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# Western Educational Longitudinal Study (WELS) Baseline Survey of Transfer Students Entering Western in the Fall, 2013: Descriptive Statistics

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WESTERN EDUCATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY (WELS)  
BASELINE SURVEY OF TRANSFER STUDENTS  
ENTERING WESTERN IN THE FALL, 2013

Descriptive Statistics

Report 2014-04

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June, 2014

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, 2013

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The WELS Baseline Survey of Transfers Entering Western in the Fall, 2013 (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: prior engagement and experiences, the college application process, course scheduling, academic skills and goals, major choice, expenses and employment, and demographics. In addition to these, various Western offices submitted questions that dealt with academic advising and 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 1,042 transfer students entering the fall of 2013, OSR received responses from 724, a response rate of 69.5%.

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 (55.1% of respondents versus 51.6% of all transfers) and were more likely to be first generation college students (44.5% of respondents versus 39.6% of all transfers). On the other hand, respondents and non-respondents were nearly identical in terms of ethnicity, SAT, prior collegiate GPAs, admission index, mean and median age, 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 was 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, 30% expressed some level of dissatisfaction with their schedule, five percentage points higher than the 2012 survey results and ten percentage points higher than 2011. The most common reasons given for the dissatisfaction were that their desired courses were full or were offered at times conflicting with other courses.

The median transfer student expects to take 6 quarters to graduate from Western, about the same as in the 2010 and 2011 surveys. However, about one-fourth of transfers expect to take 9 or more quarters to graduate, an amount slightly below that among 2012 transfer students.

Relative to 2012, 2013 transfers are more sure of their future academic major, with 67% of students responding that they are certain of what they will study (up from 2012 figure of 63%). 90% of transfers expect to declare a major sometime during their first year on campus. Among transfer students, Biology (7%), Psychology (8%) and English (6%) and PEHR (6%) are the most frequently listed expected majors to declare. Over the coming year, transfers expect to work for pay 16.7 hours per week, an amount about one-half of one hour per week higher than the prior year.

OSR is pleased to share its data with interested campus 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 2,583 responding to the survey due to question branching, random selection of respondents for certain questions, and survey attrition.
2. In many cases percentages do not sum to one hundred because of rounding.
3. A blank space indicates no respondent chose that response option. A report of 0% indicates that the percent of responses rounded down to, but is not equal with, zero.
4. This report presents responses from all students completing any question regardless of whether the respondent completed the survey or not.

### The Office of Survey Research

The Office of Survey Research provides high quality survey research and other applied social science research that supports the mission of Western Washington University. In particular, OSR surveys students, alumni, graduates, employers, and the campus community to provide valuable assessment data and analysis of reports which can be used for improvement of programs, instruction, faculty scholarship, and information services. OSR is responsible for developing and administering the Western Educational Longitudinal Study (WELS), Western's Alumni Surveys, and Western's exit surveys of graduating students.

<http://www.wvu.edu/osr/>

## A. Characteristics of Fall 2013 Transfer Students and Survey Respondents

### A.1. Characteristics of Fall 2013 Transfer Students and Survey Respondents

	Non-Respondents	Respondents	All Fall 2013 Transfers
N	318	724	1,042
Male	56.3%	44.9%	48.4%
Caucasian	74.2%	75.3%	75.0%
Black	1.9%	3.2%	2.8%
Hispanic	6.3%	7.0%	6.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	9.4%	9.3%	9.3%
Native American	2.8%	3.2%	3.1%
Other/Unknown	1.3%	0.8%	1.0%
International	4.1%	1.2%	2.1%
Mean admission index*	48.9	49.8	49.6
Median admission index*	49	53	51
Mean math SAT*	554	554	554
Mean verbal SAT*	551	559	557
Mean cumulative GPA from prior colleges	3.22	3.26	3.25
Mean age	21.4	22.0	21.8
Median age	20	20	20
First generation college student	28.6%	44.5%	39.6%
Washington residency	69.2%	91.0%	84.4%
OR high school*	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%
ID high school*	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
AK high school*	0.3%	0.7%	0.6%
Mean hours transferred to WWU	84.2	88.8	87.6
Peak Fall 2013 WWU hours registered	12.9	13.4	13.3
Transferred from 2-year college	77.2%	80.5%	79.5%

