

The 2017-2018 New Student Survey Results

Of the 423 new undergraduate students responding to the 2017-2018 New Student Survey, 66% were female, and 34% were male. A majority of the respondents were between 17 and 19 years of age (87%). Almost all (94%) were not married. Six percent had dependent children living with them. Seventy-two percent of the respondents' homes were between 11 to 100 miles from JSU. A little over one-half resided in residence halls during their first semester (54%), 27% lived at the home of parents or relatives, and 12% lived in a room or apartment off-campus. A majority (84%) depended on their parents, relatives, or friends as the primary source of their first year educational expenses. Forty-seven percent relied on Pell Grants, 52% on Federal direct loans, 30% on Faculty Scholarships, 16% on Leadership Scholarships, 7% on Athletic Scholarships, and 49% on other scholarships. Over one-third of the respondents were either undecided or didn't respond about their majors (35%). Of those who had decided on a major, 23% were in Nursing, 12% in Pre-Business, 7% in Computer Science, 6% in Criminal Justice, 4% in Biology, 4% in Exercise Science & Wellness, 4% in Music Education, and 3% in Elementary Education.

Their college choice

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

- To learn more about things that interest them (95%)
- To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas (95%)
- To be able to earn more money (92%)
- To prepare for graduate or professional school (88%)
- To improve their reading and study skills (85%)
- To be able to get a better job (83%)

To obtain a bachelor's degree from JSU was the goal of the majority (90%).

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

- Availability of a particular program of study, or major (78%)
- The availability of financial aid or scholarship (72%)
- JSU's academic reputation (62%)
- Cost of tuition and fees (60%)
- The location of JSU (57%)
- The variety of courses offered (47%)

Over one-half of the respondents learned about JSU from a Preview Day or campus visit (66%), from friends at JSU (61%), from their parents or relatives (60%), and through the JSU Web site (56%).

Expectations

More respondents (74%) estimated that they would have a very good chance to earn a bachelor's degree at JSU. In addition, 65% expected to have very good chance to find a good job after graduation in the field in which they studied. Seventy-six percent expected to have a good chance or a very good chance to take part in volunteer or community service work while at JSU. Sixty percent thought they would have no chance of failing any courses.

Over one-half (58%) reported not working while attending JSU, 26% spent up to 20 hours a week working on a job, and 16% spent 30 hours or more a week working. A majority (82%) planned to spend 20-40 hours a week on school work, 3% planned to spend 50 hours a week and 15% 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 (77%)
- Cooperativeness (71%)
- Academic ability (63%)
- Understanding of others (56%)
- Leadership ability (54%)
- Competitiveness (51%)

Student Self-efficacy and Self-efficacy with Technology

Nearly all respondents had access to a laptop or notebook computer (95%). A majority had access to other portable devices, i.e., iPad or smart phone (93%), and Internet connectivity 24 hours/7 days a week (85%).

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=4.02)	(M=3.89)
• It is easy for them to stick to their aims and accomplish their goals.	(M=3.84)	(M=3.82)
• They are confident that they could deal efficiently with unexpected events.	(M=3.85)	(M=3.61)
• Thanks to their resourcefulness, they know how to handle unforeseen situations.	(M=3.77)	(M=3.59)
• They can solve most problems if they invest the necessary effort.	(M=4.15)	(M=3.89)
• They can remain calm when facing difficulties because they can rely on their coping abilities.	(M=3.75)	(M=3.65)
• When they are confronted with a problem, they can usually find several solutions.	(M=3.86)	(M=3.72)
• No matter what comes their way, they are usually able to handle it.	(M=3.95)	(M=3.89)
• If they are in trouble, they can usually think of something to do.	(M=3.91)	-
• If someone opposes them, they can find means and ways to get what they want.	(M=3.39)	-
	M=Mean	

The data were collected from fall 2017 through spring 2018.

Department Heads and Directors and other administrators can find additional assessment data and filter data by school, 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 the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at 256 782-5109.