

The 2013-2014 New Student Survey Results

Of the 615 new undergraduate students responding to the 2013-2014 New Student Survey, 67% were female, 33% were male. Over two-thirds were between 18 and 19 years of age (69%). The majority (88%) were not married. Ten percent had dependent children living with them. Three-quarters were first-time college students, and 25% had transferred from elsewhere. Nearly one-half resided in residence halls during their first semester (46%), 25% lived at the home of parents or relatives, and 14% lived in a room or apartment off-campus. Most (80%) depended on their parents, relatives, or friends as the primary source of their first year educational expenses. Forty-eight percent relied on Pell Grants, 51% on Federal direct loans, 33% on Faculty Scholarships, 12% on Leadership Scholarships, 6% on Athletic Scholarships, and 39% on other scholarships. Eleven percent of the respondents were undecided about their majors. Of those who had decided on a major, 17% were in Pre-Nursing, 10% in Pre-Business, 8% in Biology, 5% in Psychology, 4% in Criminal Justice, 4% in Elementary Education, 3% in Computer Science, 3% in Music Education, and 3% in Pre-Health Professional Biology.

Their college choice

Factors that impacted their decision to attend college the most were:

- To learn more about things that interest them (94%)
- To be able to earn more money (93%)
- To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas (93%)
- To prepare for graduate or professional school (89%)
- To be able to get a better job (88%)

To obtain a bachelor's degree from JSU was the goal of the majority (85%).

More respondents indicated the following were "very important" reasons for their decision to attend JSU:

- The availability of financial aid or scholarship (73%)
- Availability of a particular program of study, or major (73%)
- Cost of tuition and fees (58%)
- The location of JSU (56%)
- JSU's academic reputation (52%)
- The variety of courses offered (42%)

Over one-half learned about JSU from friends at JSU (57%), through the JSU Web site (57%), from Preview Day or campus visit (48%), and from their parents or relatives (47%).

Expectations

More respondents (69%) estimated that they would have a very good chance to earn a bachelor's degree at JSU. In addition, 54% expected to have a very good chance to find a good job after graduation in the field for which they studied. Sixty-nine percent expected to have a good chance or a very good chance to take part in volunteer or community service work while at JSU. Fifty-nine percent thought they would have no chance of failing any courses.

Over one-half (59%) reported not working while attending JSU, 24% spent up to 20 hours a week working on a job, and 6% spent 30 hours or more a week working. A majority (81%) planned to spend 20-40 hours a week on school work, 5% planned to spend 50 hours a week and 14% planned to spend less than 20 hours a week on school work.

Self-rating

When compared to other people their age, one-half or more rated themselves above average or in the highest 10% in the following traits:

- Drive to achieve (78%)
- Cooperativeness (71%)
- Academic ability (60%)
- Understanding of others (57%)
- Leadership ability (57%)
- Self-confidence (intellectual) (48%)
- Emotional health (48%)

Student Self-efficacy and Self-efficacy with Technology

A majority of respondents had access to a laptop or notebook computer (92%) and had access to Internet connectivity 24 hours/7 days a week (83%), and other portable devices, i.e., iPad or smart phone (83%).

Respondents agreed that

(On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree):

	In general	With technology
• They can always manage to solve difficult problems if they try hard enough.	(M=4.04)	(M=3.71)
• It is easy for them to stick to their aims and accomplish their goals.	(M=3.96)	(M=3.79)
• They are confident that they could deal efficiently with unexpected events.	(M=3.76)	(M=3.48)
• Thanks to their resourcefulness, they know how to handle unforeseen situations.	(M=3.65)	(M=3.49)
• They can solve most problems if they invest the necessary effort.	(M=4.05)	(M=3.73)
• They can remain calm when facing difficulties because they can rely on their coping abilities.	(M=3.66)	(M=3.56)
• When they are confronted with a problem, they can usually find several solutions.	(M=3.70)	(M=3.51)
• No matter what comes their way, they are usually able to handle it.	(M=3.93)	(M=3.69)
• If they are in trouble, they can usually think of something to do.	(M=3.84)	-
• If someone opposes them, they can find means and ways to get what they want.	(M=3.31)	-

The data were collected from fall 2013 through spring 2014.

Department Heads and Directors and other administrators can find additional assessment data and filter data by college, department or major on Tableau Server, JSU's Assessment System, by going to <http://oira.jsu.edu:8000/>. User IDs and passwords are available, by calling Institutional Research & Assessment in the Division of Research, Planning, and Collaboration at 256 782-5109.