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

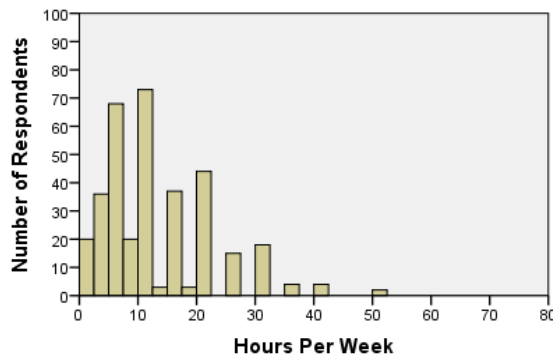
## B. Previous College: Engagement and Experiences

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	359	11%	11%	40%	18%	21%
Used tutoring services for help	358	50%	11%	17%	5%	17%
Asked a teacher for help when I had difficulties in a course	357	10%	11%	30%	18%	31%
Talked about course material I was learning with someone other than a teacher	358	2%	3%	13%	12%	71%

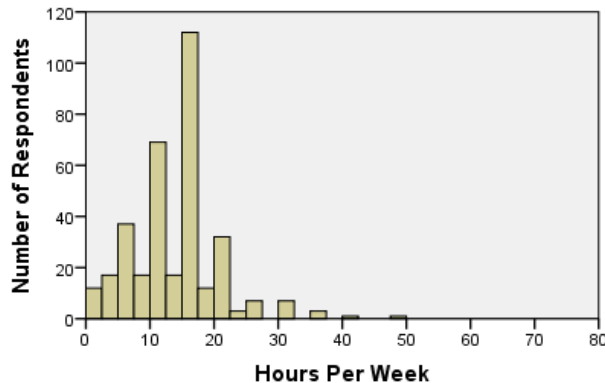
B.2. During your last quarter or semester at {the respondent's previous college}, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following? (OSR excluded values > 80 hours) (Asked of 50% of respondents at random).

### B.2.a. Studying for classes



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
347	12.40	10	0	50	9.01

### B.2.b. Attending classes

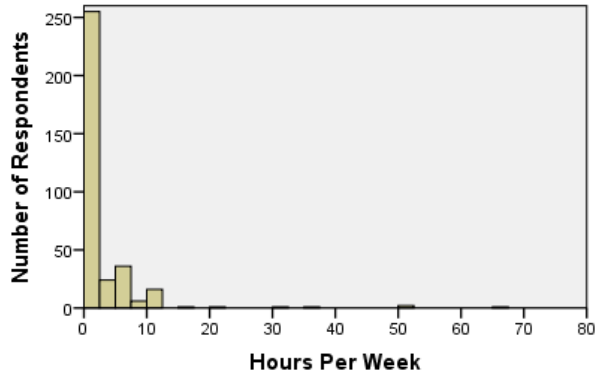


N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
347	13.32	15	0	49	6.71

## Previous College: Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

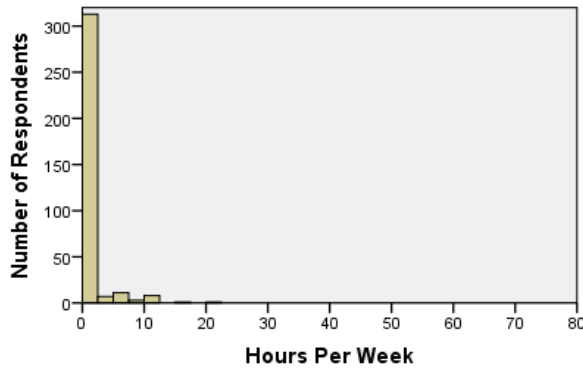
B.2. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester at {the respondent's previous college}, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

