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Western Educational Longitudinal Study (WELS) Baseline Survey of Transfers Entering Western in the Fall, 2010: Descriptive Statistics

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WESTERN EDUCATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY (WELS)
BASELINE SURVEY OF TRANSFERS ENTERING WESTERN
IN THE FALL, 2010

Descriptive Statistics

Report 2011-03

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February, 2011

OFFICE OF SURVEY RESEARCH
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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WESTERN EDUCATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY (WELS) BASELINE SURVEY OF TRANSFERS ENTERING WESTERN IN THE FALL, 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The WELS Baseline Survey of Transfers Entering Western in the Fall, 2010 (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 their Western experience which 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 purposes, the Transfer Survey integrates questions into seven major sections: previous collegiate experiences, the college application process, familiarity and comfort with Western, academic skills and expectations, major choice and declaration, expenses and employment, and demographics. 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 questions which lend themselves to numerical analysis. Responses to open ended questions are available upon request.

OSR initially conducted the Transfer Survey using e-mail invitations sent during July. Reminder e-mail invitations were sent to non-respondents at both their internal e-mail address and any external e-mail address Western obtained. Non-respondents to these e-mails were then called by OSR and asked to complete the survey. This process continued through August and the survey was finally closed the weekend prior to the beginning of fall quarter. Of the 1,047 transfer students entering in the fall of 2010, OSR received responses from 614, a response rate of 58.6%.

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 (61.7% of respondents versus 58% of all transfers), were more likely to be first generation college students (39.6% versus 35.6%), were more likely to be Washington State residents (91.4% versus 82.4%), and were slightly more likely to originate from a 2-year schools (84% versus 82.2%). On the other hand, respondents and non-respondents had nearly identical SAT scores (both math and verbal), admission indices, age, hours transferred to WWU, and fall quarter 2010 hours registered at Western.

OSR is excited to share survey data and results with campus researchers so they may address their own questions. To familiarize readers with the content of the survey, we make a few observations regarding the survey results. Out of 16 potential responses, the three most likely to be listed as "very important" in their decision to attend Western, students listed a specific program at Western, Western's good academic reputation, and the recreational opportunities in the area. These were the same three as listed on the 2009 transfer survey. Transfer students were most likely to first learn about Western through parents, relatives and friends. About two-thirds of students learned about Western prior to graduating high school, one-third learned about Western after graduation. Easily, the most used source in obtaining information about Western is Western's website.

The median transfer student applied to only one school (Western) while about one-fourth applied to two or more schools. Among all the schools to which they applied, 95% of all transfer students listed Western as their first choice of schools to attend. Among those students who registered for classes prior to completing the survey, 21% expressed some level of dissatisfaction with their schedule. The most common reasons given for the dissatisfaction were that their desired courses were full by the time they registered and classes were offered at conflicting times. Among a list of six areas of possible concern that might impact them over the coming year,

transfers expected the most difficulty to occur when managing their finances. Forty-nine percent of students expect to borrow more than \$5,000 during their first year alone and the average student expects to work over 17 hours per week while attending classes.

The median transfer student expects to enroll at Western for 7 quarters prior to graduating although about one-sixth of students expect to graduate after their 9th quarter on campus. Eighty-three percent of students expect to graduate from Western; however 17% expressed some level of likelihood that they would transfer from Western prior to earning a degree. Among these, the most common reason given for the likelihood of transferring is that Western does not offer a degree program that interests them. Seventy-four percent of students are certain as to their major and a further quarter of students have some idea. Indeed, three-quarters of students had met with a departmental advisor regarding a major and one-third had completed major paperwork at the time of the survey.

All of OSR's survey data is linked by a unique student identifier number allowing the longitudinal tracking of students through time. OSR is excited to share this data with interested researchers.

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 614 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 Fall 2010 Transfer Students and Survey Respondents

A.1. Characteristics of Fall 2010 Transfer Students and Survey Respondents

	Non-Respondents	Respondents	All Fall 2010 Transfers
N	433	614	1,047
Male	47.3%	38.3%	42.0%
Caucasian	72.7%	75.4%	74.3%
Black	3.7%	1.8%	2.6%
Hispanic	6.7%	5.5%	6.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7.6%	9.3%	8.6%
Native American	3.7%	4.7%	4.3%
Race unknown	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%
Mean admission index*	50.1	49.6	49.8
Median admission index*	51.0	53.0	52.0
Mean math SAT*	538	538	538
Mean verbal SAT*	546	545	545
Mean cumulative GPA from prior colleges	3.17	3.27	3.24
Mean age	22.6	22.7	22.7
Median age	21	21	21
First generation college student	30.0%	39.6%	35.6%
Washington residency	69.7%	91.4%	82.4%
OR high school	2.5%	2.0%	2.2%
ID high school	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
AK high school	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Mean hours transferred to WWU	87.5	90.5	89.3
Fall 2010 WWU hours registered	13.0	13.5	13.3
Transferred from 2-year college	79.7%	84.0%	82.2%

* Because these measures are optional for students, the N for these variables differs from the reported N.

