation college student	40.6%	45.1%	43.4%
Washington residency	89.9%	90.1%	90.1%
OR high school*	1.8%	0.7%	1.1%
ID high school*	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
AK high school*	0.6%	1.1%	1.0%
Mean hours transferred to WWU	88.2	87.1	87.3
Peak Fall 2013 WWU hours registered	13.2	13.6	13.5
Transferred from 2-year college	76.3%	79.4%	78.5%

* Because Western does not require this measure for transfers, the N for these variables differs from the reported N.

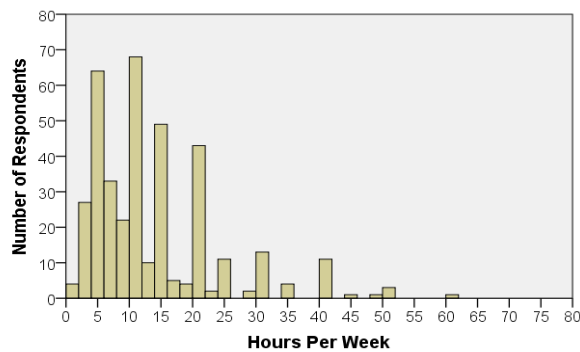
B. Previous College: Engagement and Experiences

B.1. Please indicate how often you did each of the following during your last year at {the respondent's previous college}. (Asked of 50% of respondents at random).

	N	Never	Once	2-3 times	4-5 times	More than 5 times
Wrote an academic paper of 5 pages or more for a course requirement	389	6%	8%	36%	25%	25%
Used tutoring services for help	387	41%	15%	19%	8%	17%
Asked a teacher for help when I had difficulties in a course	385	6%	8%	32%	19%	35%
Talked about course material I was learning with someone other than a teacher	388	1%	3%	14%	16%	66%

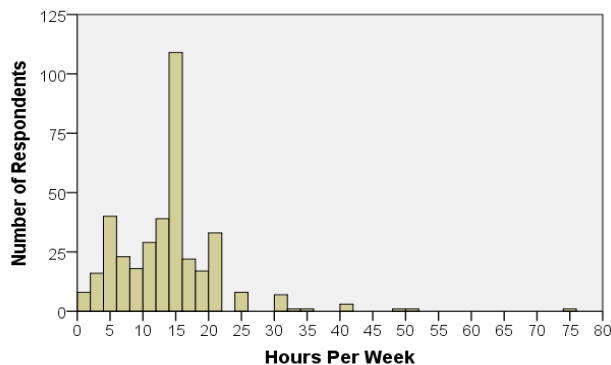
B.2. During your last quarter or semester at {the respondent's previous college}, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following? (OSR excluded values > 80 hours) (Asked of 50% of respondents at random except B.2.f and B.2.g which are asked of all respondents”).

B.2.a. Studying for classes



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
378	13.09	10	0	60	9.97

B.2.b. Attending classes

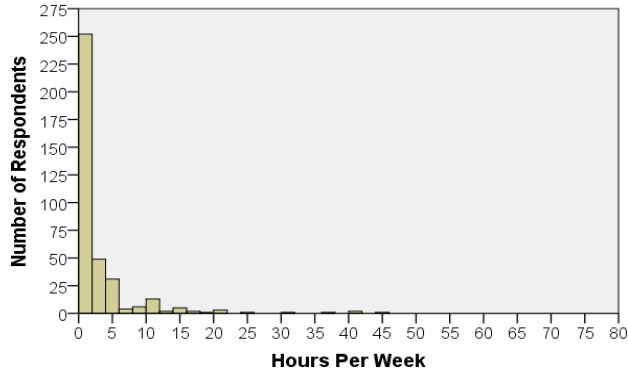


N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
377	13.14	15	0	75	7.79

Previous College: Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

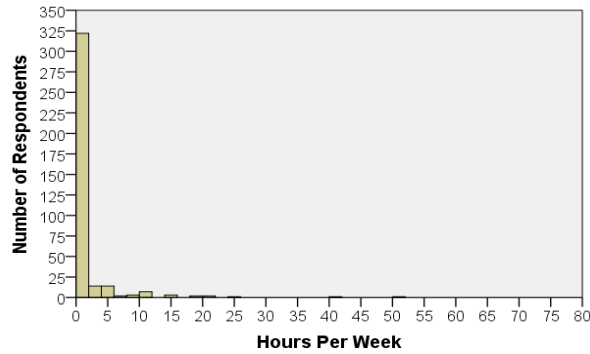
B.2. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester at {the respondent's previous college}, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

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



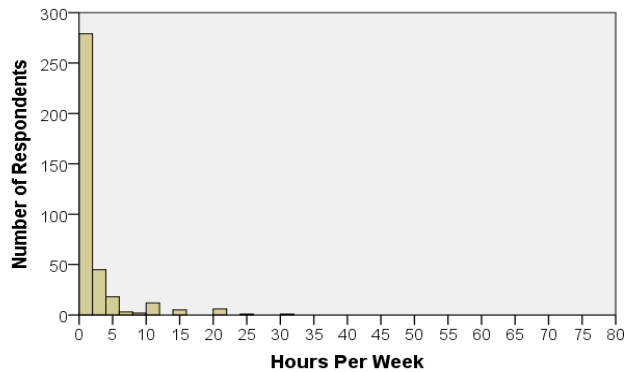
N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
374	2.45	0	0	45	5.69

B.2.d. Doing community service work as part of a course



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
372	1.26	0	0	50	4.56

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

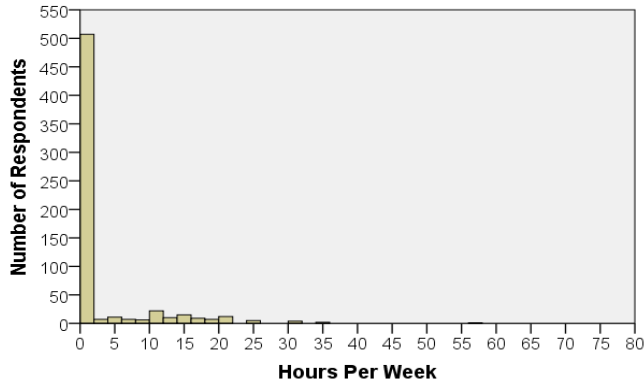


N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
372	1.67	0	0	30	4.08

Previous College: Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

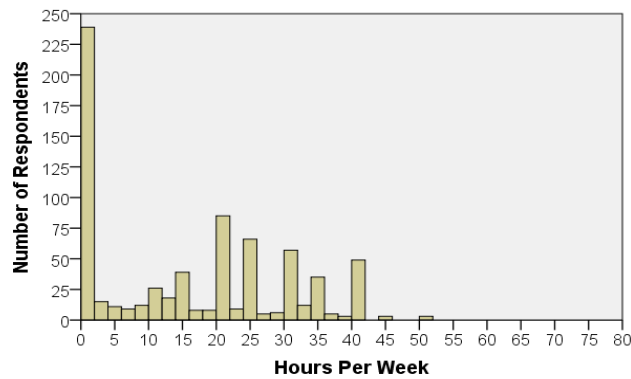
B.2. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester at {the respondent's previous college}, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

B.2.f. Working for pay on campus



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
625	2.58	0	0	56	6.40

B.2.g. Working for pay off campus



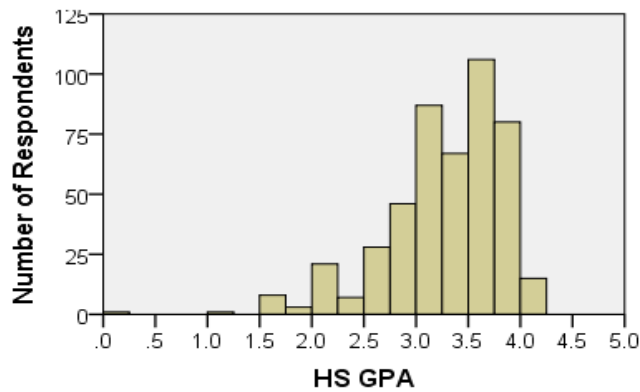
N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
723	15.60	15	0	50	13.96

B.3. How satisfied are you with the education you received at...

	N	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
{the respondent's previous college}	783	5%	9%	9%	34%	43%
The high school you graduated from	755	5%	11%	17%	36%	31%

Previous College: Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

B.4. What was your high school GPA? (Asked of respondents for whom Western does not have a record of H.S. GPA.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
473	3.22	3.4	0	4.1	0.62

B.5. Did you ever attend a community college through the Running Start Program?

N	782
Yes	26%
No	74%

B.6. Have you ever served in the United States' Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or National Guard?

N	782
Yes	3%
No	97%

C. College Application Process

C.1. How important were each of the following factors in your choice to attend {the respondent's previous college}? (Asked of students transferring from a four-year institution.)

	N	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Family or friends were attending {the respondent's previous college}	157	61%	10%	12%	13%	5%
My total financial cost was low	151	23%	10%	19%	26%	23%
I was interested in a specific academic program	152	20%	12%	16%	24%	28%
{The respondent's previous college} had a good academic reputation	156	10%	9%	25%	35%	21%
{The respondent's previous college} was close to home	153	44%	12%	14%	18%	12%
{The respondent's previous college} was far away from home	153	52%	11%	18%	14%	5%
I liked the size of the community in which {the respondent's previous college} was located	155	34%	19%	19%	19%	10%
I liked the size of {the respondent's previous college}	155	25%	17%	16%	29%	14%
I liked the recreational opportunities in the area	153	31%	13%	22%	20%	15%
The religious orientation at {the respondent's previous college} fit with my own	153	73%	12%	7%	5%	5%
{The respondent's previous college} had a Greek system	153	81%	3%	9%	5%	3%
I played on a varsity athletic team	152	80%	3%	5%	3%	11%
{The respondent's previous college} offered opportunities to participate in art and music events	154	55%	10%	15%	14%	6%

College Application Process (cont.)

C.2. How important were each of the following factors in choosing to attend {the respondent's previous college}? (Asked of respondents transferring from a two-year college.) (Eighth question asked of respondents who indicated in B.5. that they attended a community college through the Running Start program.)

	N	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
The college was close to home	606	6%	7%	15%	30%	42%
I wanted to finish the requirements for an associates degree	600	8%	5%	11%	24%	53%
I wanted to earn a specific certificate or degree offered at {the respondent's previous college}	604	35%	12%	21%	15%	17%
It was less expensive than a four-year school	602	4%	2%	9%	23%	62%
I was not accepted at the four year school(s) to which I applied	604	85%	3%	4%	3%	5%
I wanted to strengthen my academic record	602	23%	12%	19%	23%	24%
I missed the application deadline for four-year school(s)	602	87%	4%	3%	3%	3%
I continued at the same two-year college I had attended for Running Start	177	20%	4%	11%	24%	40%
I was unsure about my direction	600	30%	11%	19%	20%	20%
Friends or family were attending {the respondent's previous college}	604	62%	12%	14%	7%	5%
{The respondent's previous college} offered opportunities to participate in art and music events	605	68%	10%	11%	4%	6%

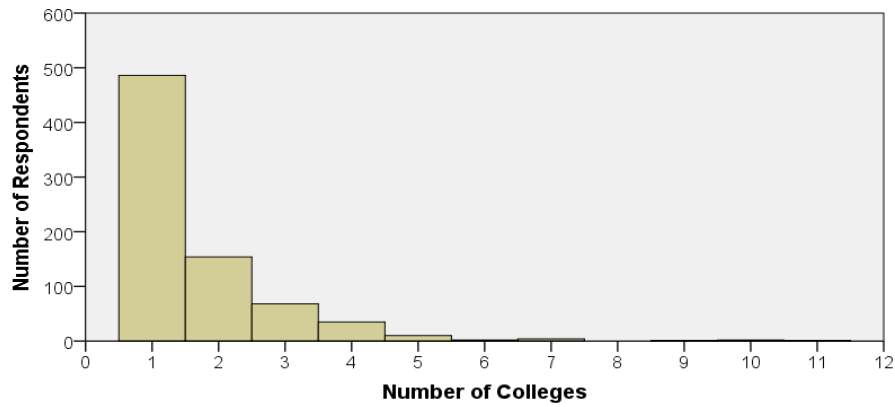
College Application Process (cont.)

C.3. Out of all your college options, how important were each of the following in your decision to attend Western? (Asked of 50% of respondents at random).