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



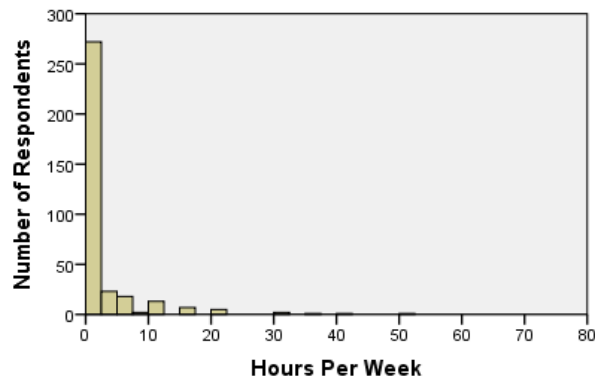
N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
344	2.43	0	0	67	6.36

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



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Deviation
344	0.84	0	0	20	2.37

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



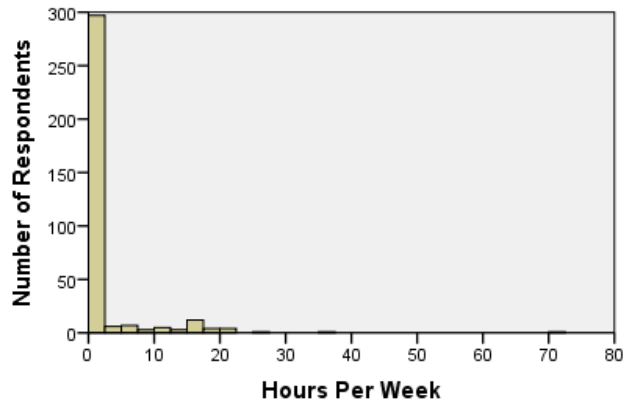
N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
345	2.29	0	0	50	5.73



## Previous College: Engagement and Experiences (cont.)

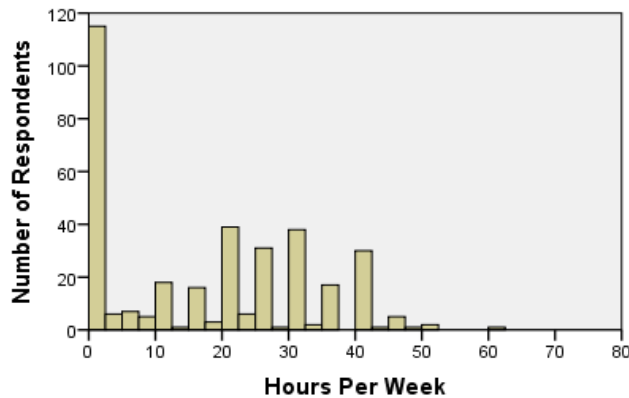
B.2. (cont.) During your last quarter or semester at {the respondent's previous college}, how many hours per week (on average) did you spend doing each of the following?

B.2.f. Working for pay on campus



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
344	1.90	0	0	72	6.23

B.2.g. Working for pay off campus



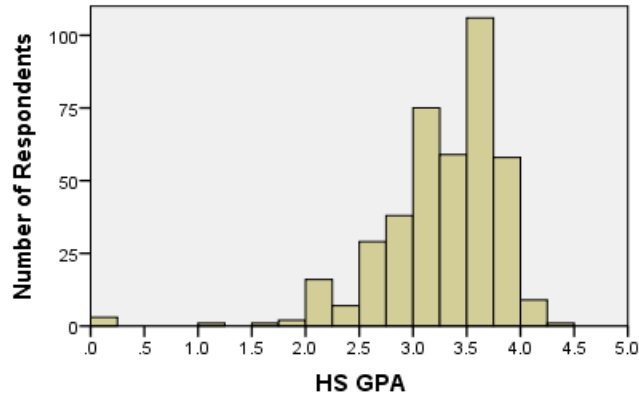
N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
345	16.90	20	0	60	15.00

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}	636	3%	10%	10%	37%	40%
The high school you graduated from	686	6%	11%	19%	36%	28%

