

Current Student Survey 2008-2009

March 2011

**Southeastern Louisiana University
Office of Institutional Research and Assessment**

Student Characteristics

The majority of respondents were single (n=383, 56%), while 17% (n=116) were married, and 3% (n=9) were previously married. Also, the majority of students had no children (n=412, 60%), while 8% (n=52) had one child, 5% (n=36) had two children, 2% (n=15) had three children and 1% (n=4) had four or more children.

Traditional college students are often considered to be single undergraduate students with no children between the ages of 18 and 22. However, due to changing societal and economic conditions, more non-traditional students are entering into universities. Defining non-traditional undergraduate students as those students who are over the age of 22 or married or have children, 44% (n=302) of the undergraduate respondents were non-traditional students, while 56% (n=383) were traditional students.

The survey results support the notion that Southeastern has a large commuter population. The majority of respondents (28%, n=193) travel more than 30 miles (one way) to Southeastern's main campus. The breakdown for travel to campus can be found in Table 1.

Table 1
Miles traveled one way to Southeastern's main campus

Miles Traveled	Percent	Number of Respondents
Live on Campus	11%	75
Less than 5 miles	12%	81
Between 5 and 10 miles	7%	48
Between 11 and 20 miles	8%	52
Between 21 and 30 miles	10%	69
More than 30 miles	28%	193

Fifty percent (50%, n=348) of the respondents received financial aid during the 2009-2010 academic year. The majority of students (43%, n=291) work off campus, while 6% (n=42) work on campus, 2% (n=16) work both on and off campus, and 24% (n=167) do not work at all. Of those students who indicated they worked, 11% (n=37) work no more than 10 hours per week, 29% (n=101) work 11-20 hours per week, 27% (n=95) work 21-30 hours per week, and 33% (n=118) work more than 30 hours per week.

According to Terenzini et. al (1996), a first generation student is one who has no parent with any college or university experience. Using this definition, 26% (n=131) of our students are first generation college students. An additional 22% (n=115) have a least one parent with some college, but no degree. Seven percent (8%, n=39) have at least one parent with an Associate degree, 24% (n=124) have at least one parent with a Bachelor's degree, and 17% (n=86) have a parent with a graduate or professional degree.

References

Terenzini, P.T. , Springer, L., Yaeger, P.M., Pascarella, E.T., & Nora, A. (1996). First-generation college students: Characteristics, experiences, and cognitive development. Research in Higher Education, 37(1), 1-22.