	N	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
My family wants me to go to Western	383	57%	14%	16%	9%	3%
A Western faculty member recruited me	380	87%	5%	4%	2%	2%
An instructor, teacher or advisor encouraged me to go to Western	380	61%	10%	14%	11%	5%
I am interested in a specific academic program at Western	382	9%	6%	13%	30%	43%
Western has a good academic reputation	385	2%	4%	11%	45%	38%
Western has a good reputation for its social activities	383	11%	10%	19%	31%	29%
Western is more affordable than my other choices	379	13%	13%	18%	24%	32%
Western offered me financial assistance	379	29%	8%	17%	20%	25%
I want to live near home	381	33%	12%	23%	14%	17%
I want to live far away from home	380	59%	12%	17%	7%	4%
I like the size of Western	384	9%	8%	23%	36%	25%
I like the size of Bellingham	383	8%	8%	22%	34%	27%
I like the recreational opportunities in this area	384	9%	8%	20%	31%	33%
Western does not have a Greek system	378	52%	8%	14%	13%	13%
I will be playing on a varsity athletic team	380	86%	6%	5%	2%	2%
Western offers opportunities to participate in arts and music events	378	39%	17%	19%	15%	11%

College Application Process (cont.)

C.4. Including Western, to how many four-year colleges did you apply for admission this fall? (OSR recoded responses of 0 as 1, and increased responses to match the count in C.5. if it exceeded response in C.4.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
763	1.66	1	1	11	1.19

College Application Process (cont.)

C.5. To which of the following four-year colleges did you apply for this fall?

N	766
Western Washington University	100%
University of Washington - Seattle	14%
Central Washington University	6%
Washington State University - Pullman	4%
University of Washington - Bothell	3%
Eastern Washington University	2%
Seattle University	2%
Pacific Lutheran University	1%
Seattle Pacific University	1%
University of Oregon	1%
Washington State University - Vancouver	1%
Evergreen State College	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	1%
Oregon State University	1%
Washington State University - Spokane	1%
University of Puget Sound	1%
Whitman College	1%
Gonzaga University	0%
University of Portland	0%
University of Montana	0%
Lewis & Clark College	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
University of British Columbia	0%
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	0%
Willamette University	0%
Linfield College	0%
Other	9%

College Application Process (cont.)

C.8. At the time when you filled out college applications, which of the following schools was your first choice? (Question text is different than in previous years). (Recoded by OSR to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

N	763
Western Washington University	83%
University of Washington - Seattle	5%
Washington State University - Pullman	1%
University of Washington - Bothell	1%
Seattle University	1%
Eastern Washington University	1%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Oregon State University	0%
University of Washington - Tacoma	0%
Seattle Pacific University	0%
Whitman College	0%
University of Oregon	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
Central Washington University	0%
Washington State University - Spokane	0%
Pacific Lutheran University	0%
University of Puget Sound	
Evergreen State College	
University of British Columbia	
University of Portland	
Gonzaga University	
Lewis & Clark College	
Linfield College	
University of Montana	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
Willamette University	
Other	2%
Did not specify first choice	4%

C.8.a. Which school was your *first* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.8.) (N=16)
 (Responses included: Berkeley; University of Victoria.) (Text responses available on request.)

College Application Process (cont.)

C.9. At the time when you filled out college applications, which of the following schools was your second choice? (Question text is different than in previous years). (Recoded by OSR to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

N	763
Western Washington University	11%
University of Washington - Seattle	5%
Central Washington University	4%
Washington State University - Pullman	1%
University of Washington - Bothell	1%
Eastern Washington University	1%
Evergreen State College	1%
Pacific Lutheran University	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Seattle Pacific University	0%
University of Oregon	0%
University of Puget Sound	0%
University of Montana	0%
Washington State University - Spokane	0%
Seattle University	0%
Lewis & Clark College	0%
Oregon State University	0%
University of British Columbia	0%
Gonzaga University	
Linfield College	
University of Colorado at Boulder	
University of Portland	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
Whitman College	
Willamette University	
Other	3%
Did not specify second choice	7%
Applied only to Western	64%

C.9.a. Which school was your *second* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.9.) (N=5)
 (Responses included: Cornell University; Whitworth University.) (Text responses available on request.)

College Application Process (cont.)

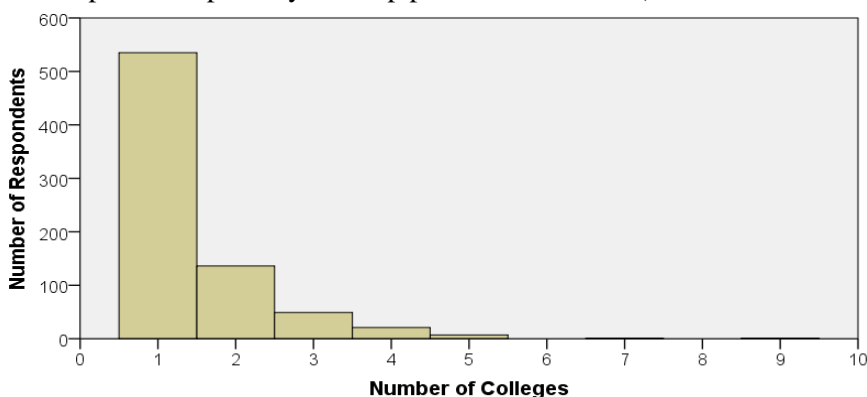
C.10. At the time when you filled out college applications, which of the following schools was your third choice? (Question text is different than in previous years). (Recoded by OSR to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

N	763
University of Washington - Seattle	1%
University of Washington - Bothell	1%
Washington State University - Pullman	1%
Western Washington University	1%
Central Washington University	1%
Eastern Washington University	1%
University of Oregon	1%
Seattle University	1%
Oregon State University	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	0%
Washington State University - Spokane	0%
Pacific Lutheran University	0%
Gonzaga University	0%
Seattle Pacific University	0%
University of Portland	0%
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
University of Puget Sound	0%
Evergreen State College	0%
Willamette University	0%
Lewis & Clark College	
Linfield College	
University of British Columbia	
University of Colorado at Boulder	
University of Montana	
Whitman College	
Other	2%
Did not specify third choice	4%
Applied to fewer than three schools	84%

C.10.a. Which school was your *third* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.10.) (N=2)
(Responses included: DePaul University; University of Southern California.)

College Application Process (cont.)

C.12. Including Western, to how many four year colleges were you accepted for admission this fall? (OSR recoded to reflect responses implied by the skip pattern and in C.13.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
754	1.45	1	1	9	0.89

C.13. To which of the following four-year colleges were you accepted? (OSR recoded to assume acceptance for respondents who indicated in C. 7 and C.12 being accepted to the same number of colleges as they applied).

N	719
Western Washington University	100%
University of Washington - Seattle	6%
Central Washington University	5%
Washington State University - Pullman	4%
University of Washington - Bothell	2%
Eastern Washington University	2%
Pacific Lutheran University	2%
University of Oregon	1%
Seattle University	1%
Seattle Pacific University	1%
Evergreen State College	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	1%
Washington State University - Vancouver	1%
Oregon State University	1%
Washington State University - Spokane	1%
Whitman College	1%
University of Puget Sound	0%
Gonzaga University	0%
University of Portland	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
Willamette University	0%
Lewis & Clark College	0%
Linfield College	0%
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
University of British Columbia	

D. Class Schedule and Expectations

D.1. How satisfied are you with your class schedule?

N	763
I have not yet registered for classes	12%
Very dissatisfied	6%
Somewhat dissatisfied	12%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7%
Somewhat satisfied	34%
Very satisfied	29%

D.1.a. Why are you dissatisfied with your class schedule? (Asked of respondents who answered "very dissatisfied" or "dissatisfied" in D.1.)

N	132
The classes I need to take were full	83%
The classes I need to take are scheduled at conflicting times	38%
My classes are spread too far across campus	3%
My classes are spread too far throughout the day	18%
My classes are spread too far throughout the week	5%
My class schedule does not work well with my job schedule	11%
My classes begin too early in the morning	5%
My classes end too late in the evening	5%
One or more of my classes meet every day	8%
Other	25%

D.1.b. What is your other reason for being dissatisfied with your class schedule? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in D.1.) (N=31) (Responses included: "I can't register for any of them."; "I registered a class that I didn't need to take.") (Text responses available on request.)

D.2. Please indicate how difficult, if at all, you expect each of the following to be for you this fall. (Asked of 50% of respondents at random).

	N	Not at all difficult	A little difficult	Somewhat difficult	Difficult	Very difficult
Participating in discussion groups in my courses	385	41%	28%	22%	7%	2%
Preparing for and presenting my work in front of a class	383	25%	33%	22%	14%	6%
Completing coursework and reading on time	387	38%	32%	22%	8%	1%
Getting good grades	388	22%	40%	26%	10%	2%
Managing my finances	389	17%	29%	26%	18%	10%

E. Academic Skills and Goals

E.1. Please rate your ability on the following academic skills relative to your peers at {the respondent's previous college}. (Asked of 50% of respondents at random)

	N	Well below average	Below average	About average	Above average	Well above average
Writing skills	378	0%	2%	29%	47%	22%
Oral communication skills	381	1%	4%	40%	37%	19%
Critically evaluate information	378		1%	35%	44%	19%
Work or learn independently	378		2%	25%	47%	27%
Work cooperatively in a group	376	0%	3%	35%	44%	17%
Appreciation of the arts	381	2%	11%	35%	30%	23%
Apply scientific principles and methods	381	1%	9%	46%	33%	11%
Apply quantitative principles and methods	378	1%	8%	47%	34%	11%
Awareness of cultural and social differences among people	380	0%	3%	27%	40%	30%
Using computing and information technology	380	1%	9%	42%	31%	17%
Use library resources for research	377	1%	9%	48%	29%	13%
Identify and analyze complex problems	379	0%	2%	38%	43%	17%

E.2. When do you expect to graduate from Western with your bachelor's degree?

N	755
Spring 2015	1%
Summer 2015 through winter 2016	5%
Spring 2016	38%
Summer 2016 through winter 2017	24%
Spring 2017	22%
Summer 2017 or later	10%

Academic Skills and Goals (cont.)

E.3. What is the highest degree you expect to earn in your lifetime?

N	750
Bachelor's (B.A., B.S., etc.)	32%
Master's (M.A., M.S., etc.)	49%
Professional (M.D., D.O, D.D.S., D.V.M., J.D., etc.)	6%
Doctorate (Ph.D. or Ed.D., etc.)	14%

E.4. What is the highest level of education attained by your mother or step-mother?

N	751
Less than high school	5%
High school graduate	20%
Some college or post-high school education	23%
Community college degree	12%
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	27%
Master's degree or equivalent	12%
Law degree, medical degree, or Ph.D.	3%

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

N	749
Less than high school	6%
High school graduate	18%
Some college or post-high school education	22%
Community college degree	8%
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	28%
Master's degree or equivalent	13%
Law degree, medical degree, or Ph.D.	6%

Academic Skills and Goals (cont.)

E.6. How likely is it that you will leave Western before you graduate?

N	Very unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Uncertain	Somewhat likely	Very likely
755	73%	13%	11%	2%	1%

E.6.a. If you leave Western, will you transfer to another institution or not attend school anywhere? (Asked of respondents who indicated in E.6 that they were uncertain, likely or very likely to leave Western before graduation).

N	101
Transfer	81%
Not attend	19%

E.6.a.1. Why are you likely to leave Western before you graduate? Check all that apply. (Asked of respondents who indicated in E.6.a that they are likely to leave Western before graduation, and if they leave they will not attend another institution). Why are you uncertain about leaving Western before you graduate? Check all that apply. (Seen by respondents who indicated in E.6 and E.6.a that they are uncertain about leaving Western before graduation, and if they leave they will not attend another institution).

N	18
Finances	44%
Academic performance	17%
Unsure of my direction	28%
Employment opportunity	17%
A college education isn't important to me	11%
Barriers to declaring my major of choice	11%
Lack of diversity at Western	
Personal health	33%
Other	33%

Academic Skills and goals (cont.)

E.6.a.2. Why are you likely to transfer from Western? Check all that apply. (Seen by respondents who indicated in E.6 and E.6.a that they are likely to leave Western before graduation and if they do leave they will transfer to another institution). Why are you uncertain about transferring from Western? (Seen by respondents who indicated in E.6 and E.6.a that they are uncertain about leaving Western before graduation and if they do leave they will transfer to another institution).

N	81
Western doesn't offer the major that interests me	11%
Another school has a better program in my field	31%
Another school would challenge me more than Western	7%
Western is too big or too small	4%
Difficulty getting the classes I need	27%
Barriers to declaring my major of choice	14%
Weather, recreation opportunities, or location in general	15%
Academic performance	9%
Finances	22%
Personal health	7%
To do something or go somewhere new and different	40%
To be closer to home	15%
To be further from home	6%
To be with friends or a significant other	21%
Not fitting in at Western	22%
Lack of diversity at Western	9%
Other	26%

E.6.a.2.i. What major are you interested in? (Asked of respondents who answered "Western doesn't offer the major that interests me" in E.6.c.) (N=10) (Responses included: "Premed/pre dental", "physical therapy"). (Text responses available on request.)