## 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
405	3.24	3.4	0	4.3	0.58

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

N	706
Yes	28%
No	72%

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

N	706
Yes	2%
No	98%

## 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}	135	56%	18%	13%	8%	6%
My total financial cost was low	135	33%	10%	18%	21%	18%
I was interested in a specific academic program	135	19%	11%	16%	27%	27%
{The respondent's previous college} had a good academic reputation	135	13%	6%	24%	33%	24%
{The respondent's previous college} was close to home	135	46%	5%	18%	17%	14%
{The respondent's previous college} was far away from home	134	46%	18%	18%	13%	5%
I liked the size of the community in which {the respondent's previous college} was located	134	23%	15%	32%	23%	7%
I liked the size of {the respondent's previous college}	135	18%	14%	27%	31%	10%
I liked the recreational opportunities in the area	133	32%	11%	20%	24%	14%
The religious orientation at {the respondent's previous college} fit with my own	135	73%	7%	14%	2%	3%
{The respondent's previous college} had a Greek system	133	83%	4%	8%	2%	3%
I played on a varsity athletic team	133	82%	2%	5%	2%	10%
{The respondent's previous college} offered opportunities to participate in art and music events	135	44%	13%	20%	12%	11%

## 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	555	8%	7%	17%	30%	38%
I wanted to finish the requirements for an associates degree	552	10%	6%	8%	26%	50%
I wanted to earn a specific certificate or degree offered at {the respondent's previous college}	549	39%	12%	18%	15%	16%
It was less expensive than a four-year school	547	5%	3%	11%	19%	62%
I was not accepted at the four year school(s) to which I applied	549	81%	4%	6%	4%	5%
I wanted to strengthen my academic record	549	19%	11%	23%	25%	22%
I missed the application deadline for four-year school(s)	548	83%	6%	6%	4%	3%
I continued at the same two-year college I had attended for Running Start	166	24%	4%	14%	20%	38%
I was unsure about my direction	548	30%	10%	18%	22%	20%
Friends or family were attending {the respondent's previous college}	551	65%	10%	13%	9%	3%
{The respondent's previous college} offered opportunities to participate in art and music events	552	71%	10%	10%	5%	4%

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## 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	339	52%	17%	16%	10%	4%
A Western faculty member recruited me	334	86%	5%	6%	2%	1%
An instructor, teacher or advisor encouraged me to go to Western	337	60%	10%	13%	12%	5%
I am interested in a specific academic program at Western	341	12%	5%	12%	26%	44%
Western has a good academic reputation	339	2%	3%	14%	38%	43%
Western has a good reputation for its social activities	340	12%	10%	22%	27%	29%
Western is more affordable than my other choices	339	12%	10%	21%	25%	31%
Western offered me financial assistance	339	38%	9%	15%	15%	24%
I want to live near home	336	34%	12%	18%	19%	17%
I want to live far away from home	337	60%	14%	15%	6%	6%
I like the size of Western	341	8%	8%	26%	32%	26%
I like the size of Bellingham	340	8%	8%	23%	32%	30%
I like the recreational opportunities in this area	337	11%	7%	21%	28%	33%
Western does not have a Greek system	338	49%	10%	17%	11%	14%
I will be playing on a varsity athletic team	337	86%	3%	8%	1%	1%
Western offers opportunities to participate in arts and music events	338	35%	13%	27%	13%	12%

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.4. How did you first learn about Western? (Asked of 50% of respondents at random.)

N	366
A parent/sibling/relative told me about Western	30%
A friend told me about Western	27%
A coach or teacher told me about Western	8%
I attended a field trip to Western	4%
An admissions counselor visited my school	2%
I spoke with an admissions counselor at a college fair	2%
I conducted a general college web search	10%
I conducted a search for institutions that participate in the Western Undergraduate Exchange program	0%
While I was researching Bellingham	1%
I grew up in Whatcom County and learned about Western by living nearby	11%
Western contacted me	1%
Other	4%

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C.4.a. How did you first learn about Western? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.4.) (N=14) (Responses included: "Living in Washington/Local area"; "Moved to Bellingham for husband's work. Desired to continue education".) (Text responses available on request.)

