

Summary of 2019-2020 New Student Survey Results

Of the 1002 new undergraduate students responding to the 2019-2020 New Student Survey, over two-thirds (68%) resided in residence halls during their first semester, 21% lived at the home of parents or relatives, and 7% lived in a room or apartment off-campus. Ninety-one percent were somewhat or very dependent on their parents, relatives, or friends as the primary source of their first year educational expenses. About 60%, each, relied on their savings from summer work (59%) and other savings (62%), 65% on Academic Merit Scholarships, 59% on Federal Direct Loans, 60% on Pell Grants, 39% on Part-time off campus jobs, 43% on Other Scholarships (outside), and 37% on Alabama State Grants. Twenty-one percent of the respondents were either undecided or didn't respond about their majors. Of those who had decided on a major, 17% were in Nursing, 7%, each, in Biology, Business and Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation, 6% in Kinesiology, 5%, each, in Early Childhood/Elementary and Special Education and Computer Information System/Computer Science, and 3%, each, in Music and Applied Engineering. To obtain a bachelor's degree from JSU is the ultimate goal for a majority of the respondents (88%), followed by taking courses to transfer elsewhere (7%). Seven-tenths of the respondents (71%) indicated that JSU was either the only school or their first choice among several colleges to which they applied. Forty-five percent of the respondents were first generation college students. Email (59%) and text (33%) were the two most preferred ways of receiving communications from JSU.

Their college choice

Factors that impacted their decision to attend college the most were:

- To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas (96%)
- To learn more about things that interest them (95%)
- To be able to earn more money (89%)
- To be able to get a better job (85%)
- To improve their reading and study skills (85%)
- To prepare for graduate or professional school (82%)

Respondents indicated the following were "very important" reasons for their decision to attend JSU:

- Availability of a particular program of study, or major (73%)
- The availability of financial aid or scholarship (70%)
- Cost of tuition and fees (63%)
- JSU's academic reputation (58%)
- The location of JSU (56%)
- Type of community (Jacksonville) (51%)
- The variety of courses offered (46%)

Over one-half of the respondents learned about JSU from their parents or relatives (60%), from their campus visit (57%), from friends at JSU (55%), from Preview Day (43%), and from Accepted Students Day (43%).

Expectations

Around two-thirds of the respondents (65%) estimated that they would have a very good chance to earn a bachelor's degree at JSU. In addition, 57% expected to have very good chance to find a good job after graduation in the field in which they were trained, and be satisfied with JSU (56%). Ninety-one percent

expected to have a good chance or a very good chance to make at least a “B” average. Fifty-eight percent thought they would have no chance of failing any courses.

Over one-half (59%) reported not working while attending JSU, 34% spent up to 20 hours a week working on a job, and 7% spent 30 hours or more a week working. A majority (80%) planned to spend 20-40 hours a week on school work, 5% planned to spend 50 hours a week and 16% planned to spend less than 20 hours a week on school work.

Self-rating

When compared to other people their age, one-half or more rated themselves above average or in the highest 10% in the following traits:

- Drive to achieve (73%)
- Cooperativeness (69%)
- Understanding of others (57%)
- Competitiveness (52%)
- Academic ability (51%)
- Leadership ability (50%)

Student Self-efficacy and Self-efficacy with Technology

Nearly all respondents had access to a laptop or notebook computer (91%). A majority had access to other portable devices, i.e., iPad or smart phone (87%), and Internet connectivity 24 hours/7 days a week (79%).

Respondents agreed that

(On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1=strongly disagree and 5=strongly agree):

	In general	With technology
• They can always manage to solve difficult problems if they try hard enough.	(M=3.94)	(M=3.65)
• It is easy for them to stick to their aims and accomplish their goals.	(M=3.87)	(M=3.70)
• They are confident that they could deal efficiently with unexpected events.	(M=3.63)	(M=3.50)
• Thanks to their resourcefulness, they know how to handle unforeseen situations.	(M=3.57)	(M=3.51)
• They can solve most problems if they invest the necessary effort.	(M=4.05)	(M=3.77)
• They can remain calm when facing difficulties because they can rely on their coping abilities.	(M=3.55)	(M=3.56)
• When they are confronted with a problem, they can usually find several solutions.	(M=3.60)	(M=3.54)
• No matter what comes their way, they are usually able to handle it.	(M=3.84)	(M=3.68)
• If they are in trouble, they can usually think of something to do.	(M=3.70)	-

	In general	With technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If someone opposes them, they can find means and ways to get what they want. 	(M=3.10)	-

M=Mean

The data were collected from fall 2019 through spring 2020.

Department Heads and Directors and other administrators can find additional assessment data and filter data by school, department or major on Tableau Server, JSU's Assessment System, by going to <http://oira.jsu.edu:8000/>. User IDs and passwords are available, by calling the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at 256 782-5109.