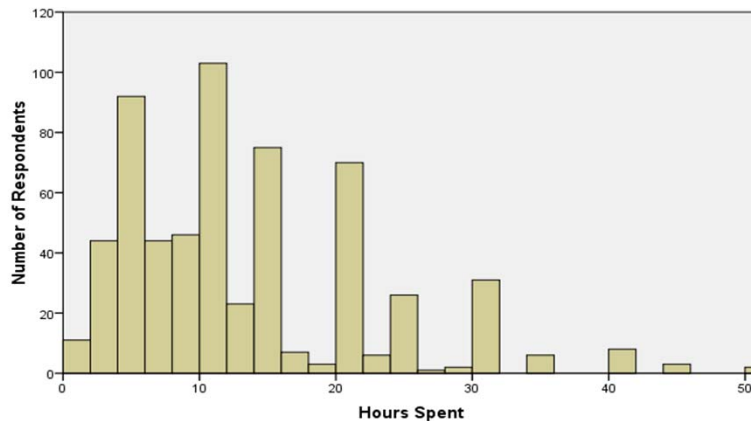
B. Previous College: Engagement and Experiences

B.1. Please indicate how often you did each of the following during your last year at { the respondent's previous college }.

	N	Never	Once	1-2 times	3-5 times	More than 5 times
Wrote an academic paper of 5 pages or more for a course requirement	609	6%	8%	30%	33%	24%
Used tutoring services for help	610	51%	10%	15%	10%	14%
Asked a teacher for help when I had difficulties in a course	609	9%	8%	30%	19%	33%
Talked about course material I was learning with someone other than a teacher	611	2%	2%	7%	17%	72%

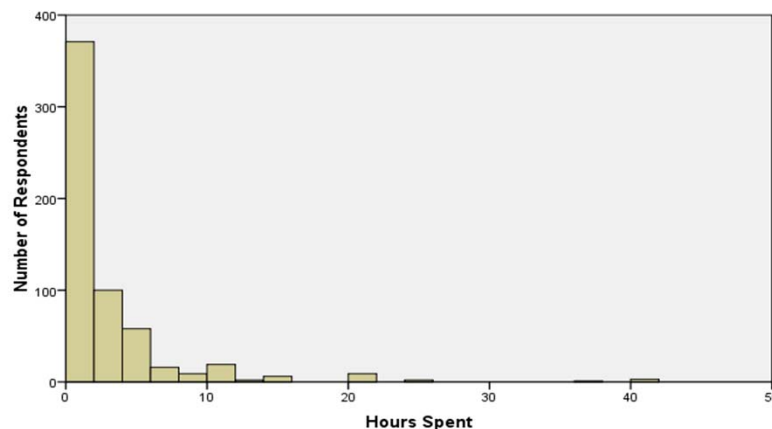
B.2. During your last quarter or semester at { the respondent's previous college }, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

B.2.a. Studying for classes



N=607, Mean=13.19, Median=10, Min=0, Max=70, St.Dev.=9.78

B.2.b. Attending classes

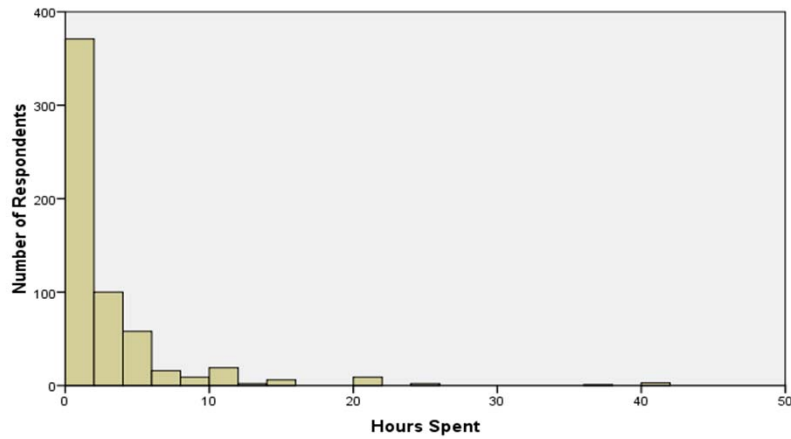


N=609, Mean=13.8, Median=15, Min=0, Max=100, St.Dev.=7.8

Previous College: Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

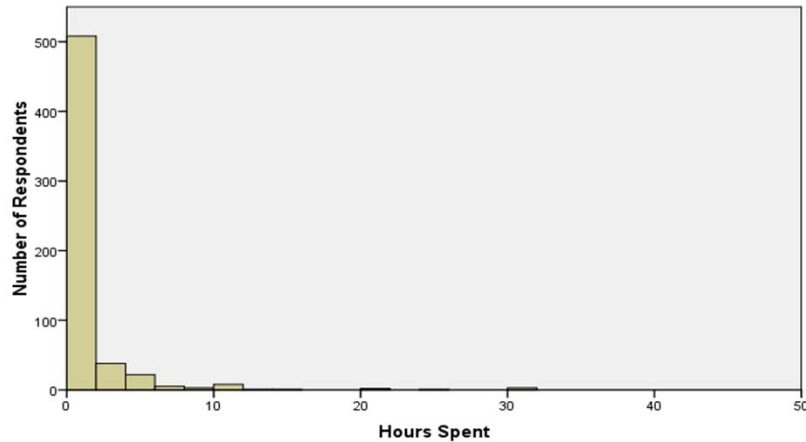
B.2. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester at {the respondent's previous college}, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

