

Entering Student Survey, 2001: Methodology and Response Frequencies

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INTRODUCTION

As part of a comprehensive, longitudinal study that examines student and alumni views about their education at the University of Washington (UW), the Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) periodically surveys entering UW students. These surveys seek to describe student backgrounds, assess students' aspirations at UW, and explore student perceptions of the UW community. This report summarizes the methodology used for the 2001 Entering Student Survey, presents tables of response frequencies, and provides comparisons between freshman and transfer student responses.

METHODOLOGY

Participants

The Seattle campus entering class of Autumn 2001 consisted of 5,382 first-time, first-year students ("freshmen") and 1,841 transfer students, for a total of 7,223 entering undergraduates. Of these undergraduates, 4,865 attended a "freshman" session of the New Student Orientation Program during the summer of 2001 and 1,164 attended an orientation session designed for transfer students. For this report, students have been classified as freshman or transfer according to the type of orientation session they attended.

As the 6,029 students that attended orientation checked in to their sessions, they were asked to complete the Entering Student Survey. A total of 2,751 students (2,283 freshmen and 468 transfer students) did so, resulting in a response rate of 38.1% for the Autumn 2001, Seattle campus, entering undergraduates.

Survey Instrument

The Entering Student Survey includes 23 closed-ended items. The first set of items asks students about their academic backgrounds and their parents' academic backgrounds. Subsequent survey items inquire about students' expectations, aspirations, reasons for choosing to attend UW, and any concerns they might have about attending UW. Students are also surveyed on perceptions about their skills, their prior volunteer experiences, and their history of computer usage. The final set of items asks students about their comfort level with various aspects of the UW experience. The questionnaire is provided here in PDF format:

[Entering Student Survey](#)

RESPONSE FREQUENCIES

Responses frequencies for each of the items on the Entering Student Survey are provided in PDF format:

[Response Frequencies](#)

Freshmen student responses were compared to those of students who transferred from another post-secondary institution. The comparisons are reported in PDF format:

[Freshman-Transfer Comparisons](#)