

2003-2004 Comparison of Westminster College with National Statistical Profile on Selected Items from CIRP Freshmen Survey

Age on Dec. 31, 2003		
	National	Westminster College
17	1.8%	0.5%
18	68.2%	59.3%
19	28.7%	39.4%
20	0.9%	0.9%
21 to 24	0.4%	0.0%
25 or older	0.1%	0.0%

Racial and ethnic background		
	National	Westminster College
White/Caucasian	75.7%	88.0%
African-American/Black	9.6%	5.1%
Asian-American/Asian	7.7%	2.3%
Mexican-American/Chicano	3.7%	1.4%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.3%	2.3%
Puerto Rican	0.9%	0.5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.8%	1.4%
Other Latino	2.2%	1.4%
Other	3.0%	2.8%

Religious preference		
	National	Westminster College
Roman Catholic	29.7%	21.4%
Baptist	11.1%	15.7%
Methodist	5.8%	9.5%
Lutheran	4.9%	4.8%
Presbyterian	4.1%	5.7%
Jewish	2.4%	0.5%
Episcopal	1.8%	3.8%
United Church of Christ	1.5%	1.0%
Buddhist	1.2%	0.5%
Islamic	0.8%	0.0%
Eastern Orthodox	0.7%	0.5%
Latter-day Saints (Mormon)	0.6%	1.0%
Seventh-day Adventist	0.3%	0.0%
Quaker	0.2%	0.0%

Religious preference (cont.)

Other Christian	13.7%	17.6%
Other	2.7%	2.9%
None	17.6%	14.3%

HIGH-SCHOOL BACKGROUND, ACTIVITIES

Year of high-school graduation		
	National	Westminster College
2003	98.3%	100.0%
2002	1.0%	0.0%
2001	0.2%	0.0%
2000 or earlier	0.3%	0.0%
Did not graduate but passed GED test	0.1%	0.0%

Average high-school grade		
	National	Westminster College
A or A+	23.2%	16.1%
A-	23.4%	31.3%
B+	20.8%	21.2%
B	20.4%	17.5%
B-	7.1%	7.8%
C+	3.4%	5.1%
C	1.6%	0.9%
D	0.1%	0.0%

High school required community service for graduation		
	National	Westminster College
No	68.7%	73.2%
Yes	31.3%	26.8%

Parents' education (highest level)				
	National		Westminster College	
	Father	Mother	Father	Mother
Grammar school or less	2.5%	2.3%	1.9%	1.9%
Some high school	4.1%	3.1%	2.3%	2.8%
High-school graduate	20.7%	21.0%	22.0%	17.8%
Postsecondary school other than college	4.0%	4.8%	5.6%	6.1%
Some college	15.2%	17.6%	14.0%	17.4%
College degree	28.2%	31.2%	29.6%	29.6%
Some graduate school	2.3%	2.9%	4.2%	4.2%
Graduate degree	23.0%	17.1%	20.2%	20.2%

Status of parents		
	National	Westminster College
Both alive and living with each other	72.7%	69.0%
Both alive, divorced or living apart	23.8%	27.8%
One or both deceased	3.5%	3.2%

Estimated parental income		
	National	Westminster College
Less than \$10,000	3.1%	1.5%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2.8%	3.0%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	2.7%	5.5%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	3.7%	1.0%
\$25,000 to \$29,999	3.5%	4.0%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	6.7%	5.5%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	8.1%	8.5%
\$50,000 to \$59,999	9.8%	10.5%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	12.7%	12.5%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	15.7%	17.5%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	16.4%	13.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	6.3%	9.5%
\$200,000 to \$249,999	3.0%	2.5%
\$250,000 or more	5.5%	5.0%

LIFE AS A FRESHMAN		
Number of other colleges applied to for admission this year		
	National	Westminster College
None	18.3%	16.2%
1	12.2%	11.1%
2	15.4%	14.8%
3	16.7%	18.5%
4	12.7%	18.1%
5	8.8%	8.8%
6	6.0%	6.5%
7 to 10	8.1%	4.6%
11 or more	1.8%	1.4%

Miles from college to home		
	National	Westminster College
5 or less	4.8%	1.4%
6 to 10	6.2%	1.9%
11 to 50	25.6%	11.1%
51 to 100	16.9%	20.4%
101 to 500	34.1%	57.9%
Over 500	12.4%	7.4%

College attended is student's:		
	National	Westminster College
First Choice	68.7%	74.1%
Second Choice	21.9%	19.4%
Third Choice	5.9%	5.6%
Other	3.5%	0.9%