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



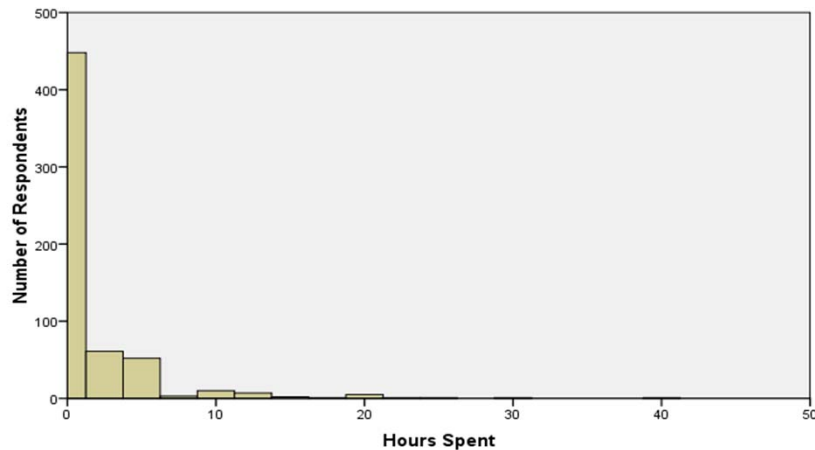
N=597, Mean=2.53, Median=0, Min=0, Max=100, St.Dev.=6.31

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



N=593, Mean=0.98, Median=0, Min=0, Max=50, St.Dev.=3.75

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

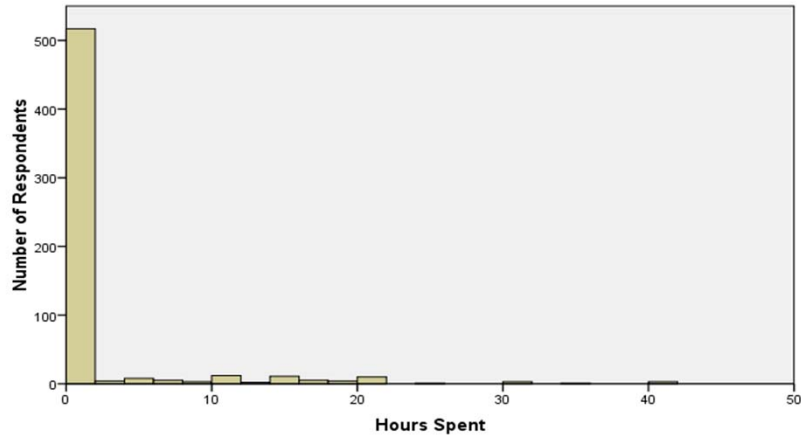


N=594, Mean=1.64, Median=0, Min=0, Max=60, St.Dev.=4.54

Previous College: Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

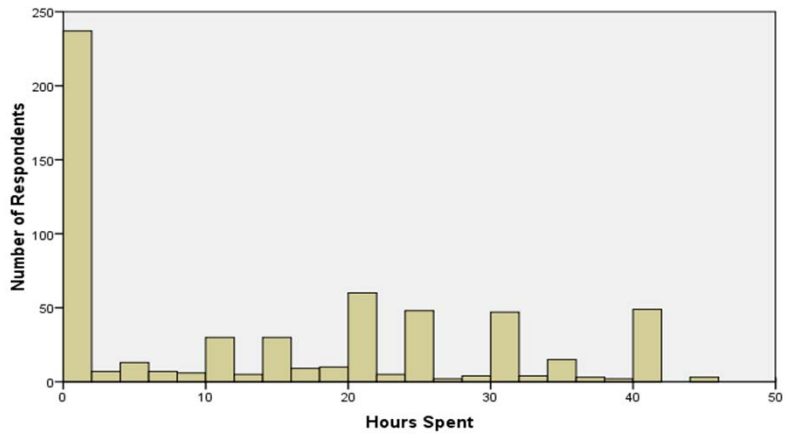
B.2. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester at {the respondent's previous college}, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

B.2.f. Working for pay on campus



N=589, Mean=1.76, Median=0, Min=0, Max=40, St.Dev.=5.65

B.2.g. Working for pay off campus



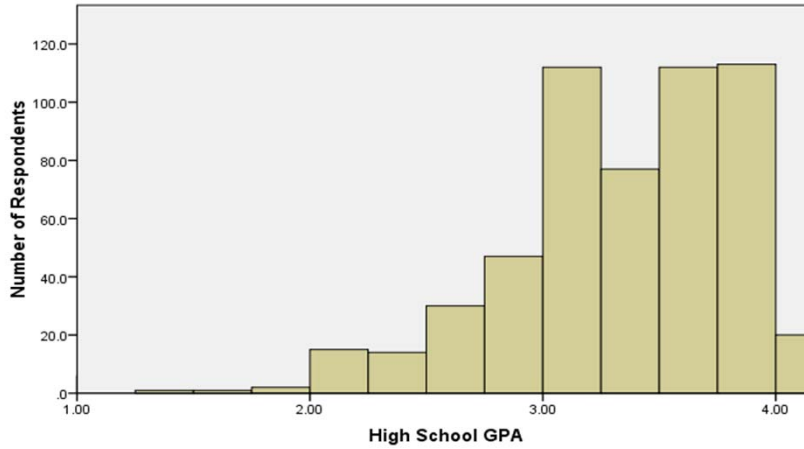
N=601, Mean=14.31, Median=12, Min=0, Max=60, St.Dev.=14.46

B.3. How satisfied are you with the education you received at {the respondent's previous college}?

N	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
598	6%	13%	20%	35%	26%

Previous College: Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

B.4. What was your high school GPA?



N=550, Mean=3.3, Median=3.4, Min=0, Max=4.1, St.Dev.=0.60

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

N	613
Yes	26%
No	74%

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

N	611
Yes	4%
No	96%

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}	98	64%	14%	9%	7%	5%
My total financial cost was low	95	29%	8%	17%	20%	25%
I was interested in a specific academic program	96	21%	13%	23%	27%	17%
{The respondent's previous college} had a good academic reputation	98	10%	13%	26%	31%	20%
{The respondent's previous college} was close to home	97	46%	11%	14%	16%	11%
{The respondent's previous college} was far away from home	96	52%	8%	18%	13%	9%
I liked the size of the community in which {the respondent's previous college} was located	97	15%	27%	31%	21%	6%
I liked the size of {the respondent's previous college}	98	14%	20%	22%	34%	9%
I liked the recreational opportunities in the area	98	29%	17%	19%	22%	12%
The religious orientation at {the respondent's previous college} fit with my own	97	71%	8%	9%	4%	7%
{The respondent's previous college} had a Greek system	98	88%	5%	3%	2%	2%
I played on a varsity athletic team	97	88%	2%	2%	1%	7%
{The respondent's previous college} offered opportunities to participate in art and music events	98	56%	13%	12%	10%	8%

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 students transferring from a two-year institution.)

	N	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
The college was close to home	513	8%	8%	12%	26%	46%
I wanted to finish the requirements for an associates degree	511	10%	2%	6%	24%	58%
I wanted to earn a specific certificate or degree offered at {the respondent's previous college}	512	40%	12%	17%	15%	16%
It was less expensive than a four-year school	506	7%	4%	10%	20%	58%
I was not accepted at the four year school(s) to which I applied	508	83%	3%	5%	5%	4%
I wanted to strengthen my academic record	507	21%	10%	22%	23%	24%
I missed the application deadline for four-year school(s)	509	88%	4%	5%	2%	1%
I continued at the same two-year college I had attended for Running Start	151	28%	3%	11%	17%	41%
I was unsure about my direction	510	32%	13%	19%	21%	16%
Friends or family were attending {the respondent's previous college}	511	67%	12%	12%	6%	3%
{The respondent's previous college} offered opportunities to participate in art and music events	511	74%	9%	8%	7%	2%

C.3. Out of all your college options, how important were 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	605	57%	16%	16%	8%	3%
A Western faculty member recruited me	604	87%	7%	4%	1%	1%
An instructor, teacher or advisor encouraged me to go to Western*	510	54%	11%	18%	11%	6%
I am interested in a specific academic program at Western	610	8%	6%	12%	24%	50%
Western has a good academic reputation	609	1%	3%	14%	38%	44%
Western has a good reputation for its social activities	609	17%	10%	25%	27%	22%
Western is more affordable than my other choices	609	20%	12%	23%	22%	22%
Western offered me financial assistance	606	41%	10%	16%	14%	20%
I want to live near home	608	34%	13%	15%	15%	24%
I want to live far away from home	603	67%	11%	13%	6%	2%
I like the size of Western	607	15%	6%	24%	31%	25%
I like the size of Bellingham	610	16%	6%	21%	30%	27%
I like the recreational opportunities in this area	609	15%	8%	19%	29%	30%
Western does not have a Greek system	609	59%	8%	12%	13%	8%
I will be playing on a varsity athletic team	603	89%	5%	4%	1%	1%
Western offers opportunities to participate in arts and music events	604	48%	14%	16%	12%	9%

*Asked only of students transferring from 2-year colleges

College Application Process (cont.)

C.4. How did you first learn about Western?

N	611
A parent/sibling/relative told me about Western	27%
A friend told me about Western	31%
A coach or teacher told me about Western	13%
An admissions counselor visited my school	2%
I spoke with an admissions counselor at a college fair	5%
I conducted a general college web search	10%
I conducted a search for institutions that participate in the Western Undergraduate Exchange program	1%
While I was researching Bellingham	2%
Western contacted me	
Other	9%

C.4.a. How did you first learn about Western? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.4.) (N=50) (Responses included: I live in Bellingham/Whatcom County; I heard about Western through flyers and/or advisors at previous college; attended camp at Western during summer; visited Western on a field trip.) (Text responses available on request.)

C.5. When did you first learn about Western?

N	608
Before entering high school	25%
As a high school freshmen or sophomore	20%
As a high school junior	13%
As a high school senior	12%
After high school	31%

C.6. Which of the following sources were most valuable in helping you to learn about Western? Please check the three most valuable sources.

N	611
Western's website	67%
Friends at Western	50%
Western's admissions website	19%
Western's alumni	9%
Visit to campus	48%
High school counselor	2%
An advisor from {respondent's previous college}	20%
Paper mailings from the Office of Admissions	9%
Email communication from the Office of Admissions	5%
Parent/sibling/relative	20%
Summer program at Western	2%
Personal contact with an admissions counselor	7%
Personal contact with a Western faculty member	12%
Other	4%

College Application Process (cont.)

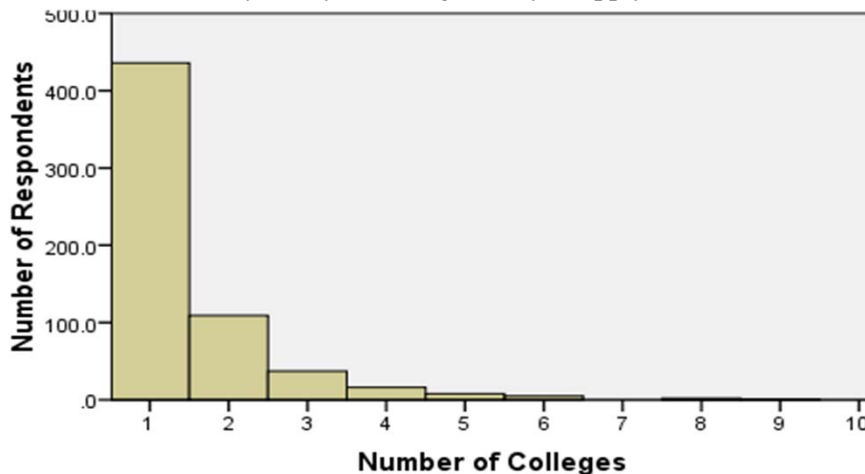
C.6.a. What other source(s) of information was valuable in helping you to learn about Western? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.6.) (N=15) (Responses included: word of mouth; Collegeboard; Transitions; personal research; flyers posted on community college campus.) (Text responses available on request.)

