



## 2016 Washington University Parent Survey

English ▼

### **Thank you for participating in the Washington University Parent Survey.**

This survey is being sent to parents of enrolled students by a select group of colleges and universities. The results will help us serve both parents and students better. All individual responses will be confidential—only averages and other summary statistics will be reported. We hope you will complete the survey. A high response rate dramatically improves the usefulness of the results.

Either parent may fill out the questionnaire or both parents may complete the survey together. If you have more than one child attending Washington University, please answer in reference to the older son or daughter who is enrolled as an undergraduate here this year.

As you will see, the survey asks for your general impressions of Washington University and about your experiences as a parent of a college student, especially how you and your family are paying for college. There is space for comments at the end. The whole survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete. Submit each page by hitting the "Save & Continue" button, this saves your answers from that page. You may complete part of the survey and return at a later date to finish it. When you return to the survey your previous answers will be displayed for you to review and edit if you wish.

Remember your responses will be completely confidential, so please be candid. Your participation is very important and greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or encounter any problems while taking the survey, please contact [institutionalresearch@wustl.edu](mailto:institutionalresearch@wustl.edu).

**Impressions of Washington University**

Overall, how satisfied are you with your child's undergraduate education at Washington University so far?

- Very satisfied
- Generally satisfied
- Ambivalent
- Generally dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

How satisfied are you with your own sense of personal connection to Washington University?

- Very satisfied
- Generally satisfied
- Generally dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

Would you encourage a high school senior who resembles your child (same background, abilities, interests and temperament) to attend Washington University?

- Definitely would
- Probably would
- Maybe
- Probably would not
- Definitely would not

Tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Washington University welcomes people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds					
Washington University is a place where diverse viewpoints can be heard					
Washington University welcomes people from all socioeconomic backgrounds					
Students are safe at Washington University					
Washington University takes parents' concern seriously					
[Local] Washington University creates opportunities for on-campus interactions with students from diverse backgrounds					
[Local] Washington University is committed to making a WU education affordable					
[Local] St. Louis is a good location for my child's college experience.					

**Setting priorities**

Thinking about undergraduate education, how important is it that Washington University does each of the following?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important
Provide a broad-based education that promotes intellectual growth				
Recruit a diverse student body				
Provide training for a specific career or profession				
Provide opportunities to conduct research with faculty				
Encourage community service and volunteering				
Develop leadership skills				
Provide extensive extracurricular and athletic options				
Prepare students for graduate or professional school				
Provide international/global experiences (e.g. study or work abroad)				
Provide opportunities to access a valuable alumni/ae network				
Provide students with skills valuable in the workplace				

Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:  
Washington University...

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
Can reduce spending and maintain quality					
Should focus more on career counseling					
Needs to create more opportunities for alcohol-free socializing					
Should invest more in its surrounding community					
Washington University provides adequate resources for the health and wellness of students.					
Washington University is a good investment in my child's future					

### Being the Parent of a College Student

How much do you worry that your child ...

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Some	Not at all
Is under too much academic stress?				
Will graduate with too much debt?				
Will have trouble getting a good job after graduation?				

During the current school year, about how often have you and your child been in touch (by phone, e-mail, mail, or any other way)? This is while your child is away at school. Mark the best answer.

- More than once a day
- Daily
- A few times a week
- Weekly
- A few times a month
- Few times a term
- Once a term or less

### Being informed

Overall, how well do you think the information you receive from Washington University meets your needs as a parent?

- Very well
- Pretty well
- Adequately
- Poorly

Would you like to be getting more information from Washington University than you are now?

- Yes
- No

Use this checklist to tell us which areas you'd like to hear more about. Mark as many as you like.

- Events for parents (e.g., Family Weekend)
- Resources for parents (e.g., Parents Association)
- Academic life and policies
- Residential life and policies
- Religious life
- Special events on campus
- Campus safety
- Student organizations
- Athletics
- Off-campus programs (such as Study Abroad)
- Financial aid
- Financing (installments, pre-pay, etc.)
- Academic support services (e.g., tutoring)
- Career counseling
- Psychological/counseling services
- Medical/health services

### Choosing a college

How important were financial factors as your family made its final choice about college for this child?

- Financing issues were central to our choice
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important at all

Have you ever heard about or visited a web-based "Net Price Calculator" that helps you estimate the amount of financial aid you might receive? [Display only for parents of 1st year students]

- Yes, I have visited one or more of these sites
- Yes, I have heard about them but have not visited one of these web pages
- No
- Not Sure

Have you used any of these calculators (available through the Washington University Admissions website)?