Concern about financing college		
	National	Westminster College
None (I am confident that I will have sufficient funds)	34.3%	43.1%
Some (but I probably will have enough funds)	52.6%	45.8%
Major (not sure I will have enough funds to complete college)	13.0%	11.1%

What Students Expect to Major In		
	National	Westminster College
Business	15.9%	
Accounting	2.2%	3.0%
Business administration (general)	3.6%	13.4%
Finance	1.4%	0.0%
International business	1.3%	4.0%
Marketing	2.7%	3.5%
Management	3.7%	5.9%
Other	1.0%	0.5%
Professional	14.3%	
Architecture or urban planning	1.1%	0.0%
Home economics	0.1%	0.0%
Health technology (medical, dental, laboratory)	0.5%	0.0%
Medicine, dentistry, veterinarian	4.4%	7.9%
Nursing	3.7%	1.5%
Pharmacy	1.7%	0.0%
Therapy (occupational, physical, speech)	2.1%	1.0%
Other	0.7%	3.0%
Arts and humanities	12.3%	
Art, fine and applied	2.9%	0.0%
English (language and literature)	1.7%	1.0%
History	1.3%	2.5%
Journalism	1.7%	1.0%
Language and literature (except English)	0.5%	0.5%
Music	1.4%	0.0%
Philosophy	0.3%	0.0%
Speech	0.1%	0.0%
Theater or drama	1.1%	0.5%
Theology or religion	0.3%	0.0%
Other	1.0%	0.5%
Social sciences	10.5%	
Anthropology	0.3%	0.5%
Economics	0.5%	0.0%
Political science	3.5%	8.4%
Psychology	4.7%	6.4%
Social work	0.6%	0.0%
Sociology	0.6%	0.5%

What Students Expect to Major In (cont.)

Other	0.3%	1.0%
Education	10.1%	
Business education	0.2%	0.5%
Elementary education	4.9%	1.5%
Music or art education	0.7%	0.0%
Physical education or recreation	0.8%	3.0%
Secondary education	2.6%	4.0%
Special education	0.6%	0.5%
Other	0.3%	0.5%
Engineering	9.3%	
Aeronautical or astronautical engineering	1.0%	0.0%
Civil engineering	1.1%	0.0%
Chemical engineering	0.6%	0.0%
Computer engineering	1.6%	0.0%
Electrical or electronic engineering	1.2%	0.5%
Industrial engineering	0.2%	0.0%
Mechanical engineering	2.3%	0.5%
Other	1.3%	0.0%
Biological science	7.3%	
Biology (general)	4.2%	5.4%
Biochemistry or biophysics	1.0%	0.0%
Environmental science	0.5%	1.0%
Marine (life) science	0.3%	0.5%
Microbiology or bacteriology	0.3%	0.0%
Zoology	0.4%	0.0%
Other	0.6%	1.5%
Physical science	2.7%	
Astronomy	0.1%	0.0%
Atmospheric science	0.1%	0.5%
Chemistry	0.9%	1.5%
Earth science	0.1%	0.5%
Marine science	0.1%	0.0%
Mathematics	0.7%	0.0%
Physics	0.5%	0.5%
Other	0.2%	0.0%
Technical	1.5%	
Building trades	0.1%	0.0%
Data processing or computer programming	0.7%	0.0%

What Students Expect to Major In (cont.)

Drafting or design	0.4%	0.0%
Electronics	0.1%	0.0%
Other	0.2%	0.0%
Other fields	8.0%	
Agriculture	0.4%	0.0%
Communications	2.4%	0.0%
Computer science	1.7%	2.0%
Forestry	0.1%	0.0%
Kinesiology	0.4%	0.0%
Law enforcement	1.4%	1.0%
Military science	0.1%	0.0%
Other	1.5%	0.5%
Undecided	8.0%	7.4%

Objectives considered to be essential or very important		
	National	Westminster College
Influencing the political structure	20.1%	
Keeping up to date with political affairs	33.9%	
Becoming a community leader	32.1%	

Students rated themselves above average or highest 10 percent in:

	National	Westminster College
Cooperativeness	72.9%	73.1%
Drive to achieve	71.6%	73.7%
Academic ability	69.7%	65.9%
Understanding of others	65.7%	63.9%
Persistence	63.0%	69.8%
Leadership ability	60.6%	64.5%
Self-confidence (intellectual)	59.8%	71.9%
Creativity	57.7%	55.3%
Physical health	56.6%	57.1%
Self-understanding	55.6%	59.0%
Emotional health	54.5%	57.6%
Self-confidence (social)	49.9%	57.6%
Writing ability	46.6%	44.7%
Mathematical ability	45.0%	37.8%
Risk-taking	43.3%	49.8%
Computer skills	38.8%	30.4%
Spirituality	38.3%	42.9%
Popularity	38.1%	42.9%
Public-speaking ability	36.3%	38.2%
Religiousness	31.0%	32.9%
Artistic ability	29.8%	25.8%

Traits that describe student to a great extent		
	National	Westminster College
Being honest in my relationships with others	71.2%	69.3%
Searching for meaning/purpose in life	34.6%	26.0%
Believing in the sacredness of life	32.2%	34.3%
Engaging in self-reflection	26.3%	23.4%
Appreciating the interconnectedness of everything	24.1%	19.1%

Students estimate chances are very good that they will:		
	National	Westminster College
Get a bachelor's degree	79.5%	79.2%
Develop close friendships with other students	71.2%	70.9%
Socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group	66.2%	60.4%
Make at least B average	59.4%	55.1%
Be satisfied with college	52.0%	51.2%
Get a job to help pay for college expenses	47.0%	33.3%
Participate in student clubs/groups	41.1%	43.6%
Communicate regularly with professors	35.0%	41.0%
Participate in volunteer or community service	25.3%	30.0%
Strengthen religious beliefs/convictions	25.1%	21.8%
Participate in a study-abroad program	21.9%	18.4%
Play intercollegiate athletics	15.9%	38.0%
Change major field	14.4%	10.7%
Change career choice	13.3%	11.3%
Join a social fraternity or sorority	9.8%	46.5%
Seek personal counseling	7.6%	6.5%
Participate in student government	7.3%	18.3%
Transfer to another college before graduating	7.1%	6.1%
Participate in student protests or demonstrations	6.3%	9.0%
Work full time while attending college	6.0%	4.2%
Drop out of college	0.8%	0.0%

Agree strongly or somewhat that:		
	National	Westminster College
The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns	76.5%	74.7%
There is too much concern in the courts for rights of criminals	61.1%	63.7%
Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	59.4%	44.4%
Colleges should prohibit racist and sexist speech on campus	58.4%	64.2%
Abortion should be legal	54.5%	44.2%
Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now	53.1%	52.3%
Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished	52.8%	54.1%
Marijuana should be legalized	38.8%	40.7%
Federal military spending should be increased	38.4%	42.4%
People should not obey laws that violate their personal values	34.5%	40.0%
The death penalty should be abolished	32.6%	25.2%
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society	28.1%	30.1%
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	26.1%	43.5%
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	22.4%	33.0%
The activities of married women are best confined to the home and family	21.7%	26.5%

Top reasons noted as very important in deciding to go to college

	National	Westminster College
To learn more about things that interest me	76.9%	75.5%
To be able to get a better job	70.1%	73.0%
To get training for a specific career	70.0%	71.3%
To be able to make more money	69.4%	75.0%
To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas	65.4%	60.2%

Top reasons noted as very important in selecting college attended

	National	Westminster College
College has a very good academic reputation	55.1%	70.4%
A visit to the campus	37.6%	47.0%
Was offered financial assistance	33.6%	61.6%
Wanted to go to a school about the size of this college	32.9%	45.8%
College has a good reputation for its social activities	27.8%	31.6%

Expect to need special tutoring or remedial work in:

	National	Westminster College
Mathematics	24.4%	13.4%
Writing	11.7%	5.5%
Foreign language	11.3%	6.5%
Science	11.1%	4.1%
English	10.1%	7.4%
Reading	4.5%	7.8%
Social studies	3.3%	3.7%

NOTE: The statistics are based on surveys responses of 282,549 first-year students entering 437 four-year colleges and universities in the fall of 2002 and 276,449 first-year students entering 413 four-year colleges and universities in the fall of 2003. The national figures were statistically adjusted to represent total populations of approximately 1.2 million first-time, full-time students at four-year institutions. Because of rounding or multiple responses, figures may add up to more than 100 percent.

SOURCE: "The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 2002" and "The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 2003," American Council on Education and the University of California at Los Angeles Higher Education Research Institute; summary published by The Chronicle of Higher Education and available at <http://chronicle.com/stats/freshmen.htm>, accessed 7/12/04.



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