C.7. How did the information you received from Western compare with other schools to which you applied as a transfer student?

	N	Not applicable	Not as good	Similar	Better
Mailings before you applied	609	38%	9%	40%	14%
Mailings/information after your admission	606	27%	7%	36%	30%
Personal contact from Western	606	28%	11%	32%	28%
Western's website	608	20%	6%	44%	30%
Email communication	608	24%	7%	41%	29%

C.7.a. How could Western have improved the information you received? (Asked of respondents who answered "not as good" in C.7.) (N=94) (Responses included: follow through with emails originally sent; send info in one bundled packet instead of multiple pieces of mail; improve Western's website to make it more user friendly; more personal contact with staff and advisors; send information earlier/in a more timely manner.) (Text responses available on request.)

C.8. Including Western, to how many four year colleges did you apply for this fall?



N=614, Mean=1.50, Median=1, Min=1, Max=9, St.Dev.=1.04

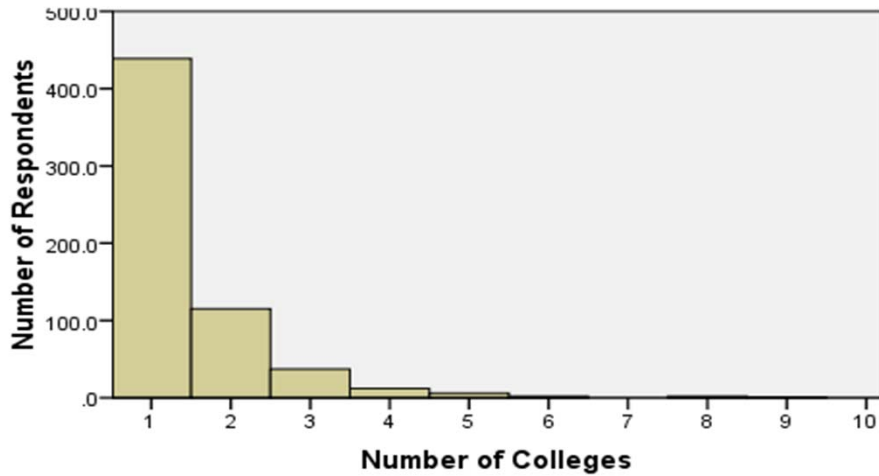
College Application Process (cont.)

C.9. To which four-year colleges did you apply for this fall?

N	612
Western Washington University	100%
University of Washington - Seattle	14%
Central Washington University	7%
Washington State University - Pullman	6%
Eastern Washington University	3%
Evergreen State College	2%
Seattle Pacific University	2%
University of Washington - Bothell	2%
Gonzaga University	1%
Pacific Lutheran University	1%
Seattle University	1%
University of Oregon	1%
University of Portland	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	1%
Washington State University - Vancouver	1%
Linfield College	0%
Oregon State University	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
University of Montana	0%
University of Puget Sound	0%
Washington State University - Spokane	0%
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	0%
Whitman College	0%
Willamette University	0%

College Application Process (cont.)

C.10. Including Western, to how many four year colleges were you accepted this fall?



N=614, Mean=1.46, Median=1, Min=1, Max=9, St.Dev.=1

C.11. To which of the following four-year colleges were you accepted?

N	612
Western Washington University	100%
Central Washington University	7%
University of Washington - Seattle	7%
Washington State University - Pullman	6%
Eastern Washington University	3%
Evergreen State College	2%
Seattle Pacific University	2%
Gonzaga University	1%
Pacific Lutheran University	1%
Seattle University	1%
University of Oregon	1%
University of Portland	1%
University of Washington - Bothell	1%
Washington State University - Vancouver	1%
Linfield College	0%
Oregon State University	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
University of Montana	0%
University of Puget Sound	0%
University of Washington - Tacoma	0%
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	0%
Willamette University	0%

College Application Process (cont.)

C.12. Of all the schools to which you were accepted, which was your *first* choice to attend? (Recoded by OSR to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

N	614
Western Washington University	95%
Central Washington University	1%
University of Washington - Seattle	2%
Pacific Lutheran University	0%
Seattle Pacific University	0%
Seattle University	0%
Washington State University - Pullman	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Eastern Washington University	
Evergreen State College	
Gonzaga University	
Lewis & Clark College	
Linfield College	
Oregon State University	
Seattle Pacific University	
University of British Columbia	
University of Colorado at Boulder	
University of Montana	
University of Oregon	
University of Portland	
University of Puget Sound	
University of Washington - Bothell	
University of Washington - Tacoma	
Washington State University - Spokane	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
Whitman College	
Willamette University	
Other	2%

C.12.a. Which school was your *first* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.12.) (N=10)
 (Responses included: Academic of Art University; Arizona State; California State University, Northridge;
 Colorado State University; James Cook University, Queensland, Australia; New York University; Northeastern
 University; Sonoma State; University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC); University of San Francisco)

College Application Process (cont.)