Yes    No    Not sure

If so, how helpful did you find these tools?

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not very helpful

## Paying for College

We want to understand how families are paying for college. Your answers are completely confidential: the data will be used for research purposes only. Your financial aid will not be affected in any way.

Did your child receive a grant to help pay expenses for the current academic year from any source? Grants include any aid you need not repay and may be based on need or merit or both. Consider grants awarded by this institution or by any outside source.

Yes      No

a. Please use the scale below to describe the amount of grant aid your child received for the current academic year. [POPS UP ONLY FOR THOSE WHO GOT GRANTS]

- \$1 - \$4,999
- \$5,000 - \$9,999
- \$10,000 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$ 49,999
- \$50,000 or more

Please use the following list to describe how your family is meeting your college expenses this year. Consider all of your college costs for this child after subtracting any grants and scholarships reported above. Select all that apply by clicking on items. Please include all sources of funding, no matter how small.

<b>FAMILY ASSETS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Ordinary savings and sale of stock or other financial assets</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Sale of non-financial assets (real estate, etc.)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> State-sponsored college savings ("529") plan</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Pre-paid tuition plan (of any kind)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Withdrawal from a retirement plan</li> </ul>
<b>PARENT BORROWING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Home equity loans</li> <li><input type="radio"/> "PLUS" and other loans through the financial aid office</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Parent educational loans from private lenders</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Borrowing from relatives or friends</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Borrowing from a retirement plan</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Other types of borrowing</li> </ul>
<b>CURRENT PARENT INCOME</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Income from parents' usual job(s) or business</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Parents' second jobs or overtime work</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Parents' employee benefits</li> </ul>
<b>STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Student work-study or term-time job(s)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Student earnings during vacation periods</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Student borrowing – all kinds</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Student's assets (trust fund, etc.)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Student's employee benefits</li> </ul>
<b>OTHER RESOURCES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Gifts from relatives or others (e.g., grandparents)</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Resources not listed above. Please specify.</li> </ul>

**Paying for College - This Year**

On the last page, you indicated that your family relied on the sources listed below to meet your college expense this year. Please use the following scale to tell us roughly what proportions of your expenses were met with each. It’s OK if you aren’t sure of the exact percentages—your best estimate is fine.

[Program note: display if meet count is not equal to zero]

<b>FAMILY ASSETS</b>	<b>1-25%</b>	<b>26-50%</b>	<b>51-100%</b>
Ordinary savings and sale of stock or other financial assets			
Sale of non-financial assets (real estate, etc.)			
State-sponsored college savings ("529") plan			
Pre-paid tuition plan (of any kind)			
Withdrawal from a retirement plan			
<b>PARENT BORROWING</b>	<b>1-25%</b>	<b>26-50%</b>	<b>51-100%</b>
Home equity loans			
"PLUS" and other loans through the financial aid office			
Parent educational loans from private lenders			
Borrowing from relatives or friends			
Borrowing from a retirement plan			
Other types of borrowing			
<b>CURRENT PARENT INCOME</b>	<b>1-25%</b>	<b>26-50%</b>	<b>51-100%</b>
Income from parents' usual job(s) or business			
Parents' second jobs or overtime work			
Parents' employee benefits			
<b>STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>1-25%</b>	<b>26-50%</b>	<b>51-100%</b>
Student work-study or term-time job(s)			
Student earnings during vacation periods			
Student borrowing – all kinds			
Student's assets (trust fund, etc.)			
Student's employee benefits			
<b>OTHER RESOURCES</b>	<b>1-25%</b>	<b>26-50%</b>	<b>51-100%</b>
Gifts from relatives or others (e.g., grandparents)			
Resources not listed above. Please specify.			

**Paying for College – To Date**

In this next set of questions, think about this child's entire undergraduate experience to date.

Does your child have any student loans?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If your child has borrowed money for college, do you expect to help him or her pay off these loans?  
[Display if parents indicate child has loans]

- No, my child will make these payments on his/her own
- Yes -- I or someone else will repay less than half of what my child borrowed
- Yes -- I or someone else will repay half or more of what my child borrowed

Have you or your spouse/partner borrowed to pay for your child's college education?  
Include borrowing for all years. Do not include loans the student is obligated to repay or for which you only co-signed.

- Yes
- No

So far, how much money have you borrowed? Include borrowing for all years. Do not include loans that your child is obligated to repay. [Pops up only if 'Yes' selected in previous question.]