F. Major Choice and Declaration

F.1. How certain are you of what your major will be?

N	I have no idea	I have some idea	I am certain
754	1%	29%	70%

F.2. Have you met with a departmental advisor about your potential major?

N	Yes	No
753	65%	35%

F.3. Have you completed the paperwork to officially declare your major? (Asked of respondents who indicated in F.1 that they are certain of their major choice).

N	Yes	No
523	37%	63%

F.4. What resources have you used to learn about majors at Western? (Check all that apply.)

N	751
An advisor at your transfer school	44%
A Western Admissions Counselor	33%
Western's website	83%
A departmental advisor or faculty member at Western	52%
Western's Academic Advising Center	20%
Western's Major Guides	51%
Western's Online Catalog	58%
Other	13%
None	3%

F.5. When do you plan to declare your major? (Asked if the respondent indicated in F.1. they are certain of their major but in F.3. that they have not filled out paperwork.)

N	328
During my first quarter at Western	50%
During winter, spring or summer quarter of my first year	35%
During my second year	6%
I don't know	9%

Major Choice and Declaration (cont.)

F.6. Why haven't you declared your major? (Asked if the respondent indicated in F.1. they are certain of their major but in F.3. have not filled out paperwork.)

N	327
I am unaware of the process to declare my major	31%
I don't yet meet the requirements of my major	58%
It is not urgent that I declare my major now	14%
Other	13%

F.7. When did you decide what your major would be? (Asked of respondents who answered "certain" in F.1.)

N	520
Before high school	8%
During high school	22%
During your first year at your transfer institution	28%
After your first year at your transfer institution	42%

F.8. Which department houses the major you plan to declare? (Asked of those who indicated in F.1. that they are certain of their major choice.)

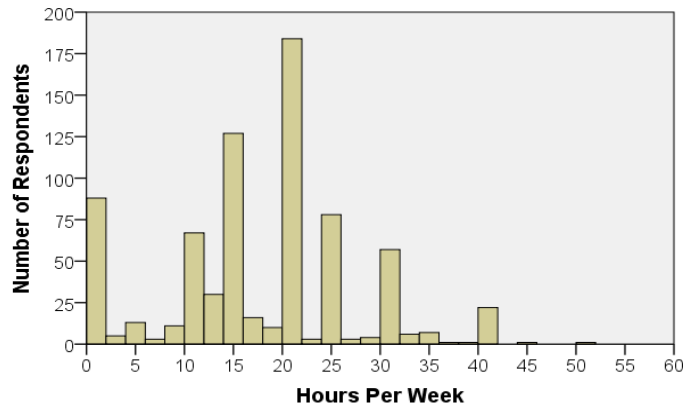
N	506	Human Services and Rehabilitation	2%
Accounting	4%	Interdisciplinary Arts	0%
Anthropology	2%	Journalism	2%
Art	4%	Liberal Studies	0%
Biology	7%	Linguistics	1%
Chemistry	2%	Management	3%
Communication	3%	Mathematics	2%
Communication Sciences & Disorders	3%	Modern and Classical Languages	1%
Computer Science	6%	Music	2%
Decision Sciences	0%	Philosophy	0%
Economics	3%	Physical Education, Health & Recreation	7%
Educational Curriculum and Instruction	0%	Physics and Astronomy	1%
Elementary Education	5%	Political Science	2%
Engineering Technology	3%	Psychology	6%
English	6%	Science Education	0%
Environmental Sciences	3%	Secondary Education	2%
Environmental Studies	2%	Sociology	1%
Fairhaven College	1%	Special Education	2%
Finance & Marketing	3%	Speech	0%
Finance, Marketing & Decision Sciences	1%	Theatre Arts and Dance	2%
Geology	2%	Women's Studies	0%
History	2%		

G. Expenses and Employment

G.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	\$1 to \$999	\$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.)	728	34%	16%	11%	10%	8%	20%
My own resources (savings, employment, other income)	719	14%	25%	26%	19%	10%	6%
Aid which need not be repaid (grants, scholarships, military funding, etc.)	717	35%	9%	12%	12%	13%	18%
Aid which must be repaid (loans, etc.)	712	34%	3%	8%	15%	16%	23%

