

2004 College Student Survey Highlights Report

The Texas Tech University Division of Student Affairs Assessment & Student Life Research Office administers the College Student Survey (CSS) in cooperation with UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute. UCLA has been conducting national surveys on college students since 1966. The CSS provides information on a broad range of senior student outcomes related to academic and campus life experiences. The CSS also provides individual campus results with comparisons to other public universities and the broader national senior cohort.

The CSS Highlights Report contains information drawn from senior students (n=441) that attended a mandatory Senior Seminar Course during 2004 at the Texas Tech University College of Human Sciences (TTU/COHS). Findings are benchmarked against similar public schools to provide context, perspective and comparisons. Findings are also compared to the 2004 College Student Survey national aggregate. Designations for the CSS Institutional Profile and Data Report are as follows:

- *Your Institution* (TTU/COHS),
- *Public Universities* (public colleges of approximately the same size), and
- *All 4+ Year Institutions* (includes all public and private 4+ year colleges).

Following are selected findings of interest from the study:

Student Profile

Participants were primarily full-time undergraduates, 95.9% of TTU/COHS group, 95.7% from the other public universities, and 92.5% from all 4+ participating institutions. However, year of entry to college for participants varied.

<i>Year of Entry</i>	<u>TTU/COHS</u>	<u>Public Univ.</u>	<u>4+ Institutions</u>
What year did you enter college:			
2002	6.0	5.7	3.2
2001	37.4	15.3	5.4
2000	30.5	71.0	66.4
1999 or earlier	25.5	6.9	22.0

A significantly higher number of transfer students from community colleges attended TTU/COHS 37.2%, than from other participating schools 9.1% of the 4+ participating universities, and 4.7% from public university participants.

Degree Goals

Of TTU/COHS students 48.3% indicated they planned to complete a Bachelor's degree (B.A., B.S., etc.) compared to 38.4% at public universities, and 20.2% of seniors from all participating 4+ universities. By comparison, 77.4% of students from 4+ participating universities were seeking Master's (M.A., M.S., etc.) and other advanced degrees (Ph.D., Ed.D., M.D., J.D., M.Div., etc.) as compared to 59.7% at other public universities and 49% of TTU/COHS students.

Study Abroad Program

Since entering college only 4.7% of TTU/COHS students had participated in a study abroad program as compared to 13.4% of public university students, and 19.9% of all 4+Institutions participating in the study.

Employment

TTU/COHS students spent more time working at jobs off campus than students from other participating universities and this activity negatively affected students' ability to study and attend classes. Employment related survey questions and results follow.

During the past year, how much time did you spend during a typical week working for pay?

	<u>TTU/COHS</u>	<u>Public Univ.</u>	<u>4+ Institutions</u>
	%	%	%
None	15.5	32.2	18.4
Less than one hour to 5 hours	9.4	10.3	17.0
6 to 10 hours	10.0	14.9	19.0
11 to 15 hours	9.1	14.9	13.7
16 to 20 hours	18.5	12.9	12.6
Over 20 hours	37.6	14.8	19.3

Since entering college, have you...?

	<u>TTU/COHS</u>	<u>Public Univ.</u>	<u>4+ Institutions</u>
	%	%	%
Worked off campus	75.4	56.3	56.0
Worked on campus	28.9	49.1	53.4
Worked over 20 hours	37.6	14.8	19.3
Missed class due to employment	34.4	23.3	26.5
Did not study due to job	60.5	45.7	49.2

Politics

TTU/COHS students discussed politics as part of their general activities only 13.2% of the time, as compared to 19.2% of students from other public universities, and 21.2% of 4+ institutions. Keeping up with political affairs was viewed as less important to TTU/COHS seniors at 38.4% than students at public universities 44.6%, and 4+ institutions at 45.1%. Political preferences of participating students follow:

	<u>TTU/COHS</u>	<u>Public Univ.</u>	<u>4+ Institutions</u>
	%	%	%
Far Left	0.7	1.7	3.2
Liberal	12.5	20.6	26.9
Middle-of-the-road	40.6	42.7	42.2
Conservative	43.8	33.4	26.3
Far Right	2.5	1.6	1.4

Diversity Issues

Socializing with someone of a different racial/ethnic background occurred more often for students at all 4+ institutions 48.3% and TTU/COHS students at 46.1%, as compared to public universities at 34.7%. Least likely to want to abolish affirmative action programs were TTU/COHS students at 49.6%, as compared to all 4+ institutions at 50.4%, and public university participants 61.2%. Other questions related to diversity and cultural awareness are listed below:

Since entering college students had:

	<u>TTU/COHS</u>	<u>Public Univ.</u>	<u>4+ Institutions</u>
	%	%	%
Attended a racial/cultural awareness workshop	9.1	23.9	25.0
Had a roommate of different race/ethnicity	27.1	24.4	32.1
Participated in a ethnic/racial student organization	4.3	10.1	14.1

Top Three Objectives

The three top objectives noted as “very important” or “essential” to TTU/COHS seniors in order of importance were:

- Raising a family 90.2%
- Helping others who are in difficulty 81.2%
- Integrating spirituality into my life 75.6%

Interestingly, when asked to rank themselves TTU/COHS students rated themselves lower in 32 of 33 categories of abilities and skills in the study than other participating senior students. The one exception area was "spirituality."

2004 College Student Survey Campus Supplemental Questions

The Red to Black™ Financial Responsibility Program and related outreach service is located in the College of Human Sciences Personal Financial Planning Program area. Along with free confidential financial counseling and planning services, the area conducts research about college student financial issues. Table 1 contains results related to financial concern questions submitted by Red to Black.

Table 1. Supplemental Questions (Provided by the Red to Black™ Financial Responsibility Program)

n =	Supplemental Questions	n=443				
		Parents, family & friends	A course in high school or college	Financial lit. or a Financial Service Company	Internet	n/a
403	What has been your primary source of financial information?	80.6	5.7	7.2	6.5	n/a
404	How would you describe your understanding of personal finance?	Not knowledgeable	Moderately knowledgeable	Knowledgeable	Very Knowledgeable	n/a
		4.5	42.8	36.9	15.8	n/a
402	With what frequency did your parents or guardians use credit while you were living at home?	Never	Occasionally	Sometimes	Often	Very Often
		7.7	30.6	24.9	26.9	10.0
403	Did your parents or guardians ever experience credit related problems?	Very Often	Often	Sometimes	Occasionally	Never
		4.5	10.2	13.9	14.9	56.6
383	How many credit cards do you currently have in your home?	1	2	3	4	5+
		50.7	23.2	10.4	6.8	8.9
385	At what age did you first obtain a credit card?	16-21	22-26	27-32	33+	n/a
		89.4	8.6	1.8	0.3	n/a
381	Do you pay your credit card balance in full each month?	Never	Sometimes	Usually	Always	n/a
		18.9	30.2	19.4	30.4	n/a
386	What is the total dollar amount of revolving debt owed on all of your credit cards (that which you do not pay off every month)?	\$ 000-100	\$ 101-250	\$ 251-500	\$ 501-750	\$ 751+
		48.4	8.3	10.4	7.3	25.6
345	Have you ever used credit cards to pay other credit cards? Please estimate the number of times this has occurred.	Never	1-5 times	6-10 times	11-20 times	21 or more
		89.9	7.5	1.4	0.6	0.6
393	What is the total amount of your consumer debt (credit card debt, car loans, personal loans, etc.)?	\$000-500	\$501-1500	\$1501-2500	\$2501-5000	\$5001+
		50.9	11.7	7.1	7.9	22.4

The questions in Table 2 relate to student satisfaction towards programs and services that are directly funded by student services fees.

Table 2. Supplemental Questions for Programs and Services Satisfaction

Supplemental Questions		N=443				
n =	Rate your satisfaction with the university on each of the aspects of campus life below	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Not Satisfied	No Experience
395	Community Service opportunities	20.5	28.9	19.2	6.1	25.3
403	Involvement in student organization membership	19.9	34.0	18.9	4.2	23.1
403	Services provided to student organization membership	13.6	36.2	21.3	4.0	24.8
404	Greek Fraternity/Sorority involvement	16.8	17.8	11.6	4.0	49.8
403	Spirit and Traditions of Texas Tech	28.0	35.2	12.4	4.0	20.3
403	Multicultural and Diversity Programs	9.2	30.8	17.9	5.2	37.0
402	On campus entertainment, cultural, events, and programs	8.7	35.8	26.1	4.0	25.4
401	Center for Campus Life (old Dean of Students Office)	8.0	27.4	17.7	2.0	44.9
398	Student Activities or Campus Activities Office	7.5	28.1	17.6	2.5	44.2

A complete data report of the Texas Tech University 2004 College Student Survey is available upon request.
 Contact: Sandra Marquez Hall, Ph.D. at 806-742-6669 or visit <http://www.aslr.dsa.ttu.edu>