- \$0
- \$1 - \$4,999
- \$5,000 - \$9,999
- \$10,000 - \$14,999
- \$15,000 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$24,999
- \$25,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 or more

Will your child help repay these loans? Mark the best answer. [Pops up only if parents borrowed.]

- No, my child will not help repay these debts
- Yes, my child will repay less than half of what I borrowed
- Yes, my child will repay half or more of what I borrowed

If you are not living with this child's other parent, does the other parent contribute to the student's education expenses?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

What has been the impact on your family of paying for your child to attend Washington University?

- None/slight
- Moderate
- Considerable
- Severe
- Not applicable



Has paying for college caused you to ...

	No	Yes
Significantly slow savings for retirement?		
Delay your retirement?		
Delay a decision to buy a home?		
Delay or scale back another major purchase, such as a car or needed home repair?		

Has your child's experience at Washington University been worth the impact on your family's finances?

- Yes, definitely
- Somewhat
- No, definitely not

Other than this child, do you have other children in college this academic year?

- No
- Yes, 1 other child
- Yes, 2 or more other children

Do you have other children that your expect will attend college in the future?

- No
- Yes, 1 other child
- Yes, 2 or more other children

How concerned are you right now about your ability to finance a college education for all your children?

[Display if parents expect having other children attend college in the future]

- Not at all
- A little
- Quite a bit
- A great deal

Have you ever applied for financial aid from Washington University? [Display if parents indicate student did not receive grants]

- Yes
- No

In terms of time required and overall stress, how difficult was the financial aid process? [Display if applied for financial aid]

- Not very difficult
- Somewhat difficult
- Quite difficult
- Very difficult

In your opinion, how fair was the financial aid process you went through? [Display if applied for financial aid]

- Not fair at all
- Somewhat fair
- Mostly fair
- Very fair

How well did you feel that the financial aid office understood your family's financial circumstances?

[Display if applied for financial aid]

- Not well at all
- Somewhat well
- Pretty well
- Very well

Overall, how satisfied are you with the level of financial aid you have received from Washington University? [Shows only if parent indicates student received grants.]

- Very satisfied
- Generally satisfied
- Generally dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

### **About You and this Child**

As a reminder, if you have more than one child attending Washington University, please answer in reference to the older son or daughter enrolled as an undergraduate here.

What is your child's gender?

Female Male \_\_\_\_\_

What is your child's year in college?

- First Year
- Second Year
- Third Year
- Fourth Year
- Fifth Year or later

In which of the following areas is your child majoring? Please mark all that apply.

- Biological Sciences
- Business & Management
- Engineering or Applied Sciences
- Fine Arts
- Humanities
- Physical Sciences or Mathematics
- Social sciences
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## About You

For statistical purposes only we need to know a little more about you and the child's other parent(s).

What is your relation to this child? If more than one person is filling out the survey, please select all that apply.

- Custodial parent
- Non-custodial parent
- Other

Please indicate the gender(s) of those responding to this survey. Mark all that apply.

Male    Female    \_\_\_\_\_

How old is this child's oldest parent?

Under 45     45-49     50-54     55-59     60-64     65 or older

Do/did any of this child's parents...

	No	Yes
Have a bachelor's degree?		
Have a graduate or professional degree (beyond the Bachelor's)?		
Attend Washington University as an undergraduate?		

Please use the following categories to tell us what your before-tax family income from all sources was in 2011. Again, all information you provide is completely confidential and will be used only for research.

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 - \$249,999
- \$250,000 - \$499,999
- \$500,000 or above

**We have a few more questions that we would like your opinions on:**

As a parent, how satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of Washington University?

	Very satisfied	Generally satisfied	Generally dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know
Overall quality of instruction					
Sense of community on campus					
Quality of academic advising					

Where do you live?

- In the U.S.
- Outside the U.S.

[Pops up only for US residents]

If you live in the United States, please indicate your ZIP code in the space provided.

U.S. Zip Code (5 digit)

[Pops up only for international residents]

If you currently live outside the United States, please tell us in what country:

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Comments**

Please use the following spaces to add your comments. College and university administrators read these comments and often use them to identify strengths and weaknesses. Since the survey is confidential, however, they cannot address individual issues. If you have a problem or concern and would like a personal response, you should also contact the appropriate individual(s) on campus directly.

Please use the space below to describe some of things you liked best about your child being a student at Washington University, things that made you glad your child came here?

Please use the space below to comment on what Washington University could have done to improve your child's undergraduate experience, or what you wish you or your child had done differently, or both?

A number of questions in the survey dealt with paying for college. Use the space below to add any comments or thoughts you have about this.