Executive Summary

2006 Autumn Freshman Survey

In September of 2006, the first cohort of 187 freshmen began their academic career at the UW Tacoma. A web based survey was first administered to the freshmen attending the September UW Tacoma Campus Orientation to measure their general attitudes, expectations, and perceptions about UW Tacoma. In addition, email was used to solicit responses from those freshmen not present at the Orientation. In total 139 surveys were completed making the response rate for the survey 74%.

Nearly 42% of the entering freshmen made UW Tacoma their first choice for college. Nearly 24% of those who were accepted at their first choice elsewhere, including UW Seattle, chose instead to attend UW Tacoma. The three most important reasons why freshmen chose UW Tacoma are: The overall reputation of the University of Washington (93.5%), the academic reputation at UW Tacoma (82%) and the location of the UW Tacoma campus (80%). The three top reasons why students did not choose UW Tacoma as their first choice were: UW Seattle was their first choice (17%), a strong desire to leave home or their home area (14%), or they wanted a more traditional college campus experience (10%). These three findings might explain why nearly 41% of freshmen are planning on transferring from UW Tacoma to another institution after attending the Tacoma campus for a year or two.

The primary reason for attending college is to gain an education for 53% of the entering freshmen. What most are looking forward to during their first quarter at UW Tacoma is to meet new people (47%) and making the transition from adolescence to adulthood (41%). 84% of the new freshmen are most concerned about earning good grades, and generally they expect themselves to be high academic performers with 45% expecting a grade point average between 3.5 and 4.0. The freshmen also believe that cooperative learning methods will best help them achieve these performance levels with their top four choices of activities supporting their learning at UW Tacoma being: group discussion (22%), field trips (11%), study groups and group projects at approximately (10%) each.

When asked about how they were financing their education, 46% of the freshmen said they were receiving grants, scholarships, or both and 45 % of those surveyed said they were satisfied to highly satisfied with their financial aid packages. This shows a high rate of satisfaction as 35% percent of our freshmen class did not apply for financial aid. Nine out of ten freshmen work, at least part time, with more than half working 15 hours or more a week.

Survey Statistics

Detailed results of the survey are available by request to:

UW Tacoma
Office of Academic Affairs
Survey Administration