C.13. Of all the schools to which you were accepted, which was your *second* choice to attend? (Recoded by OSR to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

N	614
Only accepted to Western	73%
Central Washington University	4%
University of Washington - Seattle	4%
Washington State University - Pullman	4%
Western Washington University	4%
Eastern Washington University	1%
Evergreen State College	1%
Seattle Pacific University	1%
University of Oregon	1%
University of Washington - Bothell	1%
Washington State University - Vancouver	1%
Gonzaga University	0%
Linfield College	0%
Oregon State University	0%
Seattle University	0%
University of Portland	0%
University of Puget Sound	0%
University of Washington - Tacoma	0%
Willamette University	0%
Lewis & Clark College	
Pacific Lutheran University	
University of British Columbia	
University of Colorado at Boulder	
University of Montana	
Washington State University - Spokane	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
Whitman College	
Other	2%
Did not specify second choice	3%

C.13.a. Which school was your second choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.13.) (N=12)
(Text responses available on request.)

College Application Process (cont.)

C.14. Which of the schools to which you applied was your *third* choice? (Recoded by OSR to include choices implied by skip pattern.)

N	614
Accepted to fewer than 3 colleges	91%
Central Washington University	1%
Eastern Washington University	1%
Evergreen State College	1%
Washington State University - Pullman	1%
Gonzaga University	0%
Seattle Pacific University	0%
Seattle University	0%
University of Montana	0%
University of Oregon	0%
University of Portland	0%
University of Washington - Seattle	0%
Western Washington University	0%
Lewis & Clark College	
Linfield College	
Oregon State University	
Pacific Lutheran University	
University of British Columbia	
University of Colorado at Boulder	
University of Puget Sound	
University of Washington - Bothell	
University of Washington - Tacoma	
Washington State University - Spokane	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
Washington State University - Vancouver	
Whitman College	
Willamette University	
Other	1%
Did not specify third choice	2%

C.14.a. Which of the schools to which you applied was your third choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.11.) (N=8) (Text responses available on request.)

D. Familiarity and Comfort with Western

D.1. At Transitions, Western's orientation for incoming transfer students held on July 22, 23 or 26, I participated in the following: (Asked of respondents who attended Transitions.)

N	492
Class registration	90%
Department advising	78%
General academic advising	78%
Information fair	52%
Departmental presentation	45%
Math placement test	12%
Campus tour	11%
Financial aid workshop	10%
"How to choose a major" workshop	7%
"Living on Campus" workshop	5%
"Putting your degree to Work" workshop	5%
Student Accounts workshop	5%
Overnight program	3%
MIS 220 equivalency exam	2%
Library tour	2%
Veteran's services workshop	2%
Social Health and Responsibility Education	0%

Familiarity and Comfort with Western (cont.)

D.2. How familiar are you with each of the following?

	N	Not at All Familiar	A Little Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Familiar	Very Familiar
How to declare a major	610	12%	20%	22%	30%	16%
Western's tuition and fee structure	609	7%	22%	33%	28%	10%
General University Requirements (GURs)	610	6%	12%	29%	33%	20%
Western's online catalog	610	12%	19%	26%	30%	13%
Web4U	608	7%	16%	25%	34%	18%
Classfinder	609	10%	13%	18%	39%	20%
Your transfer equivalency report	608	9%	12%	22%	37%	20%

D.3. How comfortable are you with each of the following?

	N	Not at all comfortable	A little comfortable	Somewhat comfortable	Comfortable	Very comfortable
Understanding how your transfer credits align with graduation requirements	610	8%	22%	34%	28%	9%
Navigating Western's campus	610	8%	15%	33%	30%	13%
Getting advice from faculty and staff on which classes to take	611	5%	13%	25%	39%	18%

D.4. 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
614	10%	6%	15%	9%	35%	26%

D.4.a. Why are you dissatisfied with your class schedule? (Asked of respondents who answered "very dissatisfied" or "dissatisfied" in D.5)

N	123
The classes I need to take were full	81%
The classes I need to take are scheduled at conflicting times	39%
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	7%
My class schedule does not work well with my job schedule	11%
My classes begin too early in the morning	13%
My classes end too late in the evening	8%
One or more of my classes meet every day	9%
Other	24%

Familiarity and Comfort with Western (cont.)

D.4.b. What is your other reason for being dissatisfied with your class schedule? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in D.5.) (N=26) (Responses included: not aware of certain prerequisites so couldn't take classes I wanted; many classes not yet available to me because I'm not yet a declared major; classes didn't transfer from previous college so have to re-take them; registration system didn't recognize status as a junior so I was restricted at lower level; have to get overrides but the instructors aren't available.) (Text responses available on request.)

D.5. 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	610	46%	31%	17%	4%	1%
Preparing for and presenting my work in front of a class	609	29%	36%	21%	10%	5%
Completing coursework and reading on time	608	46%	33%	15%	4%	1%
Getting good grades	609	28%	42%	22%	6%	1%
Managing my finances	608	19%	33%	24%	15%	8%

E. Skills, Goals and Expectations

E.1. Please rate your ability on the following academic skills relative to your peers at { the respondent's previous college}. Also please rate the importance of these skills to you.*

E.1.a. Ability

	N	Well below average	Below average	About average	Above average	Well above average
Writing skills	481	1%	2%	25%	52%	21%
Oral communication skills	422	2%	4%	39%	38%	17%
Critically evaluate information	411	1%	1%	32%	46%	21%
Work or learn independently	409	0%	1%	20%	48%	31%
Work cooperatively in a group	410	0%	4%	33%	41%	21%
Appreciation of the arts	407	1%	11%	35%	33%	20%
Apply scientific principles and methods	408	1%	11%	37%	36%	15%
Apply quantitative principles and methods	409	1%	7%	39%	38%	15%
Awareness of cultural and social differences among people	408	0%	2%	28%	41%	28%
Using computing and information technology	410	0%	4%	40%	36%	19%
Use library resources for research	408	0%	7%	42%	35%	15%
Identify and analyze complex problems	406	0%	1%	37%	44%	17%

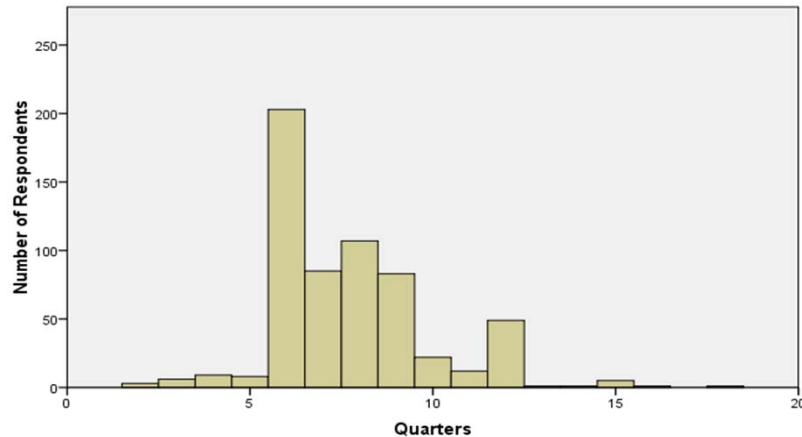
E.1.b. Importance

	N	Not at all important	A little important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important
Writing skills	589		1%	8%	37%	53%
Oral communication skills	583	0%	1%	9%	38%	52%
Critically evaluate information	583		1%	8%	41%	51%
Work or learn independently	586	0%	2%	11%	39%	48%
Work cooperatively in a group	582	1%	2%	14%	39%	44%
Appreciation of the arts	586	4%	15%	29%	28%	24%
Apply scientific principles and methods	584	2%	8%	26%	36%	28%
Apply quantitative principles and methods	583	2%	7%	25%	40%	25%
Awareness of cultural and social differences among people	586	1%	4%	13%	30%	52%
Using computing and information technology	584	1%	3%	21%	41%	35%
Use library resources for research	582	1%	7%	23%	40%	30%
Identify and analyze complex problems	582	0%	3%	14%	43%	40%

*Due to an error in the survey instrument, respondents saw the text and response options for these questions on separate lines. This likely explains the low response rates, and use of these data is cautioned. Contact OSR for additional details.

Skills, Goals and Expectations (cont.)

E.2. How many quarters do you expect to be at Western until you complete your Bachelor's degree?



N=596, Mean=7.7, Median=7, Min=2, Max=18, St.Dev.=2.19

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

N	Bachelors (B.A., B.S., etc.)	Masters (M.A., M.S., etc.)	Professional (M.D., D.O., D.D.S, D.V.M., J.D., etc.)	Doctorate (Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.)
606	28%	51%	6%	16%

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
606	71%	12%	14%	2%	1%

E.4.a. Which of the following reasons best explains why you are likely to transfer from Western to another college before you graduate? (Asked of respondents who answered "somewhat likely" or "very likely" in E.5.)

N	17
Western does not offer the degree program I am interested in	35%
Western is not prestigious enough for me	18%
Western is too far from friends or family	18%
Western is too expensive	6%
Western is too rigorous for me	6%
Friends or family attend a different school	
Western is too large	
Western is too small	
Other	18%

Skills, Goals and Expectations (cont.)

E.4.b. What degree program are you interested in? (Asked of respondents who answered "Western does not offer the degree program I am interested in" in E.5.a.) (N=5) (Responses included: Masters in Education; Mechanical Engineering; Nutrition; Pharmacy School; Veterinary Medicine.)

E.4.c. 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.5.a.) (N=3) (Responses included: The program I'm entering is really long for the degree you get; I want to work for a college and need experience at other colleges; I feel that Western does not care if I attend - other universities have classes available for transfers, and other universities have actively recruited me and offered much higher scholarships.)

F. Major Choice and Declaration

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

N	Uncertain	Have some idea	Certain
608	2%	24%	74%

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

N	Yes	No
606	75%	25%

F.3. Have you completed the paperwork to officially declare your major?

N	Yes	No
605	33%	67%

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

N	605
An advisor at your transfer school	29%
A Western Admissions Counselor	26%
Western's website	73%
A departmental advisor or faculty member at Western	57%
Western's academic Advising Center	12%
Western's Major Guides	46%
Western's Online Catalog	36%
Other	9%
None	3%

F.5. Why haven't you declared your major? (Asked of respondents who answered "certain" in F.1. and "no" in F.3.)

N	268
I am unaware of the process to declare my major	21%
I don't yet meet the requirements of my major	59%
It is not urgent that I declare my major now	18%
Other	10%

Major Choice and Declaration (cont.)

F.6. When did you decide what your major would be? (Asked of respondents who answered "certain" in F.1.)