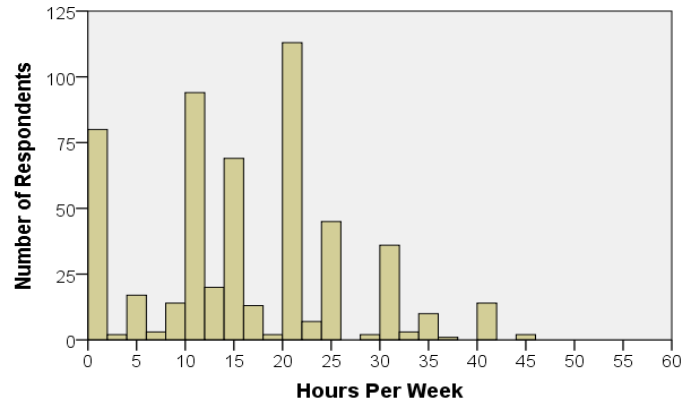
G.2. During the coming year, about how many hours per week do you hope to work while attending Western?



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
738	17.12	19	0	50	9.7

Expenses and Employment (cont.)

G.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 of respondents who indicated in G.1. that they expect to cover first year education expenses with their own resources, and in G.2. that they hope to work more than 0 hours.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
548	15.61	15	0	60	10.2

H. Technology

H.1. Which of the following electronic devices will you have with you at Western during fall quarter? Check all that apply. (Asked of 50% of respondents at random).

N	373
Laptop computer	90%
Desktop computer	13%
Tablet computer	23%
Cell phone	95%
E-book reader	17%
Other wi-fi enabled device	15%
None of the above	0%

H.2. Which of the following capabilities does your cell phone or cell plan have? (Email version of the survey only). (Asked of respondents who indicated in H.1 that they would have a cell phone with them at Western).

N	354
Smart phone	87%
Texting (with texting plan)	78%
None of the above	2%

I. Demographics and Comments

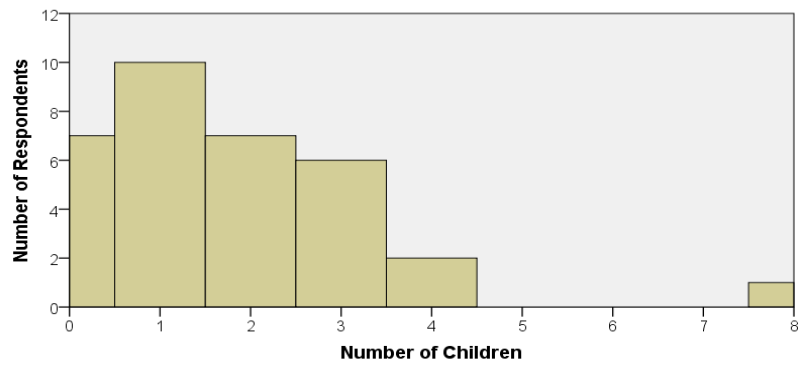
I.1. What is your marital status?

N	Single, never married	Married (or legal equivalent)	Single, divorced	Single, widowed
748	93%	5%	3%	

I.2. Do you have children?

N	Yes	No
749	1%	96%

I.2.a. How many children will be living with you over the coming year? (Asked of respondents who answered "yes" in I.2.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
33	1.76	1	0	8	1.64

I. Demographics and Comments (cont.)

I.3. What was your family's total pre-tax income last year?

N	747
Less than \$20k	15%
\$20k - \$29,999	7%
\$30k - \$39,999	6%
\$40k - \$49,999	6%
\$50k - \$59,999	5%
\$60k - \$79,999	8%
\$80k - \$99,999	6%
\$100k - \$149,999	10%
\$150k - \$199,999	2%
\$200k - \$249,999	1%
\$250k or greater	2%
I'm unsure	32%

I.4. When you were growing up, was your family/household income lower or higher than that of your neighbors?

N	747
Substantially lower	15%
Lower	7%
About the same	6%
Higher	6%
Substantially higher	5%

I.5. Please use the space below for any additional comments or suggestions. (Open-ended question asked of all respondents.) (N=93) (Text responses available on request.)