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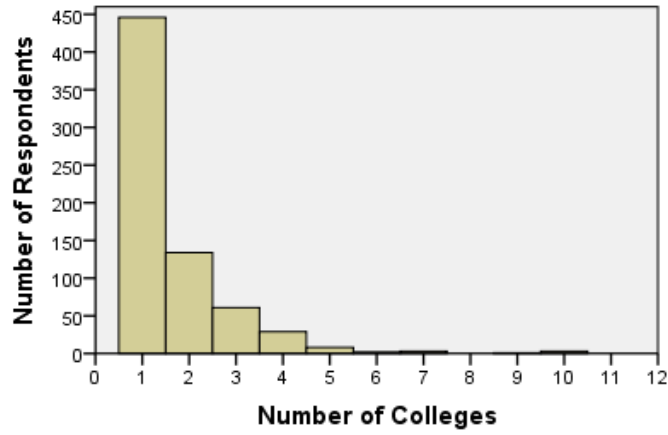
C.5. When did you first learn about Western? (Asked of 50% of respondents at random.)

N	366
Before entering high school	29%
As a high school freshmen or sophomore	21%
As a high school junior	16%
As a high school senior	11%
After high school	24%

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## College Application Process (cont.)

C.6. 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.7. if it exceeded response in C.6.)



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
687	1.64	1	1	10	1.18

## College Application Process (cont.)

C.7. To which of the following four-year colleges did you apply for this fall?

N	685
Western Washington University	100%
University of Washington - Seattle	13%
Central Washington University	7%
Washington State University - Pullman	6%
University of Washington - Bothell	3%
Eastern Washington University	3%
Seattle University	3%
Evergreen State College	2%
Seattle Pacific University	2%
University of Oregon	2%
Oregon State University	1%
Pacific Lutheran University	1%
University of Portland	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	1%
University of Puget Sound	1%
Gonzaga University	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
University of Montana	0%
Washington State University - Spokane	0%
University of British Columbia	0%
Lewis & Clark College	0%
Whitman College	0%
Linfield College	0%
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	0%
Willamette University	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	685
Western Washington University	86%
University of Washington - Seattle	5%
Seattle University	1%
Seattle Pacific University	0%
University of Puget Sound	0%
Central Washington University	0%
Evergreen State College	0%
Pacific Lutheran University	0%
Washington State University - Pullman	0%
Oregon State University	0%
University of British Columbia	0%
University of Oregon	0%
University of Portland	0%
University of Washington - Bothell	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Whitman College	0%
Eastern Washington University	
Gonzaga University	
Lewis & Clark College	
Linfield College	
University of Colorado at Boulder	
University of Montana	
University of Washington - Tacoma	
Washington State University - Spokane	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
Willamette University	
Other	1%
Did not specify first choice	5%

C.8.a. Which school was your *first* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.8.) (N=6)  
 (Responses included: Bastyr University; Walla Walla University.) (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	685
Western Washington University	7%
University of Washington - Seattle	6%
Washington State University - Pullman	3%
Central Washington University	2%
Eastern Washington University	1%
University of Washington - Bothell	1%
Evergreen State College	1%
Seattle University	1%
Oregon State University	0%
Seattle Pacific University	0%
University of Oregon	0%
University of Montana	0%
University of Portland	0%
University of Washington - Tacoma	0%
Gonzaga University	0%
Pacific Lutheran University	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
University of Puget Sound	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Lewis & Clark College	
Linfield College	
University of British Columbia	
Washington State University - Spokane	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
Whitman College	
Willamette University	
Other	4%
Did not specify second choice	4%
Applied only to Western	65%

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C.9.a. Which school was your *second* choice? (Asked of respondents who answered "other" in C.9.) (N=9) (Responses included: Southern Oregon University; Saint Martin's 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.)

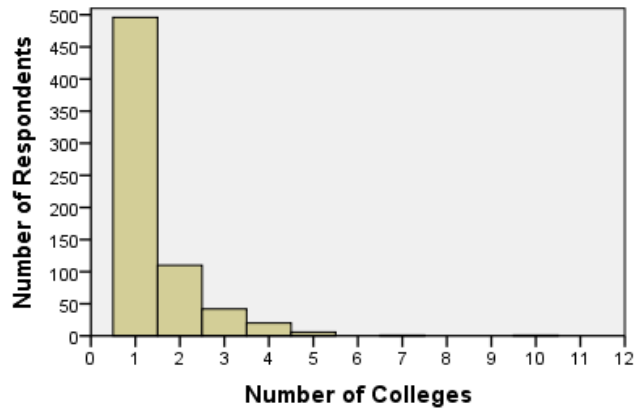
N	685
Washington State University - Pullman	2%
Central Washington University	2%
University of Washington - Bothell	1%
Western Washington University	1%
University of Oregon	1%
University of Washington - Seattle	1%
Eastern Washington University	1%
Seattle University	1%
Evergreen State College	0%
Oregon State University	0%
Washington State University - Spokane	0%
Lewis & Clark College	0%
University of Portland	0%
University of Puget Sound	0%
Gonzaga University	
Linfield College	
Pacific Lutheran University	
Seattle Pacific University	
University of British Columbia	
University of Colorado at Boulder	
University of Montana	
University of Washington - Tacoma	
Washington State University - Vancouver	
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	
Whitman College	
Willamette University	
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: Stanford University; St. Martin's.)

## 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
676	1.43	1	1	10	0.90

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	674
Western Washington University	100%
Central Washington University	6%
University of Washington - Seattle	5%
Washington State University - Pullman	5%
Eastern Washington University	3%
Evergreen State College	2%
University of Washington - Bothell	2%
Oregon State University	1%
Pacific Lutheran University	1%
Seattle Pacific University	1%
Seattle University	1%
University of Oregon	1%
University of Portland	1%
University of Washington - Tacoma	1%
Gonzaga University	0%
Lewis & Clark College	0%
Linfield College	0%
University of British Columbia	0%
University of Colorado at Boulder	0%
University of Montana	0%
University of Puget Sound	0%
Washington State University - Vancouver	0%
Washington State University - Spokane	0%
Washington State University - Tri-Cities	0%
Whitman College	0%
Willamette University	0%

## D. Class Schedule and Expectations

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

N	686
I have not yet registered for classes	13%
Very dissatisfied	9%
Somewhat dissatisfied	21%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9%
Somewhat satisfied	29%
Very satisfied	19%

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

N	204
The classes I need to take were full	91%
The classes I need to take are scheduled at conflicting times	36%
My classes are spread too far across campus	1%
My classes are spread too far throughout the day	13%
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	7%
My classes end too late in the evening	6%
One or more of my classes meet every day	5%
Other	12%

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=30) (Responses included: "Very limited options."; "I wasn't able to register for a class because the school doesn't know that I took the prerequisite.") (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	319	42%	33%	19%	6%	1%
Preparing for and presenting my work in front of a class	315	29%	29%	23%	14%	7%
Completing coursework and reading on time	319	39%	33%	21%	7%	1%
Getting good grades	319	23%	40%	21%	12%	3%
Managing my finances	318	15%	27%	26%	24%	7%

## 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	327	1%	2%	25%	51%	21%
Oral communication skills	330	1%	7%	41%	38%	13%
Critically evaluate information	330	1%	2%	27%	52%	18%
Work or learn independently	330	1%	2%	24%	42%	30%
Work cooperatively in a group	327	1%	4%	28%	49%	18%
Appreciation of the arts	328	2%	11%	33%	31%	24%
Apply scientific principles and methods	329	1%	12%	47%	30%	10%
Apply quantitative principles and methods	327	2%	13%	48%	27%	10%
Awareness of cultural and social differences among people	327	1%	3%	24%	41%	32%
Using computing and information technology	329	1%	9%	43%	32%	16%
Use library resources for research	329	1%	9%	53%	28%	9%
Identify and analyze complex problems	328	0%	2%	44%	40%	13%

