

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

First-time Full-time Freshmen – As they Enter:

Fall 2005 Update

Who They Are

What They Did in High School

Why They Come to SIUE

What Their Plans Are

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Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

First-time Full-time Freshmen – As They Enter Who They Are

Profile of the Typical New Freshman, Fall 2005:

- fresh out of high school;
- 18 or 19 years old;
- more than 50 miles from home;
- white;
- from a middle income family;
- both parents with some college;
- believes he or she probably will have sufficient funds to finance college education;
- politically middle-of-the-road;
- top objective is being very well off financially, followed by raising a family;
- is going to college to make more money and to get a better job; followed by get training for a specific career and to learn more about things that interest him or her;
- SIUE was first choice for college;
- is similar to the “typical new freshmen” at all public universities.

1. Although many characteristics of SIUE's first-time, full-time freshmen have been quite stable over the last five years, some of the characteristics have changed since the 1990 survey. The recent groups have higher numbers recently graduated from high school age 19 and under, with the current proportions being similar to the comparison groups. Although the racial proportions vary considerably among the recent years, the recent cohorts generally have a higher proportion of white students than did the 1990 cohort, with the current proportions being higher than the comparison groups.
2. As expected with the introduction of residence halls in 1994, 1998 and 2001, the proportion of new freshmen whose homes are more than 50 miles from campus has increased dramatically from 18 percent to 52 percent.
3. Although not adjusted for inflation, parental income appears to have shifted upward, those at or above \$75,000 comprising 41 percent of the group compared to 8 percent in 1990 and 31 percent in 2001. The current distribution more closely approximates that for public universities nationally.
4. SIUE is more likely to be the student's first choice (81 percent of new freshmen) than is true nationally (68 to 69 percent) or than was true at SIUE in 1990 (69 percent).
5. Although the proportion of SIUE new freshmen whose parents had some college or college degrees has increased since 1990, the current proportions are slightly below the national comparisons. In 1990, 47 percent of SIUE new freshmen fathers and 40 percent of mothers had at least some college. In Fall 2005, these rose to 56 percent for fathers and 59% for mothers. The Fall 2005 national benchmarks are 58-59 percent and 61 percent respectively.
6. The confidence of SIUE's new freshmen regarding their ability to finance their education is essentially the same as the national benchmarks – 30 percent are confident about having sufficient funds, 57 percent think they will probably be alright, and 13 percent are not sure about having enough funds.
7. SIUE new freshmen have been quite consistent in their primary reasons for attending college. Approximately three-fourths selected “making more money,” “getting a better job,” “getting training for a specific career,” and “learning more about things that interested them” as their top reasons, in that order. Nationally the top reasons were the same, with “making more money” and “learning more about things that interested them,” the top choices.
8. The most important personal objectives cited by SIUE freshman and freshmen nationally are to be well off financially and to raise a family.
9. Although the differences are not great, SIUE freshmen are somewhat more middle-of-the-road in their political orientation than are freshmen nationally.

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What Their Plans Are

Plans of the Typical New Freshman, Fall 2005:

- to complete a bachelor's or a master's degree;
- to earn the bachelor's degree at SIUE;
- to live on campus;
- to receive more than \$1,000 for first year expenses from his or her family;
- to get a job to help pay for college expenses;
- to socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group
- not to participate in student clubs or groups, or in volunteer or community service work.

1. SIUE freshmen aspirations regarding their higher education are similar to freshmen nationally, with more planning to stop with a bachelor's degree and fewer planning on master's degrees or Ph.D.'s.
2. Although SIUE has become increasingly residential, it still lags behind all 4-year publics. Of the one out of three students not planning to live on campus, most plan to live with their family or other relatives.
3. More than one-third of new freshmen expect less than \$1,000 from parents or family for educational expenses.
4. About one-third of SIUE new freshmen expect financial aid which need not be repaid compared to about half of new freshmen at all 4-year publics.
5. One in ten new freshmen at SIUE plans to work full-time while attending college
6. One half of new freshmen at SIUE and 4-year publics plan to get a job to help pay for college expenses.
7. More than half of SIUE freshmen indicate that "chances are very good" that he or she will socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group (51 percent). Nationally, new freshmen concur, but in slightly different proportions, 61-62 percent.
8. About 6 percent of SIUE new freshmen think "chances are very good" that they will transfer to another college, compared to 9 percent nationally. The proportion considering transferring has declined steadily in recent years and by 55 percent since 1990.
9. More than two-thirds of SIUE freshmen do not plan to participate in student clubs or groups, typical of new freshmen at all 4-year publics.

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First-time Full-time Freshmen, As They Enter
Why They Come to SIUE

Why the Typical New Freshman Comes to SIUE, Fall 2005

- most important reasons in selecting SIUE are “low tuition,” “good academic reputation,” “a visit to campus,” “graduates get good jobs,” “size of college,” “wanted to live near home;”
- did not rely on rankings in national magazines, advice of a teacher, advice of a private college counselor, or advice of a high school guidance counselor;
- was aware of SIUE within the last two years;
- learned most about SIUE from friends and family;
- ranks the relative importance of additional reasons for attending SIUE:
 - very important to somewhat important: feeling comfortable on campus, visiting campus during college search, and liking the on-campus housing
 - Slightly less important: meeting with a faculty member in area of interest, having attended events on campus and having participated in activities on campus

