

Office of Educational Assessment

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**Survey Of Older Than Average Students
At The University Of Washington**

**Appendix D.
Verbatim Comments**

Nana Lowell
Gerald M. Gillmore

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COMMENTS

These comments were made in response to the following:

Please briefly describe any age discrimination you have experienced and/or comment on any question.

- 002 g Office hours to see faculty are too limiting - 2 hrs. a week during business hours - not very realistic for a self-supporting person. Classes are not offered at very accommodating times for working people. Office people: some are very helpful and some are darn rude. Coming back to the University after being away for 10 years was a frightening and aggravating experience that I still resent. Free 1 hr. parking on campus should be made available and monitored.
- 005 g No problems whatsoever. It's simply hard to attend daytime classes and maintain a daytime job, but all classes can't be offered evenings. The most difficult problem is that of finding study partners. One needs to have more time to spend on campus to get acquainted with fellow classmates. Other than that, I've been very satisfied.
- 008 g 1) Faculty should bring all class materials to class for distribution. Working students do not have time to stand in lines at copy centers.
2) Faculty should teach from material in textbooks. Off-campus students don't have time to hang around campus for assistance from profs at their convenience.
3) The biggest problem is that all instruction is geared toward the on-campus student. Don't assume I hang around here all day! Campus resources are irrelevant. Provide options!
- 010 g My only complaint, and it is minor, is that classes in my program are offered at inconvenient times, such as the middle of the day. More evening classes would be appreciated.
- 011 u The System does not take into account special circumstances of older students who must schedule courses around work and family obligations. More night courses would be very helpful and Professors could take these considerations into account when assigning the work load for a particular class. For example, four term papers and six books to read for just one course alone is excessive for a student who works full time and/or has a family to care for.
- 016 u Faculty like to "joke" about events that were "before your time." I really resent this, since it makes me feel unnoticed, uncounted, misunderstood. I do remember JFK, the 60's etc. I am 35, and I am graduating and glad to be done. I look forward to graduate school someday where I won't be part of the "masses"!
- 025 u The lower division courses' discussion sections are awkward in that the experience gap prevents real discussion with my fellow students.
In upper division courses the more numerous graduate students make the classroom more comfortable.
- 026 g Hey - I'm not really that old!
- 028 g None I can think of.

- 029 g I am an adult. Yes, at 38 I finally admit it. While the student life isn't a holiday cruise I count myself among the privileged because I'm not 9 to 5'ing it.
My age group may be discriminated against but this is lost on me because I am more aware of the subtle discrimination against students in general. I am appalled at the way some of my coevals treat the young adults. I only hope my graying presence minimizes this elitist bullying.
Good luck America. Up the revolution.
- 030 g I have 4 children and a working wife so I spent all my time either studying or raising my family. I don't require nor have I sought University assistance or contacts except for financial aid.
- 031 g Those who are of the opinion that an advanced degree must result in a greater income or "higher" position have often expressed doubts about the benefits forthcoming to a student over 40. Money is a serious concern to this type of person. Agism seems to depend on personal values.
- 034 u In regards to the faculty advice - my program requires yearly contact with a faculty member. I dislike this, but feel that by being an older student I "generate" a more respectful and appreciative attitude on the part of the faculty.
- 036 g Not discrimination - but I'd like to make a comment: As an adult, working in the "real world" I have come to expect consideration & respect in my dealings with other persons - & of course give them in return. However, at the UW (from various staff i.e. - library, Schmitz Hall) this has not always been my experience. If, in the "real world" I or anyone else were to experience this, my business would be taken elsewhere - Thankfully these instances are few and far between, but still are amazing to me that they occur at all!
- 038 u People say the average age on campus is about 27 or so. Judging by my experience, this is because there is one retiree for every 5-6 eighteen year olds. The statistic is misleading. Students in my age group are the biggest minority on campus & it would be nice if some social events were geared toward us. We are so rare that we seldom cross paths otherwise.
- 039 g Family Housing unit staff are very unkind. I was very frustrated when I applied for family housing and gave up applying for it.
- 042 g I've been at the U since I was an undergrad so I "grew up" in the system. I was a TA during my grad school years and am currently employed by the UW so my relationship to the U and student body is probably very different than other older students.
- 043 u Instructors are sometimes condescending to the students in general as to their knowledge and/or motivation to learn. Also material presented assumes little historical background which many of the older students possess. This isn't a big problem, it's more an attitude than a hindrance.
Adequate low cost private housing for older students is a big problem. Very difficult to find and/or afford.
- 044 g - lack of special funding
- career counseling/financial aid counseling
- special scholarships/loan programs
- daycare for kids
- daycare for off campus jobs
- 045 u Age discrimination only in the scheduling and lack of flexibility of class hours and offerings.

- 047 g The classes required are not set up for people that also have to work.
- 048 u Resources need to be made available & presented to reach our attention regarding making adjustments from a working situation/environment to university level expectation about changes to expect and meet in home life once enrolled in a full-time program such as nursing. Also having an orientation geared towards older students would be of some benefit. Especially for those whose family members never entered college & who were "breaking ground." For those of us who weren't able to begin college at age 18 due to lack of financing, knowledge of the "system" & encouragement from our families - This is important.
- 053 u People estimate my age as 25 yrs so I fit in well w/younger group.
- 057 u Questions 26-42 did not apply to me or I honestly didn't know the answer, so I responded as neutral! I suspect that I am an exception to the rule, regarding older students, since my husband is supporting me and my education, and I am able to attend full-time, without the responsibility of a job or the financial worries many older students must face!
- 059 u I have had two TA's behave toward me in a manner which made me feel inferior because I could not respond fast enough (to learning). They have actually been humiliating!
- 065 u I can't recall a single instance where I felt my age was a problem in contacts with faculty, other students or financial aid officers. And I feel comfortable with and well accepted by the students and faculty in the School of Communications. I'm very happy with my experience as an OTA student at UW all around.
- 070 g I enrolled over the phone. I was very impressed with the professionalism of those I spoke with and with the way the whole procedure was handled. It was very easy. I liked that a lot! I was interested in a graduate program. But - the way the classes were scheduled I'd have to quit my job for one year. That doesn't make economic sense for me. Thus - I'm not going to pursue it.
- 074 g I observe fewer older students here than I did for my BS degree or masters. This may or may not be true but, the rigor your University offers may partly be responsible (esp for senior citizens). Thank you for this opportunity.
- 080 g I feel that older students have a great deal of life experience which often goes beyond the academic experience. These life experiences don't seem to be allowed to be expressed by older students and, a great deal of knowledge is lost to younger students when they don't get a chance to explore the experiences and knowledge of older students. Need more programs for older students that have to work for a living and are unable to attend full-time programs. Need non-traditional programs to take advantage of older students life experience.
- 082 u I have definitely not experienced any age discrimination.
- 085 g It is not uncommon for college to be oriented toward youth and at times kids. There is an anonymous student body comprised of young to middle aged adults i.e., 25-40 yrs. And, there seems to be little student body assoc. resource allocated toward such students at the U. Wash. Ideally, older students could meet and strengthen the learning process for all students. A GPSS program that is much more than a private interest or special interest pet project group would be a good start.