The Profile of Today's College Students is an extensive instrument examining student characteristics and beliefs. Because of the length, the survey is divided into the following sections: academic integrity, academic involvement, campus involvement, diversity, future aspirations, health and wellness, media and communication, and student opinions. Each student received a random selection of sections. This survey was administered 1/20/2009 - 2/10/2009. 747 students responded for a 4.6% sample error with 99% confidence level on the demographic information in the survey. As this survey was split into multiple sections, and each student only got a couple of sections, the other sections have a 5% sample error with a 95% confidence level.

**Student Demographics**
82% of students identify as White; 5% of students identify as Hispanic; 2% identify as African-American; 1% identify as Native American; 4% identify as Asian/Pacific Islander; 4% of students did not respond to this question

19% of students speak two languages fluently; 1.3% speak 3 or more fluently

8% of students were born outside of the U.S.; 15% say their parents were born outside the U.S.; 25% say their grandparents were born outside of the U.S.

58% of students identify as LDS; 9% as Catholic

93% of students identify as heterosexual

37% of students have children

48% of students live off campus with their spouse/partner/children; 31% live with their parents; 14% live alone or with friends; 3% live on campus; 4% have other living arrangements

22% of students report being the first in their family to go to college

**Student Expectations**
When selecting which college to attend,

- 85% found academic reputation to be important
- 91% found choice of major important
- 87% said that location was important
- 87% found cost important
- 70% found financial aid offered as important
- 15% said that the athletic program was important

75% of students selected WSU as their 1st college choice (64% of students only applied to WSU)

77% of students plan to graduate with their current major

Upon graduation,

- 19% of students intend to begin graduate/professional school
- 46% intend to get a job
- 19% plan to continue in their current job
- 16% have other plans

18% of students plan to transfer to another college

34% of students did not believe they had the study skills to be successful during their first year of college

32% did not feel prepared to meet academic demands during their first year.

**Students in the Classroom**
89% of students agree that they enjoy learning for the sake of learning

43% of students prefer to learn via class discussion; 29% via lecture

42% of students feel they learn more via class discussion; 25% learn more through lectures

73% say that lectures are the most common approach used in their classes; 21% say class discussions are the most common

78% of students prefer to study alone

75% of students communicate with faculty outside of class

57% of students prefer to communicate with faculty via email & 25% prefer meeting before or after class

86% of students rarely or never miss class

When first enrolling at WSU, 82% of students intended to graduate in 4 years or less; 55% say that they actually will (includes transfer students)
**Students’ Health**
74% of students have been stressed within the past 12 months
85% of students say that they felt overwhelmed by all they had to do within the past month at least once
75% have been sick within the past 12 months
44% of students communicate with their parents daily; 31% communicate with their parents a few times a week
31% have felt so depressed that it was difficult to function
72% of students have not consumed alcohol within the past 30 days; 91% have not smoked or used smokeless tobacco
16% of students do not have health insurance

**Students and Technology**
92% of students own a desktop or laptop computer
85% of students text message with a cell phone; 46% occasionally or frequently do so during class
28% of students blog; 3% of students play games online; 50% of students instant message
69% of students have an online social network profile
74% of students do not believe college administrators look at their profile; 52% do not believe potential employers look at their profile
29% of students spend 1-2 hours a day using the Internet for academic purposes
11% of students use campus computers to access the Internet most often
71% of students primarily use their personal email account; 12% use their WSU account; 11% use their work account
54% have used a website to rate their professor

**Students and the Media**
72% of students say that media coverage of events somewhat influences their opinions
67% of students stay current on local news
47% of students read an online newspaper; 33% of students sometimes to very often read the Signpost
73% of students watch less than 2 hours of television per day; 21% of students watch more than 2 hours of television per day
53% of students pay close attention to national politicians

**Students’ Beliefs**
87% of students believe that it is important to give back to the community
72% of students believe you can achieve the “American Dream”
98% of students believe that it is important to stand up for what they believe in
97% of students say that they treat others with respect
84% of students believe that racial discrimination still occurs in the U.S.; 78% believe that gender discrimination still occurs
55% of students believe the death penalty should be legal
33% believe that same-sex couples should be allowed to marry; 54% disagree with this statement

**Students’ Work & Debt**
81% of students work for pay during the academic year; 20% of students work more than one job
71% of students work over 20 hours per week; 19% work 41+
47% of students work primarily to pay for some/all of their college and personal expenses; 44% work primarily to support themselves or their family
23% of students indicate that their yearly family income is less than $25K
43% of students have two or more credit cards
15% of students have over $5K in credit card debt

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The academic integrity section of this survey is included on the Campus Safety/Student Conduct summary. The student activities section is included in the Student Engagement summary.

Summary prepared by Student Affairs Research & Assessment.
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