1. The overall pattern of reasons for choosing SIUE has remained the same in recent years and is similar to that for all 4-year publics.
2. For years, SIUE new freshmen have noted the same top two reasons for selecting SIUE: “low tuition,” and “good academic reputation.” These two were again selected by SIUE students followed by “a visit to campus” and “graduates get good jobs.” The top four reasons noted by new freshmen at all 4-year publics are “good academic reputation,” “low tuition,” “graduates get good jobs,” and “a visit to campus” in that order.
3. Several reasons for attending SIUE are being cited by substantially more students in recent years. “Low tuition,” “good social reputation,” “size of college,” and “information from a web site” have each increased five or more percentage points from 2001 to 2005.
4. Almost half of SIUE new freshmen cited “low tuition” as a reason for selecting SIUE. This is more than two percentage points higher than new freshmen at all 4-year publics. In contrast, the number of SIUE new freshmen who cited “offered financial assistance” (15.2%) as a reason for selecting SIUE was more than fourteen percentage points lower than new freshmen at all 4-year publics.
5. Fewer than 10 percent of SIUE new freshmen cite the following reasons for selecting SIUE: “teacher advised me,” “advice of high school guidance counselor,” “advice of private guidance counselor,” “not offered aid by first choice,” or “rankings in national magazines.”
6. Although most students became aware of SIUE while in high school, over one-fourth do so before high school.
7. Two out of five SIUE new freshmen note that friends or family were their primary source of information about SIUE during their college search. The rest are spread among the following sources of information: college guide or directory (print or Internet), high school counselor/teacher/coach, SIUE publications, and college fair or college representative visit to a high school.
8. Among additional reasons for attending SIUE, about three out of five new freshmen stated that feeling comfortable on campus was very important and half noted that a campus visit during their college search and liking the on-campus housing were very important.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
First-time Full-time Freshmen, As They Enter
What They Did in High School

What the Fall 2005 Typical New Freshman Did in High School

- read one to four assigned books;
- read one to four books not as part of an assignment;
- wrote five to 10 papers less than ten pages;
- wrote one to four papers ten pages or more;
- did “B” work (self-reported);
- used a personal computer;
- used the Internet for research or homework;
- spent time each week:
 - 11 to 15 hours working for pay, socializing
 - 3 to 5 hours each studying, exercising/sports, or watching TV
 - 1 to 2 hours doing household/childcare duties
 - less than one hour each talking with teachers outside class, doing volunteer work, reading for pleasure, participating in student clubs or groups, playing video/computer games, in prayer/meditation;
 - is similar to the “typical new freshmen” at all public universities

1. During their last year in high school,
 - 52 percent of SIUE new freshmen spent less than three hours per week studying;
 - almost one quarter spent at least three hours in student clubs or groups, but one-third did not participate in these at all;
 - more than half socialized with friends for more than ten hours per week;
 - more than one-third partied less than one hour per week, but more than one-fourth partied six or more hours per week;
 - 45 percent put six or more hours weekly into exercise or sports;
 - 20 percent did not work for pay, but 38 percent worked at least 16 hours per week;
 - more than one-third volunteered their time for at least one hour per week, with most of these contributing one to two hours.
 - more than one quarter watched more than five hours of television each week, while one out of five watched less than one hour per week;
 - eight percent devoted more than five hours to household or childcare duties;
 - one in five read more than two hours a week for pleasure;
 - three out of five played video/computer games less than one hour a week.
2. The ways in which SIUE new freshmen spent their time the previous year in high school were typical of new freshmen in four year public universities across the country. The SIUE students spent a little less time talking with teachers outside class, exercising or doing sports, doing volunteer work, and participating in student clubs or groups.
3. The current new freshmen spent their time in high school much the way their older siblings who entered SIUE in 2001 did. However, the current new freshmen spent a little more time playing video/computer games and volunteering, and a little less time partying, working for pay, participating in student clubs or groups, and doing household/childcare duties.
4. Combining the activities (except for prayer/meditation) into three major groups reinforces the picture of large amounts of time

devoted to leisure activities. Based on the median time category for each activity, the distribution of time outside of school becomes:

<u>Activity</u>	Hours Per Week <u>Recreational/Social</u>	Hours Per Week <u>Work/Responsibilities</u>	Hours Per Week <u>School/Academic</u>
Studying			3 to 5
Socializing with Friends	11 to 15		
Talking with Teachers outside Class			less than 1
Exercise or Sports	3 to 5		
Partying	1 to 2		
Working for pay		11 to 15	
Volunteer Work		less than 1	
Student Clubs/Groups			less than 1
Watching TV	3 to 5		
Household/childcare Duties		1 to 2	
Reading for Pleasure	less than 1		
Video/Computer Games	<u>less than 1</u>	_____	_____
	18 to 28	12 to 18	3 to 6

Note: Less than one hour was calculated by adding 0.5 to the high end of the time range.

- Forty-two percent reported their average high school grade as A-, compared to 35 percent at all publics. The distribution of self-reported grades at SIUE has risen since 1990, with the big changes occurring at the high end (A's rising from 18 percent to 42 percent of new freshmen) and at the low end (C's or less dropping from 21 percent of new freshmen to 7 percent).
- Although most students didn't volunteer much of their own time, more than two-fifths performed community service as part of a class. Nationally more than half did so as part of a class.
- Use of a personal computer rose from 77 percent in 2001 to 84 percent in 2005, close to current national usage rates.
- Twenty-eight percent of the new freshmen read no books on their own.
- Almost half of the new freshmen wrote no paper at least ten pages long, but almost two-thirds wrote 5 or more shorter papers.