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

N	682
Spring 2014	3%
Summer 2014 through winter 2015	5%
Spring 2015	37%
Summer 2015 through winter 2016	30%
Spring 2016	18%
Summer 2016 or later	8%

## Academic Skills and goals (cont.)

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

N	673
Bachelor's (B.A., B.S., etc.)	30%
Master's (M.A., M.S., etc.)	47%
Professional (M.D., D.O, D.D.S., D.V.M., J.D., etc.)	6%
Doctorate (Ph.D. or Ed.D., etc.)	17%

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

N	676
Less than high school	6%
High school graduate	19%
Some college or post-high school education	24%
Community college degree	12%
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	27%
Master's degree or equivalent	11%
Law degree, medical degree, or Ph.D.	2%

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

N	676
Less than high school	6%
High school graduate	20%
Some college or post-high school education	21%
Community college degree	7%
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	29%
Master's degree or equivalent	12%
Law degree, medical degree, or Ph.D.	5%

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## 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
681	76%	13%	9%	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	80
Transfer	79%
Not attend	21%

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	17
Finances	65%
Academic performance	12%
Unsure of my direction	59%
Employment opportunity	41%
A college education isn't important to me	12%
Barriers to declaring my major of choice	18%
Lack of diversity at Western	
Personal health	12%
Other	12%



## 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	60
Western doesn't offer the major that interests me	10%
Another school has a better program in my field	33%
Another school would challenge me more than Western	10%
Western is too big or too small	7%
Difficulty getting the classes I need	25%
Barriers to declaring my major of choice	5%
Weather, recreation opportunities, or location in general	12%
Academic performance	3%
Finances	22%
Personal health	5%
To do something or go somewhere new and different	38%
To be closer to home	10%
To be further from home	7%
To be with friends or a significant other	15%
Not fitting in at Western	17%
Lack of diversity at Western	7%
Other	27%

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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=6) (Responses included: "aeronautical engineering", "Criminal Justice"). (Text responses available on request.)

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## 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
680	2%	32%	67%

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

N	Yes	No
679	65%	35%

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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
456	36%	64%

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

N	678
An advisor at your transfer school	36%
A Western Admissions Counselor	29%
Western's website	82%
A departmental advisor or faculty member at Western	48%
Western's Academic Advising Center	16%
Western's Major Guides	53%
Western's Online Catalog	55%
Other	10%
None	2%

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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	290
During my first quarter at Western	50%
During winter, spring or summer quarter of my first year	40%
During my second year	4%
I don't know	6%

## 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	290
I am unaware of the process to declare my major	29%
I don't yet meet the requirements of my major	57%
It is not urgent that I declare my major now	20%
Other	12%

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

N	453
Before high school	5%
During high school	21%
During your first year at your transfer institution	33%
After your first year at your transfer institution	41%

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.)

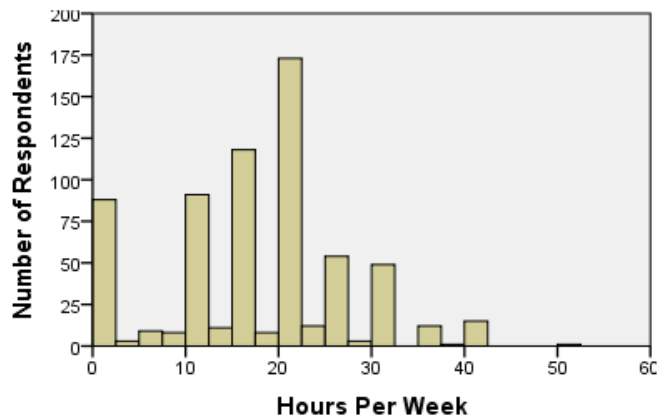
N	441	General Studies	
Accounting	3%	Geography	0%
Anthropology	3%	Geology	1%
Art	4%	History	2%
Biology	7%	Human Services and Rehabilitation	3%
Chemistry	1%	Interdisciplinary Arts	0%
Communication	3%	Journalism	3%
Communication Sciences & Disorders	3%	Liberal Studies	0%
Computer Science	5%	Linguistics	1%
Dance Program	0%	Management	4%
Decision Sciences	1%	Mathematics	2%
East Asian Studies	1%	Modern and Classical Languages	2%
Economics	3%	Music	3%
Educational Curriculum and Instruction	1%	Philosophy	1%
Elementary Education	4%	Physical Education, Health & Recreation	6%
Engineering Technology	3%	Physics and Astronomy	1%
English	6%	Political Science	2%
Environmental Sciences	3%	Psychology	8%
Environmental Studies	2%	Secondary Education	1%
Fairhaven College	1%	Sociology	1%
Finance & Marketing	2%	Special Education	1%
Finance, Marketing & Decision Sciences	1%	Theatre Arts and Dance	1%

