

THE PARENTS SURVEY

This survey is being sent to parents by select colleges and universities as part of an extensive effort to serve both parents and students more effectively. All individual responses will be kept confidential—only averages or summary measures across groups of individuals will be reported. A high response rate from each institution’s parents will help us identify both problem areas and model programs. Thank you very much for your assistance in these efforts.

Instructions:

- **Either parent may fill out the questionnaire.**
- Please answer the question about “your child’s college/university” in reference to the liberal arts college or the university that sent you this questionnaire.
- If you have more than one child at this college/university, **please answer questions about “your child” in reference to your oldest daughter or son who is enrolled there.**

Part I: You and Your Child

Reminder: In all the questions that follow, “your child” refers to your oldest, or only, daughter or son who is enrolled at the college or university that sent you this questionnaire.

1. What is your child’s year in college?

- First year
- Second year
- Third year
- Fourth year
- Fifth year or later

2. What is your relation to this child?

- Parent
- Step-parent
- Guardian

3. Gender:

	<u>You</u>	<u>Your child</u>
Male	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Female	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Part II: Your Child's College or University

4. For each of the following topics, how would you rate the information that your child's college/university has provided *directly to you* as a parent? If you cannot recall having seen any information on the topic, please indicate that and move to the next item on this list.

	The information I have received has been...				I do not recall having seen any information about this.
	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	
Academic life and policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social life and policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residential life and policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religious life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What graduates do after college	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student support services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural and extracurricular activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Campus safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Events for Parents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student organizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-campus programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial aid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financing (installments, pre-pay, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Why college costs what it does	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other: (Please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>					

5. Overall, how satisfied are you with your child's undergraduate education so far?

- DISSATISFIED Very dissatisfied
 Generally dissatisfied
 Ambivalent
 Generally satisfied
SATISFIED Very satisfied

6. Would you encourage a high school senior who resembles your child (same background, abilities, interests, and temperament) to attend your child's college/university?

- NO Definitely not
 Probably not
 Maybe
 Probably would
YES Definitely would

7. Please answer the following if your child is a first year student - otherwise skip to question 9.
How would you rate your child's college/university in the following areas?

Please mark one answer in every row.

	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	Don't know/ Does not apply
The admissions process						
The admissions process in general	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Admissions forms and required documents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
College visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Easing the stress of the admissions process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Between admission and fall enrollment						
The financial aid application process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communications about housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information about payment and billing options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other pre-arrival communications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arrival/orientation activities for parents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Please answer the following only if your child is a first year student—otherwise skip to question 9.
Was your child accepted to this college/university through early action/early decision (with applications generally due in November) or through the regular admissions process?

- Early action/Early decision
- Regular admissions
- Transfer
- Don't Know

9. **As a parent, how satisfied are you with each of the following services or aspects of your child's college/university?**

Mark one answer in each row. If you lack knowledge of any of the aspects listed, please mark "Don't Know" and move to the next item.

	Very Dissatisfied	Generally Dissatisfied	Generally Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
Quality of the Academic Experience					
Overall quality of instruction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emphasis on undergraduate education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of academic advising	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tutorial help and other academic assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of Campus Services and Facilities					
Student housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Campus security office/campus police	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Career counseling and placement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student health and counseling services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q9 (continued)

	Very Dissatisfied	Generally Dissatisfied	Generally Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
Quality of Campus Services and Facilities (cont)					
Financial aid office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your financial aid award(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial services (bursars office, student accounts, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administration's responsiveness to parent and student concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of Campus Life					
Social life on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your child's safety on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sense of community on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sense of community in your child's residence (on or off campus)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intellectual atmosphere outside classroom	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Relations between ethnic and racial groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extent of ethnic and racial diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. How would you rate the level of attention given to intercollegiate athletics at this college/university?

