CIRP 2012: Items of Interest

This analysis highlights areas in which EWU freshman differ from the peer group identified by CIRP (Public 4yr Colleges-low selectivity). Results are organized within 14 basic CIRP Themes: College Choice, Financing College, Academic Disengagement, Academic Preparation, Interaction with Teachers, Active and Collaborative Learning, Written and Oral Communication, Leadership, Civic Engagement, Diversity, Health & Wellness, Spirituality/Religiosity and Career Planning. Areas in which there are statistically significance differences are noted (significance: * p<.05, ** p<.01, *** p<.001). Statistical percentages, however, are not cited in order to “tell our story” of incoming freshman characteristics and expectations. CIRP statistical reports can be requested from the Office of Institutional Research, Demography & Assessment.

Overall Observations

Financial concerns were a major factor in making a college choice and the cost of attending EWU was a major consideration. EWU freshman are concerned about financing their education and a significantly higher percentage report that they intend to get a job to help pay for college expenses. ***

Other notable areas of significance include:

- A significantly higher percentage of students report doing more volunteer work***
- A significantly lower percentage of EWU freshmen report partying***
- Our freshmen rate themselves higher in the three written and oral communication categories, but significantly lower percent rate themselves highly in social self-confidence***

Importance: Reasons for deciding where to go to college

EWU students rated the following as essential/very important:
(Listed in descending level of importance)
- Getting a better job
- Getting training for a specific career
- Learning more about things that interest them
- Ability to make more money
- Gain a general education, appreciation of ideas
- The cost of attending this college
- I wanted to go to a school about the size of this college

EWU students rated the following as not important:
(Listed in descending least level of importance)
- Not offered aid by first choice
- High school counselor advised me
- Preparing for graduate or professional school
- My parents wanted me to come here
- I wanted to live near home
- This college has a good reputation for its social activities
- I was offered financial assistance

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CIRP Theme Highlights

**College Choice**
EWU students had *significantly* higher percentages in these areas:
- The current economic situation significantly affected my college choice*
- The cost of attending this college***

**Financing College**
EWU students had *significantly* higher percentages in these areas:
- The cost of attending this college***
- I was offered financial assistance**
- Chance of getting a job to help with college expenses***

**Academic Disengagement**
- *A lower* percentage of EWU students reported frequently/occasionally falling asleep in class, coming to class late, or failing to complete homework on time.
- *A higher* percentage of EWU students reported skipping school/class.

**Academic Preparation**
A *higher* percentage of EWU students:
- Graduated from a public school (92.7% vs. 75.1%)
- Took a Computer, Physical and Biological Science in high school
- Reported high school studying/homework >=11 hours***

**Interaction with Teachers**
- *A higher* percentage of EWU students reported frequently/occasionally being a guest in a teacher’s home***, asking a teacher for advice after class** and asking questions in class.

**Active and Collaborative Learning**
A *higher* percentage of EWU students frequently/occasionally:
- Tutored another Student*
- Studied with other students
- Performed community service as a part of a class

**Academic Enhancement Experiences**
A *higher* percentage of EWU students:
- Sought feedback on their academic work

A *lower* percentage of EWU students rated there would be a very good chance they:
- Communicated regularly with their professors
- Participated in a study abroad program
- Worked on a professor’s research project*
- Participated in a study abroad program***

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CIRP 2012: Items of Interest

Written and Oral Communication

- A higher percentage of EWU students self-rated being Highest 10%/Above Average in:
  - Writing ability
  - Revision of papers to improve writing*
  - Public Speaking

Leadership

- A higher percentage of EWU students rated themselves as having:
  - Leadership ability

- A lower percentage of EWU students rated themselves highly in the following areas:
  - Drive to achieve
  - Self-confidence (social)***
  - Becoming an authority in my field***
  - Becoming a community leader**
  - Participating in student government

Civic Engagement

- A higher percentage of EWU students frequently/occasionally
  - Demonstrated for/against a cause
  - Performed volunteer work***
  - Voted in a student election***
  - Performed community service as part of a class
  - Discussed politics***
  - Feel that they will participate in volunteer or community service work**

Diversity

While a higher percentage of EWU males rated themselves in the Highest 10%/Above average in “ability to see the world from someone else’s perspective” and “tolerance of others with different beliefs”, a lower percentage of EWU males reported socializing with someone of another racial/ethnic group in high school.

- 71.8% of EWU freshmen report that they came from “completely white” or “mostly white” neighborhood

- A significantly higher percentage of EWU freshman expected to:
  - Socialize with someone of another race/ethnic group***
  - Have a roommate of different race/ethnicity**

- A significantly lower percentage of EWU freshman:
  - Are open to having their own views challenged*
  - Somewhat/strongly agree that students from disadvantaged backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions***
Health and Wellness

- A higher percentage of EWU freshmen reported having learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and psychological disorders.
- A significantly lower percentage of EWU students:
  - Rated their physical** and emotional health* in the Highest 10%/Above average
  - Rated their self-understanding in the Highest 10%/Above average*
  - Party 11 or more hours per week***
- A significantly higher percentage of EWU students Frequently/Occasionally
  - Felt overwhelmed by all they had to do***
  - Felt depressed***

Spirituality/Religiosity

- While a significantly higher percentage discussed religion***, a lower percentage attended a religious service Frequently/Occasionally last year
- A significantly lower percentage felt that “developing a meaningful philosophy of life” was Essential/Very Important.

Career Planning

- A significantly lower percentage of EWU freshmen rated the following as essential/very important:
  - Being very well off financially***
  - Making a theoretical contribution to science***
  - Becoming accomplished in one of the performing arts (acting, dancing, etc.)***
- A higher percentage of EWU freshman plan to obtain a Bachelor’s degree, while a lower percentage planned on obtaining a Master’s or Ph.D.:
  - 27.9% Bachelor’s
  - 44.6% Master’s
  - 16.7% Ph.D. or Ed.D.
    - 24% of EWU male freshmen plan on earning a Ph.D. or Ed.D.
    - 13.3% of EWU female freshmen plan on earning a Ph.D. or Ed.D.
  - 4.3% M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M.
- Although nearly ¼ of male freshman plan on earning a Ph.D., only 14.7% decided to attend EWU because “This college’s graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools”***
  - 18.8% of women decided to attend because EWU graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools***