State System of Higher Education Alumni Survey 2007-2008 Graduates

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) contracted with Franklin and Marshall College's Center for Opinion Research to conduct a survey on 2007-2008 baccalaureate degree alumni of PASSHE schools. This telephone survey was conducted between May and August of 2009 with a total of 2,556 PASSHE graduates, including 312 WCU graduates. Weighting was used to correct for unequal probability of selection.

West Chester University alumni had many positive things to say about their collegiate experiences. A total of 94% of respondents stated they *would recommend* WCU to others. Similarly, 92% reported that they received *good* or *excellent* quality education at the University. Furthermore, 62% responded *very well* or *more than adequately* to the question: How well did WCU prepare you for employment? This is particularly relevant as 78% of respondents stated that *preparing for a career* was the primary objective in attending a university.

There are a few areas in which WCU can improve. For example, 27% of respondents claimed that WCU performed *worse than expected* in terms of providing an academic advisor who was interested in their progress. For transfer students, 17% reported the transition from their previous college or university to WCU was *somewhat difficult* or *very difficult*. Another area with a relatively high proportion of dissatisfaction centered on the variety of meals/food served in the cafeteria, where 24% of respondents indicated they were *not satisfied*.

Below are tables which summarize all of the findings from the survey. The counts provided are weighted.

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Prepare for a Career	78%	81%
Prepare for graduate, professional or technical school	13%	11%
Improve existing job skills	2%	3%
For some personal interest	5%	3%
For some other reason	2%	3%

What was your primary objective in attending a university? Was it to ...

When you transferred to [your] University from your previous college or university, did you feel your transition was...

	WCU	SSHE
	n=122	n=777
Very easy	49%	56%
Somewhat easy	33%	31%
Somewhat difficult	16%	11%
Very difficult	1%	2%
Do not know	0%	0%

Did you transfer from...

	WCU	SSHE
	n=122	n=777
Community college	42%	47%
Another state system university	29%	27%
From somewhere else	28%	25%
Do not know	1%	0%

Did [your] University meet your expectations with the number of credits that they accepted for transfer from your previous institution? Would you say they accepted...

	WCU	SSHE
	n=122	n=708
More credits than expected	28%	28%
About as many credits as expected	57%	58%
Fewer credits than expected	16%	14%
None of my credits	0%	0%
Had no expectations of how many credits would transfer	0%	1%

Overall, how easy or difficult was the transfer process? Would you say it was...

	WCU	SSHE
	n=122	n=777
Very easy	39%	53%
Somewhat easy	48%	38%
Somewhat difficult	10%	8%
Very difficult	3%	2%
Do not know	0%	0%

How would you rate the quality of education you received at [your] University?

		· · ·	 WCU	SSHE
			n=312	n=2,556
Excellent			50%	51%
Good			42%	44%
Fair			9%	5%
Poor			0%	0%

Would you recommend [your] University to others?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes	94%	95%
No	3%	3%
Do not know	3%	2%

Did you pay in-state tuition the semester that you graduated?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes	84%	86%
No	15%	12%
Do not know	1%	2%

	WCU n=308	SSHE n=2556
\$0	29%	22%
\$0.01 - \$5,000	4%	4%
\$5,001 - \$10,000	7%	5%
\$10,001 - \$15,000	9%	9%
\$15,001 - \$20,000	9%	14%
\$20,001 - \$25,000	8%	6%
More than \$25,000	15%	20%
Do not know	20%	20%

What was the total amount you borrowed in undergraduate loans?

How much, if any, of the amount you borrowed did you charge to your own personal credit card?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=158	n=1468
\$0	85%	88%
\$0.01 - \$5,000	7%	7%
\$5,001 - \$10,000	2%	1%
\$10,001 - \$15,000	1%	0%
\$15,001 - \$50,000	0%	1%
Do not know	5%	2%

Which of the following best describes your current primary employment or educational status? Are you...

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2556
Employed full-time in your field of study	45%	48%
Employed part-time in your field of study	10%	10%
Employed full-time in another field	21%	17%
Employed part-time in another field	5%	6%
Employed in the armed services	0%	0%
Continuing your education	13%	12%
Unemployed, seeking employment	7%	6%
Unemployed, not seeking employment	1%	1%

Would you like this to be your chosen career?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=78	n=578
Yes	23%	17%
No	77%	78%
Not applicable	0%	0%
Do not know	0%	5%

Is your job located in Pennsylvania?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=248	n=2067
Yes	81%	83%
No	19%	18%

What is the name of your job?

	WCU n=248	SSHE n=2,067
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	0%	1%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	5%	6%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	0%	1%
Business Operations Specialist	3%	3%
Community and Social Service Occupations	7%	7%
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	1%	3%
Construction Trades	0%	1%
Education, Training and Library Occupations	27%	31%
Extraction Workers	0%	0%
Farming, Fishing and Forestry Occupations	0%	0%
Financial Specialist	9%	5%
Food Preparation and Serving Occupations	6%	4%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	9%	6%
Healthcare Support Occupations	4%	3%
Installation, Maintenance and Repair Work	1%	0%
Legal Occupations	0%	1%
Life, Physical and Social Science Occupations	1%	2%
Management Occupations	2%	1%
Military Specific Occupations	0%	0%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	11%	11%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	2%	3%
Production Occupations	2%	1%
Protective Service Occupations	0%	2%
Sales Occupations	7%	9%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	1%	1%

In what state is your job located?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=248	n=2067
Pennsylvania	81%	83%
Other	3%	3%
New Jersey	6%	4%
New York	0%	3%
California	1%	0%
Delaware	5%	1%
Florida	1%	1%
Maryland	1%	3%
Virginia	1%	1%
North Carolina	1%	1%
Ohio	1%	1%

······································	WCU n=202	SSHE n=1706
Already PA resident	60%	56%
Attending school/graduate school in PA	4%	2%
Better pay	1%	2%
Certified in PA	1%	1%
Convenience, ease of commute	3%	2%
Family in PA	11%	18%
Internship to hire, stay at college job	0%	1%
Jobs available	12%	10%
Like PA	4%	4%
Live at home to save money	1%	2%
Low cost of living	0%	0%
Not financially able to leave PA	2%	1%
Not ready to move	0%	1%
Other	2%	1%

What was the primary reason you decided to work in Pennsylvania?

What was the p	rimary reason you o	decided to work outsid	e of Pennsylvania?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=46	n=362
Attending school outside PA	0%	2%
Better Pay	4%	3%
Certified outside PA	0%	0%
Change of scenery	4%	10%
Continuing education	0%	0%
Convenience, ease of commute	0%	1%
Do not know	0%	0%
Do not like PA	4%	3%
Family outside of PA	23%	8%
Internship to hire, stay at college job	0%	1%
Live at home to save money	0%	0%
Low cost of living	0%	0%
Moved back to hometown, Live outside PA	31%	34%
No jobs available in PA	35%	37%
Other	0%	1%

What is your gross salary? (gross is before deductions)

	WCU	SSHE
	n=204	n=2067
Mean	\$37,679	\$33,571
Median	\$38,000	NA

How long after graduation did it take you to obtain your first job? Would you say		
	WCU	SSHE
	n=248	n=2067
Already had the job	44%	32%
Six months or less	49%	56%
More than six months but less than a year	6%	9%
one year or more	2%	3%

Which of the following best describes your primary employer

	WCU	SSHE
	n=248	n=2067
Educational institution	27%	30%
Large organization or agency (500 or more employees)	41%	33%
Medium organization or agency (100 - 499 employees)	13%	15%
Small organization or agency (Less than 100 employees)	18%	21%
Self employed	1%	1%
Do not know	0%	0%

Overall, how well did [your] University prepare you for employment? Would you say...

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Very well	34%	36%
More than adequately	28%	26%
Adequately	27%	28%
Less than adequately	7%	6%
Poorly	3%	3%
Do not know	1%	2%

Prior to your graduation from [your] University, did you use any campus services that helped you get a job?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=244	n=2,556
Yes	26%	30%
No	73%	70%
Do not know	1%	0%

What services did you use?

	WCU n=64	SSHE n=619
Alumni relations	0%	1%
Career Center, Career Services, Career Development Center	67%	59%
Career Exploration – career assessment test, etc.	0%	1%
Electronic college services – college website, career center website,		
career database (not off-campus sites)	8%	8%
Internship, work study, co-op offices	6%	5%
Interview preparation, mock interviews	0%	5%
Job Fair, recruitment fair, career fair, career day	22%	20%
Leadership development	0%	1%
Professor, college advisor, major department, college professional		
staff	3%	6%
Resume assistance, cover letter writing (counseling, course, etc.)	9%	19%
Special programs, seminars, workshops (Trio, Upward Bound, etc.)	6%	5%
Other	14%	4%

What is your current educational status?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Not enrolled in any educational institution	66%	73%
Taking courses but not pursuing a degree at this time	3%	2%
Enrolled full-time in a graduate or first professional program	15%	14%
Enrolled part-time in a graduate or first professional program	11%	8%
Enrolled full-time in a certification program	1%	1%
Enrolled part-time in a certification degree program	1%	1%
Enrolled full-time in an undergraduate degree program	1%	1%
Enrolled part-time in an undergraduate degree program	1%	1%

Is your school located in Pennsylvania?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=106	n=683
Yes	65%	69%
No	33%	30%
Do not know	2%	1%

What is the name of your school?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=104	n=683
West Chester	32%	7%
Kutztown University of PA	0%	1%
Lock Have University of PA	0%	1%
Mansfield University of PA	0%	1%
Edinboro University of PA	0%	4%
Millersville University	2%	2%
California University of PA	2%	4%
Indiana University of PA	0%	2%
Slippery Rock university of PA	0%	2%
Bloomsburg University of PA	2%	4%
East Stroudsburg University of PA	0%	4%
Shippensburg University of PA	0%	3%
Clarion University of PA	0%	2%
Other	69%	63%

In what state is your school located?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=104	n=683
Pennsylvania	68%	69%
New Jersey	2%	3%
New York	3%	3%
Delaware	7%	2%
Maryland	3%	3%
California	2%	1%
Colorado	2%	0%
Arizona	0%	1%
Florida	2%	1%
Ohio	0%	3%
Virginia	2%	2%
Indiana	2%	1%
Do not know	0%	1%
Other	6%	7%

Overall, how well did [your] University prepare you for a graduate or first professional program?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=97	n=647
Very well	47%	49%
More than adequately	22%	23%
Adequately	27%	22%
Less than adequately	0%	2%
Poorly	0%	1%
Do not know	4%	3%

While at [your] University, did you participate in a work study, co-operative education, clinical field experience, or internship experience, not including student teaching?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes	49%	53%
No	51%	47%

Was it...

	WCU	SSHE
	n=152	n=1,352
Internship	50%	51%
Clinical field experience	26%	13%
Work study	14%	24%
Co-operative education	2%	2%
Combination of two or more of the above (Multi-program)	7%	9%
Do not know	1%	1%

Were you offered employment by the organization where you did your [work study, internship, etc,]?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=152	n=1,352
Yes	43%	35%
No	57%	65%

How important was your [work-study, internship, etc.] in helping you get a job? Would you say it was...

	WCU	SSHE
	n=152	n=1352
Very important	51%	45%
Somewhat important	30%	29%
Somewhat unimportant	2%	10%
Not at all important	15%	15%
Do not know	2%	1%

While at [your] University, did you participate in any service learning courses where you were involved in community service activities?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes	43%	37%
No	56%	63%
Do not know	1%	1%

Did you ever live in the campus residence hall at [your] University?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes	70%	67%
No	30%	34%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the residence halls?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=216	n=1,698
Yes, satisfied	89%	88%
No, not satisfied	12%	12%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the condition of your residence hall room?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=218	n=1,698
Yes, satisfied	86%	86%
No, not satisfied	14%	13%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the variety of housing options available to you through university affiliated housing?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=218	n=1,698
Yes, satisfied	82%	77%
No, not satisfied	18%	22%
Do not know	0%	1%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with how well residence hall staff addressed your questions, concerns, or other issues in the hall?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=218	n=1,698
Yes, satisfied	89%	91%
No, not satisfied	9%	8%
Do not know	2%	2%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the variety of meals/food served in the cafeteria?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=216	n=1,698
Yes, satisfied	75%	77%
No, not satisfied	24%	22%
Do not know	2%	1%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the meal plan options you were offered?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=1,698
Yes, satisfied	86%	84%
No, not satisfied	14%	16%
Do not know	0%	1%

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes, satisfied	92%	94%
No, not satisfied	7%	5%
Do not know	1%	1%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the ability of most of the instructors at [your] University?

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the classroom buildings and library?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes, satisfied	91%	92%
No, not satisfied	9%	7%
Do not know	0%	1%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the intellectual life of the university?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes, satisfied	89%	90%
No, not satisfied	10%	9%
Do not know	2%	1%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the course curriculum?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes, satisfied	92%	91%
No, not satisfied	7%	9%
Do not know	1%	0%
Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the social life?		
	WCU	SSHE
	n=308	n=2,556
Yes, satisfied	89%	88%
No, not satisfied	6%	8%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with your intellectual growth?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes, satisfied	96%	96%
No, not satisfied	5%	3%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the education you received, considering the overall cost to attend the university?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes, satisfied	94%	95%
No, not satisfied	5%	5%
Do not know	1%	0%

Do not know

5%

5%

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes, satisfied	93%	89%
No, not satisfied	6%	10%
Do not know	1%	2%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the reputation of the university compared to similar postsecondary institutions?

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the security measures taken by the university to ensure the safety of its students?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=308	n=2,556
Yes, satisfied	87%	91%
No, not satisfied	13%	8%
Do not know	1%	1%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the number of student organization on campus related to your interests?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Yes, satisfied	85%	84%
No, not satisfied	10%	12%
Do not know	6%	4%

Were you satisfied or not satisfied with the number and quality of programs, events, and activities on campus, considering the activity fee you paid?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=310	n=2,556
Yes, satisfied	82%	81%
No, not satisfied	11%	15%
Do not know	7%	4%

I would like you to tell me if you think [your] University performed better than you expected, about as you expected or worse than you expected in terms of the quality of instruction in your major

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Better than you expected	56%	58%
About as you expected	39%	37%
Worse than you expected	5%	5%

I would like you to tell me if you think [your] University performed better than you expected, about as you expected or worse than you expected in terms of providing a wide range of courses

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Better than you expected	39%	37%
About as you expected	56%	55%
Worse than you expected	5%	7%

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Better than you expected	55%	53%
About as you expected	42%	42%
Worse than you expected	4%	5%

I would like you to tell me if you think [your] University performed better than you expected, about as you expected or worse than you expected in terms of the quality of your major courses

I would like you to tell me if you think [your] University performed better than you expected, about as you expected or worse than you expected in terms of the value of your general education courses

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Better than you expected	24%	24%
About as you expected	63%	66%
Worse than you expected	11%	9%
Do not know	1%	1%

I would like you to tell me if you think [your] University performed better than you expected, about as you expected or worse than you expected in terms of having classes available when you needed them

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Better than you expected	36%	30%
About as you expected	51%	50%
Worse than you expected	14%	19%

I would like you to tell me if you think [your] University performed better than you expected, about as you expected or worse than you expected in terms of providing knowledgeable faculty

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Better than you expected	48%	52%
About as you expected	47%	45%
Worse than you expected	5%	3%

I would like you to tell me if you think [your] University performed better than you expected, about as you expected or worse than you expected in terms of being concerned for you as an individual

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Better than you expected	45%	43%
About as you expected	43%	47%
Worse than you expected	12%	9%
Do Not know	1%	0%

I would like you to tell me if you think [your] University performed better than you expected, about as you expected or worse than you expected in terms of providing an academic advisor who was interested in your progress

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Better than you expected	43%	47%
About as you expected	31%	31%
Worse than you expected	27%	22%

I would like you to tell me if you think [your] University performed better than you expected, about as you expected or worse than you expected in terms of providing an opportunity to volunteer within the local community?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=310	n=2,556
Better than you expected	25%	25%
About as you expected	58%	58%
Worse than you expected	12%	12%
Do Not know	5%	5%

How well did [your] University prepare you to take a leadership role within a volunteer organization?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=310	n=2,556
Very Well	21%	22%
More than adequately	13%	20%
Adequately	54%	47%
Less than adequately	8%	6%
Poorly	2%	2%
Do not know	2%	3%

How well did [your] University prepare you for membership in a civic, community, religious or other non-profit organization?

	WCU n=310	SSHE n=2,556
Very Well	13%	22%
More than adequately	16%	20%
Adequately	57%	47%
Less than adequately	8%	6%
Poorly	2%	2%
Do not know	4%	3%

	WCU	SSHE
	n=310	n=2,556
Very Well	25%	28%
More than adequately	19%	26%
Adequately	47%	37%
Less than adequately	6%	6%
Poorly	1%	2%
Do not know	1%	2%

How well did [your] University prepare you to take a leadership role within your place of employment?

During the past year, about how many hours did you spend in a typical seven day week volunteering for a civic, community, religious, or other non-profit organization?

	Ŭ		Ŭ	WCU	SSHE
				n=312	n=2,556
None				43%	40%
1-2 hours				28%	26%
3-5 hours				14%	18%
6+ hours				11%	14%
Do not know				4%	3%

Using a one to ten scale, where one means very dissatisfied and ten means very satisfied how satisfied are you with [your] University?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Mean	8.07	8.13

How often do you visit or talk to college friends you made while at [your] University...

	WCU	SSHE
	n=310	n=2,556
Frequently	67%	64%
Sometimes	21%	20%
Seldom	10%	11%
Never	3%	5%
Do not know	0%	0%

How interested are you in being informed about what is taking place at [your] University?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Very interested	14%	18%
Somewhat interested	55%	55%
Not very interested	22%	18%
Not interested at all	9%	8%

How would you most prefer to be	contacted by [your] University?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=283	n=2,556
Telephone	4%	5%
Email	71%	62%
Direct mail	25%	33%
Do not know	0%	0%

How closely do you feel to [your] University? Using a one to ten scale, where one means you feel absolutely no connection and ten means you feel a very strong connection to [your] University?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Mean	6.60	6.66

Generally speaking, how interested would you be in attending an alumni event that took place in your area?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Very interested	17%	16%
Somewhat interested	46%	50%
Not very interested	26%	22%
Not interested at all	12%	12%

Have you made a financial donation to [your] University since you graduated?

	., .		 WCU	SSHE
			n=312	n=2,556
Yes			7%	10%
No			93%	90%
Do not know			0%	1%

How likely will you be to make a financial donation to [your] University in the next two years?

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Very likely	8%	10%
Somewhat likely	32%	35%
Not very likely	37%	31%
Not at all likely	23%	24%
Do Not Know	1%	1%

Gender of respondent

	WCU	SSHE
	n=312	n=2,556
Male	36%	41%
Female	64%	59%