- Not enough attention is given to intercollegiate athletics
- About the right level of attention is given to intercollegiate athletics
- Too much attention is given to intercollegiate athletics
- Don't know

11. How much have you been concerned this academic year about the following aspects of your child's life?

	Not at all	Somewhat	Moderately	Quite a bit	Very much
Your child's development:					
Intellectual	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social/interpersonal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religious/moral	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Political	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your child's behavior:					
Eating habits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of alcohol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of illegal drugs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexual activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Study habits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your child's future:					
Admission to graduate/professional school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child's career choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting a job after college	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repaying student loans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q11 (continued)

	Not at all	Somewhat	Moderately	Quite a bit	Very much
The college environment:					
Academic stress/pressure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social stress/pressures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Relations with roommate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residence hall environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of alcohol by other students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug and substance abuse on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety in campus neighborhood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E. Other: (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="text"/>					

Reminder: In the following questions "**your child**" refers to your oldest, or only, daughter or son who is enrolled at the college or university that sent you this questionnaire.

Part III: More About You and Your Child

12. Does this child have any older siblings who have attended, or who are now attending, college?

- Yes
- No older siblings attend/attended college
- No older siblings

13. Where did your child live during the fall term?

- Residence hall
- Fraternity/sorority
- Other college housing
- Off-campus
- With parent(s)
- Studying abroad or at another off-campus program

14. In which of the following areas is your child majoring?

Please mark all that apply.

- Arts/humanities
- Business
- Engineering
- Natural sciences
- Social sciences
- Other
- No major declared
- Don't know

15. Has your child played an intercollegiate sport during his or her undergraduate years?

- Yes
- No

16. What is your citizenship status? What about your child?

	<u>You</u>	<u>Your child</u>
United States citizen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. permanent resident (green card holder) and citizen of the another country	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Citizen of another country with a non-immigrant/student visa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>


17. Please tell us about your ethnic and racial backgrounds:

Please mark all that apply.

	<u>You</u>	<u>Your child</u>
American Indian or Alaska Native	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Asian	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Black or African American	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hispanic or Latino	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
White	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. Please tell us about your own education.

Please mark your highest degree below.

- No high school diploma or equivalent
- High school diploma or equivalency
- Some college (no degree or associate's degree)
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate Degree(s) 

Please indicate which graduate degree or degrees you have by marking all the circles that apply below.

- Master's degree
- Doctoral degree
- Medical degree
- Law degree

19. Do you expect your child to obtain a degree beyond the bachelor's, either at this college/university or another?

- No
- Yes → If yes, what is it most likely to be?

Mark all that apply.

- Master's degree in the Arts and Sciences (e.g., MA, MS)
- Professional master's degree (e.g., MBA, MSW, MSE, MSN, MAT, MPA)
- Professional doctorate (e.g., EdD, DDiv)
- Ph.D.
- Medical degree (MD, DO, DDS, DVM)
- Law degree (JD, LLB)
- Other advanced degree
- Specific degree not known

20. Has a parent, sibling, or other close relative of this child attended the college/university that sent you this questionnaire?

Mark all that apply.

- You
 - Another parent or step-parent
 - A sibling of this child
 - Another close relative
-

Part IV: Financing Your Child's Education

The following questions are designed to help us better understand how families are paying their higher education bills. Your responses will be kept completely confidential. These data will be used for research only and will not affect decisions regarding your financial aid or any other administrative matter.

21. Which of the following best describes the financial aid this college/university provides for your child this academic year (include federal grants but not athletic or other merit-based aid):

- We did not apply for financial aid
- We applied for aid but did not receive any
- We receive aid only in the form of loans and work study
- We receive an aid package that includes some need-based grants, but less than \$15,000 in grant aid
- We receive an aid package that includes \$15,000 or more in need-based grants

22. Money given out as grants from the college/university and the government (federal or state) helps some families pay for some higher education costs. Because these funds do not cover the entire cost of a college education, families make up the difference using many sources of funds.