## 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.)	660	31%	14%	12%	10%	12%	21%
My own resources (savings, employment, other income)	650	11%	31%	27%	17%	7%	7%
Aid which need not be repaid (grants, scholarships, military funding, etc.)	644	41%	10%	9%	10%	12%	17%
Aid which must be repaid (loans, etc.)	646	39%	3%	7%	13%	17%	20%

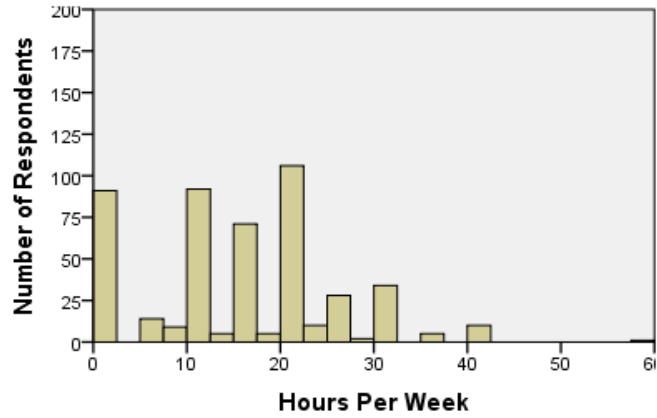
G.2. During the coming year, about how many hours per week do you hope to work while attending Western?



N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
656	16.68	17.5	0	50	9.6

## 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
484	14.81	15	0	60	10.3

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## 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	344
Laptop computer	91%
Desktop computer	15%
Tablet computer	14%
Cell phone	95%
E-book reader	15%
Other wi-fi enabled device	18%
None of the above	0%

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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	192
Smart phone	79%
Texting (with texting plan)	76%
None of the above	2%

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# I. Demographics and Comments

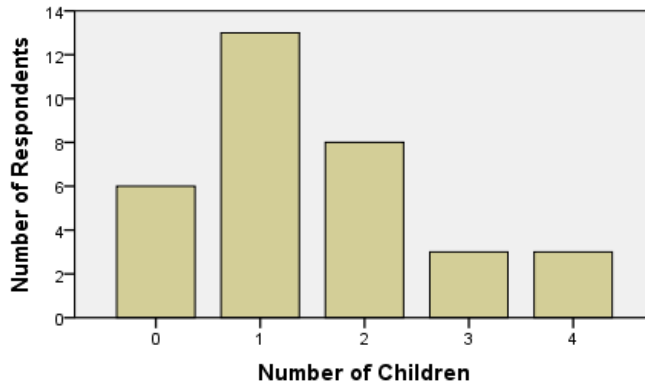
I.1. What is your marital status?

N	Single, never married	Married (or legal equivalent)	Single, divorced	Single, widowed
678	93%	5%	2%	

I.2. Do you have children?

N	Yes	No
679	5%	95%

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	1.52	1	0	4	1.16

I.3. Please use the space below for any additional comments or suggestions. (Open-ended question asked of all respondents.) (N=112) (Text responses available on request.)