

Entering Student Survey, 2002: Methodology and Response Frequencies

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INTRODUCTION

The Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) periodically surveys groups of students and alumni regarding their expectations of and experiences at the University of Washington. The goal of these surveys is to describe student backgrounds, assess student aspirations at UW, and explore student perceptions of UW academics and community life. This report summarizes the methodology used for the 2002 Entering Student Survey, presents tables of response frequencies, and provides comparisons between freshman and transfer students' responses.

METHODOLOGY

Participants.

The Seattle campus entering class in Autumn 2001 consisted of 4,751 first-time, first-year students (freshmen) and 1,675 transfer students, for a total of 6,426 entering undergraduates. Of these undergraduates, 4,942 attended either a freshman or transfer session of the New Student Orientation Program during the summer of 2001. For the purposes of this report, students have been classified as "freshmen" or "transfer" students according to the type of orientation they attended.

As the students checked in to their orientation sessions, they were asked to complete the Entering Student Survey. A total of 2,881 students (2,469 freshmen and 412 transfer students) did so, resulting in a response rate of 44.83% for the Autumn 2001, Seattle campus, entering undergraduates.

Survey Instrument.

The Entering Student Survey consists of 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 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

Response frequencies for each of the items on the Entering Student Survey were tabulated. In addition, responses of those who attended freshmen orientations were compared to responses of those who attended transfer student sessions. (Only those comparisons for which significant group differences were found are reported.) The report is provided below in PDF format:

[Response frequency tables](#)