N	449
After your first year at your transfer institution	44%
During your first year at your transfer institution	31%
During high school	22%
Before high school	4%

G. Expenses and Employment

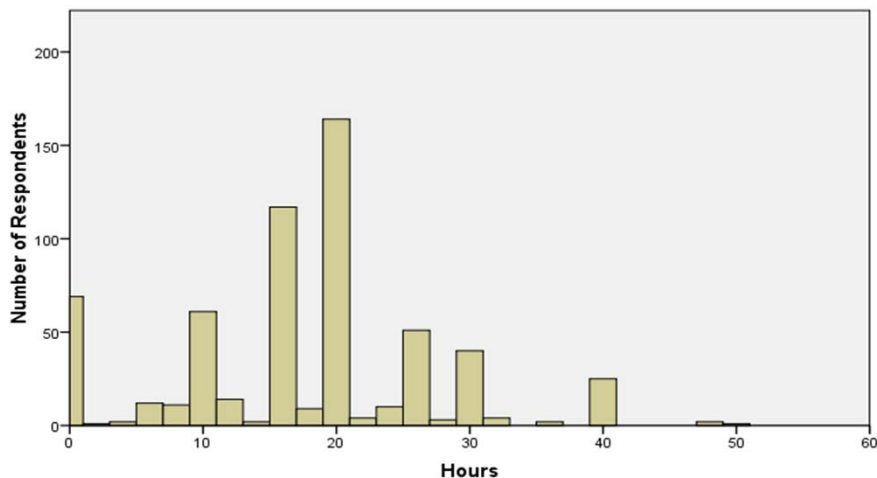
G.1. In your first year at Western, how much of your educational expenses (room, board, tuition, and fees) do you expect to cover from each of the sources listed below?

	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.)	596	38%	13%	12%	9%	11%	18%
My own resources (savings, employment, other income)	591	14%	26%	30%	17%	7%	7%
Aid which need not be repaid (grants, scholarships, military funding, etc.)	588	42%	9%	10%	14%	11%	15%
Aid which must be repaid (loans, etc.)	586	40%	2%	8%	17%	15%	17%

G.2. Would you be willing to pay a \$X per quarter fee to receive reduced or free admission to art and music performances at Western? (X was chosen randomly between four possible values.)

	N	X = 1	X = 5	X = 10	X = 20
N	597	144	155	143	155
Yes	54%	72%	53%	52%	41%
No	46%	29%	47%	48%	59%

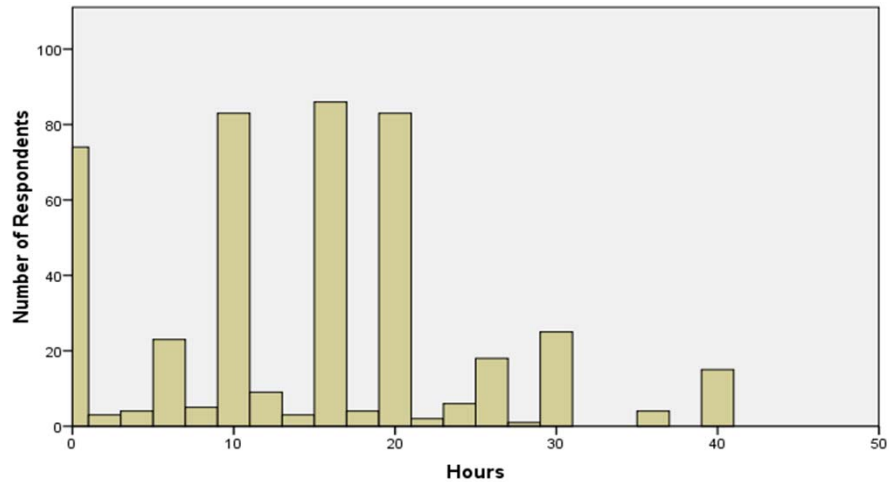
G.3. During the coming year, about how many hours per week do you hope to work while attending Western?



N=604, Mean=17.21, Median=20, Min=0, Max=50, St.Dev.=9.72

Expenses and Employment (cont.)

G.4. 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 G.3. was greater than zero and if respondent claimed to use "my own resources" in G.1.)



N=448, Mean=14.16, Median=15, Min=0, Max=40, St.Dev.=9.85

H. Demographics and Comments

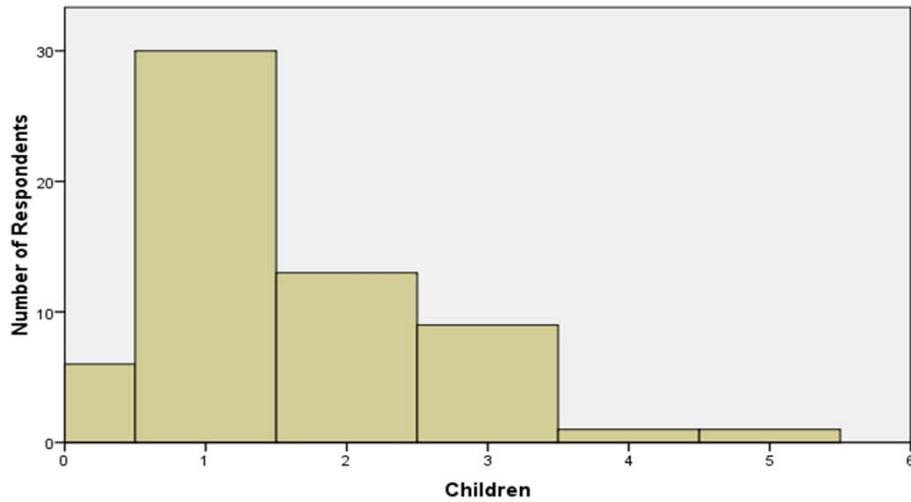
H.1. What is your marital status?

N	Single, never married	Married (or legal equivalent)	Single, divorced	Single, widowed
609	85%	11%	4%	0%

H.2. Do you have children?

N	Yes	No
609	10%	90%

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



N=60, Mean=1.53, Median=1, Min=0, Max=5, St.Dev.=1.02

H.3. Please use this space below for any additional comments or suggestions. (Open-ended question asked of all respondents.) (N=128) (Text responses available on request.)