How are you funding your family's portion of the cost of your child's education this academic year? Below, we list a number of resources to which families may have access. Please approximate the share of your family's total college expenses met with each type of resource. For example, if you must pay \$10,000 this year for your child and withdrew \$4,000 from savings and took out \$6,000 in PLUS loans, you would mark 26-50% on the "Family Savings" line and 51-100% on the "Parent Loans" line. Please mark the "Not used" category where appropriate.

	Meets more than half of my costs (51-100%)			
	Meets half or less, but more than one quarter, of my costs (26-50%)			51-100%
	Meets a quarter or less of my costs (1-25%)		26-50%	
	0%	1-25%		26-50%
Family Assets				
Family savings (sales of financial assets such as mutual funds, CDs, & stocks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sale of non-financial assets (e.g., car, real estate)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State-sponsored college savings plan or prepaid tuition plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Withdrawal from a retirement plan (e.g., IRA, 401K, 403B)*	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Borrowing				
Parent Loans (e.g., PLUS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student Loans (Stafford, University, and other loans)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home mortgage refinancing/home equity loan/second mortgage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Borrowing from relatives or family friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Borrowing from a retirement plan (e.g., IRA, 401K, 403B)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other types of borrowing. Please specify: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Current Income from Parent or Student				
Income from parents' usual job(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Income from a parent's second job or overtime work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student work-study/term-time job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student earnings during vacation periods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tuition assistance benefits from parents' or student's employers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gifts and Scholarships				
Gifts from relatives or family friends (such as grandparents)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scholarships (National Merit, employer-sponsored, and any other scholarships other than aid from this institution or the government)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other: (Please specify)				
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* If you borrowed from you retirement plan and expect to pay it back, please choose the option under "Borrowing"

Please check to make sure your answers add up to approximately 100%

23. In total, how much money have *you* borrowed so far to pay for this child's college education?
Include all amounts that you are obligated to repay, including *all* types of borrowing from the list above.
Do not include amounts that your child is obligated to repay. Just give your best estimate.

- \$0
- \$1-4,999
- \$5,000-9,999
- \$10,000-14,999
- \$15,000-19,999
- \$20,000-24,999
- \$25,000-49,999
- \$50,000-or more

24. What has been the impact on your family of paying for your child to attend this institution?

Mark one.

- None/Slight**
- Moderate**
- Considerable**
- Severe**
- Not applicable** (We have not contributed funds for our child's education.)

25. Has your child's experience at this institution been worth the impact on your family's finances?

Mark the statement that comes closest to describing how you feel.

- Yes, definitely.** The benefits of attending this institution will out-weigh whatever financial sacrifices that our family has had to make.
- Somewhat.** I have sometimes doubted whether the benefits of this institution will be worth the financial sacrifices.
- No, definitely not.** I feel that the benefits of attending this institution will not be worth the financial sacrifices that our family has had to make.

26. Because of a lack of money, has your child had to forego any of the following while in college?

Please mark each item that applies to your child.

- Study abroad
- Extracurricular clubs
- Internships
- Fraternity/sorority membership
- Community service
- Vacation and break-time travel

27. **Please use the following categories to tell us what your before-tax family income from all sources was in 2001.** Again, all information you provide is completely confidential and will be used only for research.

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$124,999
- \$125,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 - \$174,999
- \$175,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 or more

28. Currently, most financial aid is based on financial need. If the **federal government** were to give out *additional* financial aid, on what basis should it be distributed? Should the *additional* aid be given out based only on financial need, based solely on academic ability, or somewhere in between? What about additional aid given out **by this college/university** from its own resources?

For each row, mark the circle below that comes closest to how you feel.

Additional financial aid from...	should be distributed based...				
	On financial need only	More on need than ability	Equally on financial need and academic ability	More on ability than need	On academic ability only
The Federal Government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This College/University	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Part V: Your Comments

29. What has most pleased you about your child's college/university?

30. What has most disappointed you about your child's college/university?

If the college or university that sent you this questionnaire has included some supplemental questions, please answer them in the following spaces.

31-50. O O O O O

Thank you very much for your assistance. Please use the back page to make additional comments about this questionnaire, your child's college/university, higher education in general, or being a parent of a college student.