

2005-2006 Comparison of Westminster College with National Statistical Profile on Selected Items from CIRP Freshmen Survey

Age on Dec. 31, 2005		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
17	1.2%	0.0%
18	63.9%	54.1%
19	33.8%	42.0%
20	0.8%	1.7%
21 to 24	0.2%	2.2%
25 or older	0.0%	0.0%

Racial and ethnic background		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
White/Caucasian	89.1%	83.0%
African-American/Black	4.7%	4.9%
Asian-American/Asian	3.9%	3.8%
Mexican-American/Chicano	1.6%	1.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.6%	2.2%
Puerto Rican	0.6%	0.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.0%
Other Latino	1.5%	2.2%
Other	2.1%	3.8%

Religious preference		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
Roman Catholic	16.5%	24.3%
Baptist	10.0%	13.6%
Methodist	8.5%	6.8%
Lutheran	11.1%	1.7%
Presbyterian	7.5%	10.7%
Jewish	1.2%	0.6%
Episcopal	3.4%	0.6%
United Church of Christ	1.3%	1.7%
Buddhist	0.5%	1.1%
Islamic	0.5%	0.6%
Eastern Orthodox	0.4%	0.6%
Other Christian	24.0%	16.4%
Other Religion	2.8%	4.0%
None	12.2%	17.5%

HIGH-SCHOOL BACKGROUND, ACTIVITIES

Year of high-school graduation		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
2005	98.6%	95.6%
2004	1.1%	3.3%
2003	0.1%	0.6%
2002 or earlier	0.1%	0.6%
Did not graduate but passed GED test	0.1%	0.0%

Average high-school grade		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
A or A+	29.5%	19.1%
A-	27.9%	28.7%
B+	20.0%	16.9%
B	15.6%	22.5%
B-	4.5%	7.3%
C+	1.9%	2.2%
C	0.7%	3.4%
D	0.0%	0.0%

High school required community service for graduation		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
No	67.9%	73.5%
Yes	32.1%	26.5%

Parents' education (highest level)				
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity		Westminster College	
	Father	Mother	Father	Mother
Grammar school or less	0.9%	0.8%	2.8%	3.9%
Some high school	2.4%	1.5%	8.3%	2.8%
High-school graduate	15.3%	14.6%	20.0%	23.6%
Postsecondary school other than college	3.6%	4.0%	5.0%	4.5%
Some college	13.1%	15.8%	12.8%	21.3%
College degree	31.7%	37.9%	27.2%	24.2%
Some graduate school	2.7%	3.6%	4.4%	3.9%
Graduate degree	30.3%	21.7%	19.4%	15.7%

Status of parents		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
Both alive and living with each other	78.3%	70.2%
Both alive, divorced or living apart	18.8%	25.4%
One or both deceased	2.8%	4.4%

Estimated parental income		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
Less than \$10,000	1.9%	12.9%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1.4%	1.8%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	1.5%	2.4%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	2.4%	5.3%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	2.8%	2.4%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	5.5%	8.2%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	7.4%	6.5%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	9.3%	6.5%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	12.6%	10.6%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	16.1%	13.5%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	18.7%	15.3%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	7.8%	5.3%
\$200,000 to \$249,999	4.1%	2.9%
\$250,000 or more	8.6%	6.5%

Number of other colleges applied to for admission this year		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
None	16.3%	11.6%
1	12.0%	12.7%
2	16.0%	16.0%
3	17.9%	23.2%
4	13.4%	13.3%
5	8.9%	11.0%
6	5.9%	4.4%
7 to 10	8.0%	6.1%
11 or more	1.7%	1.7%

Miles from college to home		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
5 or less	3.4%	1.1%
6 to 10	3.2%	2.2%
11 to 50	15.9%	14.5%
51 to 100	16.9%	23.5%
101 to 500	41.4%	40.2%
Over 500	19.1%	18.4%

College attended is student's:		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
First Choice	78.0%	82.2%
Second Choice	16.1%	11.1%
Third Choice	3.7%	4.4%
Other	2.2%	2.2%

Concern about financing college		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
None (I am confident that I will have sufficient funds)	34.1%	36.2%
Some (but I probably will have enough funds)	54.4%	51.7%
Major (not sure I will have enough funds to complete college)	11.6%	12.1%

What Students Expect to Major In		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
Business		
Accounting	2.0%	3.5%
Business administration (general)	4.0%	7.5%
Finance	1.1%	1.7%
International business	2.0%	2.9%
Marketing	2.4%	4.6%
Management	3.2%	2.3%
Other	0.6%	1.2%
Professional		
Architecture or urban planning	0.3%	0.0%
Family & Consumer Sciences	0.2%	0.0%
Health technology (medical, dental, laboratory)	0.5%	1.2%
Medicine, dentistry, veterinarian	5.6%	5.2%
Nursing	2.6%	0.6%
Pharmacy	1.0%	0.6%
Therapy (occupational, physical, speech)	2.7%	1.7%
Other	0.6%	0.0%
Arts and humanities		
Art, fine and applied	2.2%	0.6%
English (language and literature)	3.4%	2.9%
History	2.1%	4.0%
Journalism	1.6%	0.6%
Language and literature (except English)	1.3%	0.6%
Music	2.7%	0.0%
Philosophy	0.5%	0.6%
Speech	0.1%	0.6%
Theater or drama	1.7%	0.0%
Theology or religion	1.3%	1.2%
Other	0.7%	0.0%
Social sciences		
Anthropology	0.3%	1.7%
Economics	0.7%	0.6%
Political science	4.6%	6.4%
Psychology	5.2%	6.9%
Social work	0.7%	0.6%
Sociology	0.6%	0.6%

What Students Expect to Major In (cont.)

	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
Education		
Business education	0.1%	0.6%
Elementary education	4.6%	1.2%
Music or art education	1.4%	0.0%
Physical education or recreation	0.9%	2.3%
Secondary education	2.9%	4.0%
Special education	0.5%	0.6%
Other	0.2%	0.6%
Engineering		
Aeronautical or astronautical engineering	0.1%	0.0%
Civil engineering	0.5%	1.2%
Chemical engineering	0.2%	0.0%
Computer engineering	0.5%	0.6%
Electrical or electronic engineering	0.4%	0.6%
Industrial engineering	0.1%	0.0%
Mechanical engineering	1.1%	1.2%
Other	0.5%	0.0%
Biological science		
Biology (general)	6.0%	6.9%
Biochemistry or biophysics	1.1%	2.3%
Environmental science	0.6%	3.5%
Marine (life) science	0.5%	0.0%
Microbiology or bacteriology	0.1%	0.0%
Zoology	0.3%	0.0%
Other	0.4%	0.6%
Physical science		
Astronomy	0.1%	0.0%
Atmospheric science	0.1%	0.0%
Chemistry	1.4%	2.3%
Earth science	0.1%	0.6%
Marine science	0.3%	0.6%
Mathematics	1.0%	0.0%
Physics	0.8%	0.0%
Other	0.2%	0.0%

What Students Expect to Major In (cont.)

	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
Technical		
Building trades	0.0%	0.0%
Data processing or computer programming	0.4%	0.0%
Drafting or design	0.1%	0.0%
Electronics	0.0%	0.0%
Other	0.0%	0.0%
Other fields		
Agriculture	0.1%	0.0%
Communications	2.2%	0.6%
Computer science	0.8%	1.2%
Forestry	0.0%	0.0%
Kinesiology	0.4%	0.0%
Law enforcement	0.6%	1.2%
Military science	0.0%	0.0%
Other	0.9%	0.0%
Undecided	8.0%	6.9%

Objectives considered to be essential or very important		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
Influencing the political structure	20.2%	19.7%
Keeping up to date with political affairs	38.5%	42.2%
Becoming a community leader	36.0%	45.1%
Raising a family	77.9%	75.6%
Being well off financially	61.6%	72.8%
Helping others who are in difficulty	69.4%	70.5%
Becoming successful in business on my own	34.2%	48.3%
Helping promote racial understanding	32.6%	37.0%
Integrating spirituality into my life	53.4%	50.0%
Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures	55.0%	53.8%

Students rated themselves above average or highest 10 percent in:

	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
Drive to achieve	73.6%	79.6%
Cooperativeness	75.3%	72.9%
Understanding of others	68.7%	71.8%
Academic ability	75.3%	71.3%
Leadership ability	63.5%	68.5%
Self-confidence (intellectual)	60.8%	62.4%
Creativity	58.1%	62.4%
Self-understanding	55.9%	61.1%
Emotional health	55.0%	59.7%
Physical health	57.2%	58.0%
Self-confidence (social)	50.4%	56.9%
Spirituality	46.2%	45.6%
Writing ability	51.2%	42.5%
Public-speaking ability	39.6%	37.8%
Religiousness	40.9%	37.0%
Mathematical ability	43.0%	33.9%
Computer skills	31.3%	29.3%
Artistic ability	30.0%	21.7%

Students estimate chances are very good that they will:		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
Socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group	68.5%	70.1%
Make at least B average	64.4%	65.5%
Be satisfied with college	59.5%	59.2%
Get a job to help pay for college expenses	47.4%	48.0%
Participate in student clubs/groups	49.9%	54.8%
Communicate regularly with professors	43.2%	46.9%
Participate in volunteer or community service	39.2%	38.4%
Strengthen religious beliefs/convictions	40.2%	28.2%
Participate in a study-abroad program	41.5%	23.2%
Play intercollegiate athletics	26.6%	35.0%
Change major field	15.0%	11.9%
Change career choice	16.3%	12.4%
Join a social fraternity or sorority	9.7%	35.6%
Seek personal counseling	6.7%	5.1%
Participate in student government	7.6%	15.8%
Transfer to another college before graduating	4.8%	6.2%
Participate in student protests or demonstrations	6.8%	6.9%
Work full time while attending college	3.1%	4.5%

