

Research Report

Addendum: Transfer Students The Attitudes of Second-Year College Students

Included in this addendum are the findings from the Research Report: The Attitudes of Second-Year College Students by transfer status. These data show the percentage of students within each group that agreed with each item.

For a demographic breakdown of the respondents, please see page 7.

To access the Research Report: The Attitudes of Second-Year College Students, visit www.noellevitz.com/SecondYearAttitudes

About the transfer classification in this addendum

To report their transfer status, students responded to this item:

The statement that describes my current college enrollment is:

- I enrolled here with no previous college credits.
- I enrolled here with dual-enrollment credits earned while in high school.
- I transferred here from a community college.
- I transferred here from a four-year college or university.

A total of 1,293 students from the original data set of 8,613 indicated transfer status. Their responses are included in this addendum.



Table I: Motivational Data for Second-Year Transfer Students by Institution Type, Benchmarked With Overall Motivation

Listed below are the percentages of transfer students that agreed with 28 motivational items included in the pilot survey instrument, the Second-Year Student Assessment. The data are displayed by institution type and compared with overall national percentages.

All survey items	Transfer students at 4-year private institutions	Transfer students at 4-year public institutions	Transfer students at 2-year institutions (public and private)	National percentages for all second-year students
Academic confidence				
I am able to grasp complicated ideas.	84.2%	87.9%	92.7%	88.2%
I have a good memory of the information that my instructors present in class.	81.6%	81.5%	87.9%	82.0%
During an exam, I'm able to concentrate and keep my thoughts well organized.	74.2%	75.0%	85.7%	79.3%
I am good at figuring out what material is most important for an exam.	76.6%	80.2%	86.2%	79.2%
Commitment to college				
I am strongly dedicated to finishing college – no matter what obstacles get in the way.	94.5%	95.1%	96.3%	95.1%
I am quite confident that my decision to go to college was right for me.	91.4%	93.7%	97.2%	93.4%
The total college experience is very rewarding.	81.8%	79.1%	84.4%	84.6%
Of all the things I could do at this point in my life, going to college is definitely the most satisfying.	80.1%	80.2%	84.0%	83.0%
Engaged learning				
I feel as though I'm learning things in my classes that are worthwhile to me as a person.	84.5%	85.0%	91.5%	87.4%
I can usually find ways of applying what I'm learning in class to something else in my life.	83.1%	82.8%	89.4%	82.9%
I find myself thinking about what I'm learning in class even when I'm not in class.	76.8%	84.2%	89.6%	80.2%
I feel energized by the ideas I'm learning in most of my classes.	76.7%	79.1%	86.0%	80.1%

RATING SCALE								
NOT AT ALL TRUE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	COMPLETELY TRUE

For the items in Table I, agreement was defined as the aggregated number of students who selected a rating of 5, 6, or 7.

To see a sample copy of the survey instrument used in this study, please contact Jo Hillman at 1-866-982-4244 or jo-hillman@noellevitz.com.

Table I, continued

All survey items	Transfer students at 4-year private institutions	Transfer students at 4-year public institutions	Transfer students at 2-year institutions (public and private)	National percentages for all second-year students
Leadership				
Most people have a lot of trust in my judgment and opinions.	90.0%	88.2%	92.5%	91.1%
Many people consider me an effective leader and look to me for direction.	73.5%	75.6%	82.9%	76.0%
When I'm in a group, others often turn to me as the group's leader.	71.2%	72.3%	79.7%	71.6%
Over the years, I have frequently been selected as a spokesperson or group leader.	61.5%	62.9%	69.4%	62.2%
Transition				
I feel comfortable with the changes in lifestyle that occur in college.	81.5%	84.0%	87.2%	86.2%
I feel good about the way I have adapted to the college social environment.	75.4%	71.7%	81.0%	81.9%
It has been easy for me to adapt to my college living arrangements.	78.5%	78.3%	78.2%	81.1%
I have many friends and feel at home here.	66.8%	59.8%	71.5%	74.3%
It has been easy for me to make friends in college.	62.6%	58.0%	68.5%	72.8%
Family support				
My family respects my judgment on most decisions.	83.4%	81.5%	86.1%	85.6%
I have always felt that the rest of my family was firmly behind me.	81.7%	80.7%	80.2%	84.8%
I feel comfortable discussing important issues with my family.	81.8%	83.2%	86.0%	82.7%
My family and I understand each other's point of view.	77.8%	78.8%	81.4%	80.3%
Financial security				
I have the financial resources that I need to finish college.	47.5%	45.1%	47.9%	50.6%
I don't have any financial problems that will interfere with my studies.	43.6%	43.4%	45.4%	47.5%

Table II: Transfer Students’ Receptivity to Assistance Compared With Usage of Services in First Year, Benchmarked With Overall Receptivity of Second-Year Students

Listed in Table II are the percentages of transfer college students that responded “yes” to wanting to receive help this year in 15 specific areas and the percentage that indicated they received help last year in those areas. Data is provided by institution type. For comparison, the national second-year student receptivity data is also provided, both for those wanting to receive help this year and for those indicating they received help last year.

	Transfer students who would like to receive help this year				National percentages for second-year students	Transfer students who received help last year			
	Students at 4-year private institutions	Students at 4-year public institutions	Students at 2-year institutions (public and private)			Students at 4-year private institutions	Students at 4-year public institutions	Students at 2-year institutions (public and private)	National percentages for second-year students
Academic assistance									
Get help with study skills (time management, taking notes, concentrating, exam skills, etc.).	40.4%	44.6%	34.6%	38.1%	21.5%	24.5%	23.4%	29.9%	
Find tutors in one or more of my courses.	45.3%	47.4%	37.0%	41.9%	22.8%	23.1%	22.9%	28.2%	
Advising									
Select an academic program or major.	30.8%	42.4%	28.8%	36.1%	48.9%	53.2%	42.6%	53.6%	
Prepare a written academic plan for graduation.	58.8%	62.3%	48.0%	53.2%	25.9%	25.6%	24.5%	27.1%	
Figure out the impact of my grades on my desired major.	57.4%	63.4%	50.6%	58.8%	30.5%	32.0%	34.4%	24.5%	
Discuss transfer questions and issues.	36.6%	34.7%	58.0%	38.3%	46.7%	43.8%	36.1%	22.4%	
Career counseling									
Define goals suited to my major/career interest(s).	60.6%	64.8%	51.1%	59.2%	34.1%	38.5%	31.7%	41.8%	
Explore advantages and disadvantages of my career choice.	58.4%	63.4%	47.6%	56.1%	28.7%	30.4%	29.5%	33.7%	
Identify work experiences or internships related to my major.	72.0%	77.9%	60.6%	72.4%	24.6%	22.9%	24.0%	26.4%	

Table II, continued

	Transfer students who would like to receive help this year				Transfer students who received help last year			
	Students at 4-year private institutions	Students at 4-year public institutions	Students at 2-year institutions (public and private)	National percentages for second-year students	Students at 4-year private institutions	Students at 4-year public institutions	Students at 2-year institutions (public and private)	National percentages for second-year students
Financial guidance								
Find ways to balance the demands of school with work.	42.6%	44.1%	36.3%	39.0%	19.7%	20.7%	20.5%	22.9%
Discuss options for financing my education.	60.1%	62.8%	55.7%	56.1%	38.7%	35.8%	37.4%	36.1%
Find better ways to manage my personal finances, including loans, work, and credit cards.	47.2%	49.4%	44.5%	43.0%	19.5%	17.9%	16.7%	18.4%
Personal support and counseling								
Discuss difficulties in my personal relationships and social life.	28.2%	28.8%	22.2%	25.3%	15.3%	13.1%	11.2%	16.5%
Receive help with family issues that are distracting me.	21.9%	20.7%	21.1%	19.5%	10.7%	7.0%	9.7%	11.5%
Find ways to deal with emotional tensions that are bothering me.	31.9%	27.1%	26.4%	28.1%	14.8%	13.1%	12.1%	16.0%

I would like to receive assistance this year.			I received assistance last year.	
YES	NO		YES	NO
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Find tutors for one or more of my courses.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Rating scale used in Table II:

A simple yes/no rating scale was used for the items in Table II, as shown in this example.

Table III: Transfer Student Satisfaction (Institutional Impressions) Benchmarked Against Overall Satisfaction of Second-Year Students

Listed in Table III are the mean satisfaction scores of student responses to 13 survey items using the seven-point rating scale shown at the bottom.

**Mean satisfaction scores
(1 = low satisfaction, 7 = high satisfaction)**

All survey items	Item means for transfer students at 4-year private institutions	Item means for transfer students at 4-year public institutions	Item means for transfer students at 2-year institutions (public and private)	National means for second-year students
Frequency of interactions with my instructors	5.58	5.32	5.76	5.49
Frequency of communication with my academic advisor	4.63	4.34	4.42	4.83
Variety of majors available here	5.54	5.60	5.43	5.43
Variety of courses available in my (desired) major	5.45	5.43	5.27	5.34
Degree of academic challenge in my classes here	5.73	5.63	5.79	5.70
Opportunities to get involved in activities and events associated with my (desired) major	5.22	4.84	4.75	5.01
Availability of service learning, internships, and/or work experiences associated with my career interests	5.09	4.66	4.58	4.83
Adequacy of financial assistance available to me	4.40	4.35	4.79	4.63
Leadership opportunities in student government and other organizations	5.04	4.80	4.84	5.02
Social life (both on and off campus)	5.11	4.97	5.15	5.29
Level of interaction with other students	5.16	4.85	5.23	5.39
Sense of belonging to the college community	5.13	4.80	5.19	5.31
My overall experience as a student at this institution	5.61	5.45	5.80	5.71

RATING SCALE								
VERY DISSATISFIED	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	VERY SATISFIED

The figures shown in Table III are the mean responses to this seven-point scale.

