



Freshmen Orientation Survey Report
New Jersey City University

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Arthur Kramer, Ph.D., Director
Candace Amorino, M.A., Assistant Director
Camilo Marmolejo, Graduate Assistant

Summary

A survey was conducted of the incoming freshmen class at Freshmen Orientation in July and August of 2009. Of the 507 freshmen who attended the orientations, 193 completed the survey (38%). The information contained in this report pertains to this 38% of freshmen.

The respondents are typical of what is considered a traditional college freshman: around 18 years old and enrolling directly from high school. At least half said one parent had only a high school education, and over a quarter reported neither parent had any post-secondary education.

Most of the freshmen expect to work a paying job at least on a part-time basis, and some anticipate working full-time (i.e., 35 or more hours per week); almost 10% of the students expecting to attend class full-time also expect to work full-time.

Most of the respondents do not need to care for a child or ailing relative, and they expect to take most of their classes during the day.

The low tuition was the most important factor in selecting NJCU, and convenience to home and the likelihood of being accepted were also important reasons. The majority of the respondents expect to graduate in four years, while 15% plan to transfer prior to graduating. The main reasons selected by the freshmen for attending NJCU were to learn about new fields of study and acquiring the ability to get a good job after graduating.

The majority of freshmen (n=153; 80%) are eighteen years or under with 31 (16%) being nineteen to twenty-one years old.

Age of Freshman

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	18 or under	153	79.7
	19 to 21	31	16.1
	22 to 25	4	2.1
	over 34	4	2.1
	Total	192	100.0
Missing	-1	1	
Total		193	

Ninety-six percent (n=183) of the one hundred-ninety-three freshmen's last school attended was high school whereas only four (2%) last attended a vocational or technical school higher than high school.

Type of school last attended

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	High School	183	95.8
	4-year college	1	.5
	2-year college	1	.5
	Vocational or technical school higher than high school	4	2.1
	other	2	1.0
	Total	191	100.0
	Missing	-1.0	2
Total		193	

Ninety-two percent (n=175) had attended their last school less than one year ago and six (3%) attended one to two years ago.

How long since last attended school

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	More than 10 years	2	1.1
	6 to 10 years	3	1.6
	3 to 5 years	4	2.1
	1 to 2 years	6	3.2
	Less than 1 year	175	92.1
	Total	190	100.0
Missing	-1	3	
Total		193	

One hundred and thirteen (60%) of the freshmen said their fathers have not had any college education. Thirty-seven (20%) indicated that their fathers have only had some high school as their highest level of education. Forty-one percent (n=76) said their fathers' highest level of education was a high school diploma or the equivalent. Fourteen percent (n=26) of the freshmen's fathers had a four year college degree and eleven (6%) had a graduate degree.

Father's educational attainment

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	some high school	37	20.0
	high school diploma or equivalent	76	41.1
	some college	26	14.1
	two-year college degree	9	4.9
	four-year college degree	26	14.1
	graduate or professional degree	11	5.9
Total		185	100.0
Missing	-1	8	
Total		193	

Ninety-three (50%) of the freshmen's mothers have not had any college education. Thirteen percent (n=24) had some high school as their highest level of education and sixty-nine (37%) had a high school diploma or the equivalent. Eleven percent (n=20) of the freshmen's mothers had a four year college degree and twenty-two (12 %) had a graduate degree.

Mother's educational attainment

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	some high school	24	13.0
	high school diploma or equivalent	69	37.3
	some college	30	16.2
	two-year college degree	20	10.8
	four-year college degree	20	10.8
	graduate or professional degree	22	11.9
	Total	185	100.0
Missing	-1	8	
Total		193	

Seventy-two (37%) of the incoming freshmen have parents who have not attended college. Fifty-six (29%) have at least one parent with some college attendance (one student did not report parents education).

Plans to graduate from NJCU * Parents education Crosstabulation

			Parents education				Total
			Neither parent has any post secondary ed	One parent has postsecondary ed	Both parents have some post secondary ed	Information for one parent missing	
Plans to graduate from NJCU	Yes. within 4 years	Count	41	35	35	8	119
		% of Total	21.4%	18.2%	18.2%	4.2%	62.0%
	Yes, within 5 years	Count	8	4	6	1	19
		% of Total	4.2%	2.1%	3.1%	.5%	9.9%
	Yes, within 6 years	Count	1	0	0	0	1
		% of Total	.5%	.0%	.0%	.0%	.5%
	Yes, but I don't know how long I will need	Count	5	5	3	0	13
		% of Total	2.6%	2.6%	1.6%	.0%	6.8%
	No, I plan to take courses and then transfer	Count	12	9	7	1	29
		% of Total	6.3%	4.7%	3.6%	.5%	15.1%
	Other	Count	5	3	2	1	11
		% of Total	2.6%	1.6%	1.0%	.5%	5.7%
	Total	Count	72	56	53	11	192
		% of Total	37.5%	29.2%	27.6%	5.7%	100.0%