Agree strongly or somewhat that:		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
Through hard work, everybody can succeed in American society	75.9%	83.0%
The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns	76.7%	65.7%
The federal government is not doing enough to control environmental pollution	77.4%	71.8%
Dissent is a critical component of the political process	65.6%	69.8%
A national health care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs	68.0%	69.4%
There is too much concern in the courts for rights of criminals	57.8%	60.7%
Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	52.0%	50.0%
Colleges should prohibit racist and sexist speech on campus	61.5%	58.4%
Abortion should be legal	48.1%	52.2%
Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now	57.1%	51.7%
Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished	51.6%	40.6%
Marijuana should be legalized	31.9%	28.7%
Federal military spending should be increased	34.4%	37.5%
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society	22.3%	23.6%
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	30.5%	31.8%
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	19.4%	25.4%
If two people really like each other, it's all right for them to have sex even if they've known each other for only a short time.	34.3%	44.6%
The death penalty should be abolished	34.5%	32.6%
The activities of married women are best confined to the home and family	18.6%	16.8%

Top reasons noted as very important in deciding to go to college		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
To learn more about things that interest me	80.0%	81.6%
To be able to get a better job	67.6%	70.2%
To prepare myself for graduate or professional school	57.0%	68.3%
To get training for a specific career	62.0%	60.9%
To be able to make more money	60.7%	65.5%
To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas	68.4%	67.2%
To find my purpose in life	50.5%	50.0%
Wanted to get away from home	20.7%	16.8%
There was nothing better to do	3.1%	1.7%

Top reasons noted as very important in selecting college attended		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
College has a very good academic reputation	67.7%	75.3%
A visit to the campus	53.4%	55.2%
Was offered financial assistance	54.6%	71.2%
Wanted to go to a school about the size of this college	57.8%	59.0%
College has a good reputation for its social activities	32.6%	33.7%

During your last year in high school, how much time did you spend during a typical week doing the following?

Studying/homework		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
None	1.8%	0.6%
Less than one hour	10.5%	11.3%
1 to 2 hours	18.8%	26.6%
3 to 5 hours	28.1%	28.8%
6 to 10 hours	22.1%	18.1%
Over 10 hours	18.6%	14.7%

Partying		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
None	33.3%	19.9%
Less than one hour	17.0%	15.9%
1 to 2 hours	16.8%	14.8%
3 to 5 hours	15.9%	15.3%
6 to 10 hours	9.7%	18.8%
Over 10 hours	7.3%	15.3%

Working for pay		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
None	34.1%	27.6%
Less than one hour	3.4%	1.1%
1 to 2 hours	4.9%	2.9%
3 to 5 hours	8.5%	7.5%
6 to 10 hours	13.5%	12.1%
Over 10 hours	35.5%	48.9%

Volunteer Work		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
None	23.0%	18.8%
Less than one hour	25.7%	21.6%
1 to 2 hours	26.9%	26.7%
3 to 5 hours	14.8%	15.9%
6 to 10 hours	5.4%	9.7%
Over 10 hours	4.3%	7.4%

During your last year in high school, how much time did you spend during a typical week doing the following?

Watching TV		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
None	7.0%	8.6%
Less than one hour	14.7%	19.0%
1 to 2 hours	23.9%	22.4%
3 to 5 hours	28.5%	24.0%
6 to 10 hours	16.2%	13.2%
Over 10 hours	9.9%	9.8%

Playing video/computer games		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
None	43.6%	40.3%
Less than one hour	20.5%	21.6%
1 to 2 hours	14.6%	17.6%
3 to 5 hours	10.8%	12.5%
6 to 10 hours	5.5%	5.7%
Over 10 hours	5.1%	2.3%

Reading for pleasure		
	4-Yr Religious-high selectivity	Westminster College
None	20.6%	19.5%
Less than one hour	25.2%	22.4%
1 to 2 hours	24.7%	26.4%
3 to 5 hours	17.7%	17.2%
6 to 10 hours	7.4%	9.2%
Over 10 hours	4.3%	5.2%

NOTE: The statistics are based on survey responses of 19,093 first-year students entering four-year colleges and universities in the fall of 2005 that are classified as having religious affiliation and high selectivity in admissions.

SOURCE: American Council on Education and the University of California at Los Angeles Higher Education Research Institute.



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