Table IV: Respondent Demographics

All survey items	Students at 4-year private institutions	Students at 4-year public institutions	Students at 2-year institutions (public and private)	National overall percentages of second-year students
Number of respondents	433	374	486	8,616
Representation by institution type	33.5%	28.9%	37.6%	
The amount of time I am working at a job this term is approximately:				
0 (I do not work)	37.2%	38.5%	31.9%	37.4%
1 to 10 hours per week	20.1%	11.5%	10.3%	21.2%
11 to 20 hours per week	21.2%	19.8%	16.3%	19.6%
21 to 30 hours per week	9.0%	13.1%	15.2%	10.4%
31 to 40 hours per week	7.6%	9.1%	12.1%	7.0%
Over 40 hours per week	4.8%	8.0%	14.2%	4.6%
My current GPA is approximately:				
3.5 – 4.0	35.8%	38.8%	47.3%	42.0%
2.5 – 3.49	54.0%	50.5%	46.5%	48.3%
1.5 – 2.49	9.2%	9.4%	5.8%	8.8%
1.0 – 1.49	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.7%
Less than 1.0	0.5%	0.8%	0.0%	0.2%
I would describe my racial/ethnic origin as:				
Black/African-American	10.4%	12.8%	8.8%	9.0%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.7%	2.4%	0.4%	1.1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	9.7%	2.9%	2.7%	4.4%
White/Caucasian	63.5%	58.3%	58.0%	60.8%
Hispanic or Latino	6.9%	13.6%	24.1%	16.7%
Multi-ethnic or other ethnic origin	4.8%	5.9%	3.7%	4.4%
Prefer not to respond	3.9%	4.0%	2.3%	3.6%
The statement that describes my current college enrollment is:				
I transferred here from a community college.	57.7%	62.8%	44.0%	8.4%
I transferred here from a four-year college or university.	42.2%	37.2%	56.0%	7.2%
The total number of college credit hours I have earned here and at other institutions is:				
0 – 15 credits	3.0%	3.5%	2.9%	7.0%
16 – 30 credits	12.5%	11.5%	9.5%	22.6%
31 – 45 credits	34.4%	23.3%	26.7%	38.1%
46 – 60 credits	31.4%	35.0%	26.7%	19.2%
More than 60 credits	18.7%	26.7%	34.2%	13.1%

Table IV, continued

All survey items	Students at 4-year private institutions	Students at 4-year public institutions	Students at 2-year institutions (public and private)	National overall percentages of second-year students
The number of classes I'm enrolled in at OTHER institutions this term is:				
None	91.2%	86.9%	89.1%	90.6%
One class	0.9%	0.8%	2.1%	1.4%
Two classes	0.5%	4.0%	3.1%	1.6%
Three classes	1.6%	2.9%	1.9%	1.2%
More than three classes	5.8%	5.3%	3.9%	5.3%
My study plans this year are:				
I don't think I will need to study as much as I did last year.	2.8%	5.6%	4.3%	2.7%
I think I will need to study about the same amount as I did last year.	23.1%	34.0%	38.3%	28.5%
I think I will need to study more than I did last year.	74.1%	60.4%	57.4%	68.8%
My current decision in the selection of a major or program is:				
I plan to continue with the major I have selected.	87.3%	79.1%	87.4%	80.9%
I have selected a major, but I'm thinking about changing it.	9.5%	12.8%	6.0%	10.5%
I'm actively engaged in the process of selecting a major or program.	3.0%	5.6%	3.5%	5.6%
I have some potential majors or programs in mind, but haven't explored them yet.	0.2%	2.4%	3.1%	2.7%
I have not thought seriously about a major or program at this point.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
The highest degree or program that I plan to pursue is:				
A one-year certificate	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%
A two-year certificate or associate degree	0.0%	1.6%	21.6%	8.2%
A four-year college degree (bachelor's)	34.4%	35.3%	34.2%	34.2%
A master's degree	44.3%	37.2%	29.0%	33.6%
A professional degree (medicine, dentistry, law, Ph.D., or other similar degrees)	21.0%	25.7%	13.8%	22.8%
I do not plan to complete a degree or program	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
My current college or program completion plan is:				
I plan to complete my degree or program at this college or university.	92.8%	94.1%	57.0%	78.6%
I plan to transfer to another college or university to complete my degree or program.	5.5%	4.8%	40.3%	18.6%
I do not plan to re-enroll in college next term.	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
I have not made a decision about my plans to re-enroll in college next term.	1.2%	0.8%	2.5%	2.5%