Of the freshmen, seventy-four (40%) expect to work eleven to twenty hours a week during the school year. Forty (21%) expect to work 21 to 34 hours a week and twenty-four (13%) expect to work fulltime (35 hours or more a week). Twenty-two (12%) do not expect to work at all during the school year.

Expected weekly hours of employment

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	none	22	11.7
	10 or fewer	27	14.4
	11-20	74	39.4
	21-34	40	21.3
	35 or more (full time)	25	13.3
	Total	188	100.0
Missing	-1	5	
Total		193	

Out of the fulltime freshmen, 9% will work fulltime, 77% will work part time, and 12% will not work.

Full time freshmen: Expected weekly hours of employment

		Valid Percent
Valid	none	12.5
	10 or fewer	16.7
	11-20	39.6
	21-34	21.9
	35 or more (full time)	9.4
	Total	100.0
Missing	-1	
Total		

Eighty-three percent of the part time freshmen plan to work while attending New Jersey City University.

Part time freshmen: expected weekly hours of employment

		Valid Percent
Valid	none	16.7
	10 or fewer	11.1
	11-20	27.8
	21-34	22.2
	35 or more (full time)	22.2
	Total	100.0

The majority of freshmen (n=153; 82%) will not spend anytime caring for a child, while eight (4%) will spend thirty-five or more hours doing so.

Weekly hours spent caring for a child

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	none	153	81.8
	10 or fewer	17	9.1
	11-20	7	3.7
	21-34	2	1.1
	35 or more	8	4.3
	Total	187	100.0
Missing	-1	6	
Total		193	

Similarly, 169 (91%) will not spend anytime caring for an elderly or ailing relative and thirteen (7%) will spend ten or fewer hours doing so.

Time spent caring for an elderly person

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	None	169	90.9
	10 or fewer hours	13	7.0
	11-20 hours	2	1.1
	21-34 hours	1	.5
	35 or more hours	1	.5
	Total	186	100.0
Missing	-1	7	
Total		193	

As for the time period when freshmen will take classes, 66% (n=126) will take day courses only (before 4pm) and 5% (n=10) will take evenings only, while 29% (n=56) will take both day and evening courses.

Time period in which classes will be attended

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	days only (before 4 p.m.)	126	65.6
	evenings only (after 4 p.m.)	10	5.2
	days and evenings	56	29.2
	Total	192	100.0
Missing	-1	1	
Total		193	

Freshmen were asked to rate given reasons for electing to attend New Jersey City University. Low tuition was rated as a very important factor by 64% (n=121), and 10% (n=18) were neutral about tuition as a reason for attending.

Tuition as important

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very important	121	64.4
	Somewhat important	45	23.9
	Neutral	18	9.6
	Not too important	2	1.1
	Not important at all	2	1.1
	Total	188	100.0
Missing	-1	5	
Total		193	

Fifty-four percent (n=52) rated convenience to home as very important and twenty (11%) were neutral about this as a factor for attending.

Convenience to home

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very important	102	54.0
	Somewhat important	56	29.6
	Neutral	20	10.6
	Not too important	5	2.6
	Not important at all	6	3.2
	Total	189	100.0
Missing	-1	4	
Total		193	

Fifty percent (n=95) rated the reputation of the university as very important while eighteen percent (n=35) were neutral about attending due to the reputation.

Reputation of the University

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very important	95	50.3
	Somewhat important	49	25.9
	Neutral	35	18.5
	Not too important	6	3.2
	Not important at all	4	2.1
	Total	189	100.0
Missing	-1	4	
Total		193	

The opportunity for financial aid was rated as very important by fifty-six percent (n=105) of the freshmen and eighteen percent (n=35) rated neutral regarding this as a reason for electing to attend New Jersey City University.

Opportunity for financial aid

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very important	105	55.6
	Somewhat important	41	21.7
	Neutral	35	18.5
	Not too important	4	2.1
	Not important at all	4	2.1
	Total	189	100.0
Missing	-1	4	
Total		193	

As for the likeliness of being accepted as a motive for choosing to attend, fifty-six percent (n=106) rated this as a very important factor and eighteen percent (n=34) rated this reason as neutral.

Likelihood of acceptance

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very important	106	56.1
	Somewhat important	43	22.8
	Neutral	34	18.0
	Not too important	3	1.6
	Not important at all	3	1.6
	Total	189	100.0
Missing	-1	4	
Total		193	

Fifty-five percent (n=104) regarded the offering of a particular major as a very important reason for attending and seventeen percent (n=32) were neutral to this as a factor in deciding to attend.

Offering of a particular major

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very important	104	55.3
	Somewhat important	42	22.3
	Neutral	32	17.0
	Not too important	6	3.2
	Not important at all	4	2.1
	Total	188	100.0
Missing	-1	5	
Total		193	

Participation in cooperative education was very important to thirty-two percent (n=60) of the freshmen and twenty-eight percent (n=52) were neutral about this as a factor in attending.

Participation in Cooperative Education

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very important	60	32.3
	Somewhat important	48	25.8
	Neutral	52	28.0
	Not too important	11	5.9
	Not important at all	15	8.1
	Total	186	100.0
Missing	-1	7	
Total		193	

The most important characteristic in selecting New Jersey City University was tuition, rated as very or somewhat important by eighty-eight percent (n=170) of the freshmen. The second was convenience to home (84%; n=163) and the third was the likelihood of acceptance (79%; n=106).

Seventy-nine percent (n=152) of the freshmen plan to graduate from New Jersey City University, and sixty-two percent (n=119) of them expect to do so in four years. Fifteen percent (n=29) plan to transfer to another institution.

Plans to graduate from NJCU

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes. within 4 years	119	62.0
	Yes, within 5 years	19	9.9
	Yes, within 6 years	1	.5
	Yes, but I don't know how long I will need	13	6.8
	No, I plan to take courses and then transfer	29	15.1
	Other	11	5.7
	Total	192	100.0
Missing	-1	1	
Total		193	

The freshmen also rated the importance of hoping to learn about new fields of study in addition to their major while at New Jersey City University. Sixty-two percent (n=116) rated this as very important. Twenty-eight percent (n=53) found it somewhat important.

Hope to learn new fields of study

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very important	116	62.0
	Somewhat important	53	28.3
	Not too important	16	8.6
	Not important at all	2	1.1
	Total	187	100.0
Missing	-1	6	
Total		193	

Ninety-two percent (n=172) rated the importance of getting a good or better job after graduation as very important.

Hope to get a good job after graduation

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very important	172	92.0
	Somewhat important	11	5.9
	Not too important	3	1.6
	Not important at all	1	.5
	Total	187	100.0
Missing	-1	6	
Total		193	

Fifty-four percent (n=101) of the freshmen rated their hope to attend graduate school after graduation as very important. Ten percent (n=18) rated this as not too important.

Hope to attend graduate school

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very important	101	54.3
	Somewhat important	57	30.6
	Not too important	18	9.7
	Not important at all	10	5.4
	Total	186	100.0
Missing	-1	7	
Total		193	

As for probable majors chosen by the freshmen, 15% were undecided, 14% indicated Education, 11% Business, 10% Criminal Justice, 9% Psychology, 9% Biology, 6% Music, 5% Art, 4% Media Arts, 4% Political Science, 2% English, 2% Math, 2% Nursing, 1% Computer Science; and 0.7% indicated Chemistry, Economics, Geoscience and Health Science would be probable majors.

Probable major

		Frequency	Valid Percent
Valid	Undecided	21	15.0
	Business Administration	16	11.4
	Criminal Justice	14	10.0
	Psychology	13	9.3
	Biology	12	8.6
	Early Childhood Education	11	7.9
	Music	9	6.4
	Elementary Education	8	5.7
	Art	7	5.0
	Media Arts	6	4.3
	Political Science	5	3.6
	English	3	2.1
	History	3	2.1
	Math	3	2.1
	Nursing	3	2.1
	Computer Science	2	1.4
	Chemistry	1	.7
	Economics	1	.7
	Geoscience	1	.7
	Health Science	1	.7
	Total	140	100.0
Missing	-1	53	
Total		193	

Six freshmen chose Elementary Education as their probable major combined with a second subject. The six combinations were: Elementary Education and Art, Elementary Education and Music, Elementary Education and Psychology, Elementary Education and English, Elementary Education and Special Education, and Elementary Education and Business Administration.

Three freshmen chose Early Childhood Education as their probable major combined with a second subject. The combinations were Early Childhood Education and Business Administration, Early Childhood Education and Criminal Justice, and Early Childhood Education and Mathematics.