

COFHE Core Parent Survey

Welcome [firstname] [lastname]!

(If you are not [firstname] [lastname], please retrieve your unique web link to this survey.)

Thank you for participating in the 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 form. A high response rate from each institution's parents dramatically improves the usefulness of the results. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Either parent may fill out the questionnaire or both parents may complete the survey together. If you have more than one child attending the college or university that sent you this questionnaire, please answer in reference to the older son or daughter who is enrolled there.

The survey consists of nine linked sections that take approximately 25 minutes to complete. It is important that you complete all nine sections for our research. Once you submit each page by hitting the next button, your answers will be saved from that page. You will be able to complete part of the survey and return at a later date to this web page to complete the rest of the survey. If you return to the survey, your previously submitted answers will be displayed for you to review and edit.

Remember your responses will be completely confidential, so please be candid. Your participation is very important and greatly appreciated!

Enter the Survey >>

If you have questions about this survey, or encounter difficulties in taking it, please contact [school contact].

Part I: Evaluating Your Child's College

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with your child's undergraduate education so far?

DISSATISFIED					SATISFIED
Very dissatisfied	Generally dissatisfied	Ambivalent	Generally satisfied	Very satisfied	

2. As a parent, how satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of your child's college/university? Please mark one answer in each row. If you feel you don't know enough about the item to respond, please mark "Don't Know."

Quality of Academic Experience	Very Dissatisfied	Generally Dissatisfied	Generally Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
Overall quality of instruction					
Emphasis on undergraduate education					
Quality of academic advising					
Tutoring and other academic help					
Undergraduate research opportunities					
Contact with faculty					
Quality of Campus Services and Facilities	Very Dissatisfied	Generally Dissatisfied	Generally Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
Student housing					
Career counseling & placement					
Campus police					
Medical/health services					
Psychological counseling services					
Financial aid office					
Your child's financial aid award					
Financial services (bursar, student accounts, etc.)					
The administration's responsiveness to parent concerns					
Quality of Campus Life	Very Dissatisfied	Generally Dissatisfied	Generally Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
Social life on campus					
Sense of community on campus					
Your child's safety on campus					
Intellectual atmosphere outside the classroom					
Extent of ethnic and racial diversity					

3. Would you encourage a high school senior who resembles your child (same background, abilities, interests and temperament) to attend your child's college?

NO		YES		
Definitely not	Probably not	Maybe	Probably would	Definitely would

Part II: Being the Parent of a College Student

4. We'd like to know how well the information you've received about each of the following areas of college life meets your needs. Consider all the information sources you have -- the institution, its web pages, your child or others -- when you answer. Mark the one statement that best describes how you feel.

	I am generally satisfied with the information I have about this	I want more information about this	I get too much information about this	I don't need information about this
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				
Medical/health services				
Psychological/counseling services				

5. To what extent do you rely on the following sources for information about college life and policies?

	Not at all	Some	To a great extent
Talking with my son or daughter			
Reading school publications			
Visiting the school's web pages			
Blogs about the school			
Calling someone at the school			
E-mails from the school			
Talking with other parents			

6. To what extent are you familiar with the policies regarding your access to confidential information such as your child's grades, disciplinary proceedings, and health records?

- I did not know there were policies about this
- I know such policies exist but don't know much about them
- I am familiar with the basic outlines of these policies
- I am very familiar with these policies

Part II: Being the Parent of a College Student

(continued)

7. 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)? Again, 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
- A few times a semester
- Once a semester or less

8. When you are in touch with your son or daughter, how often do you discuss the following:

	Almost every time we are in touch	Often	Sometimes	Rarely or never
Current academic matters				
Graduate school plans				
Career plans				
Finances				
Personal relationships				
Your child's physical or emotional health				

9. How was your child admitted to this college?

- Regular admissions (including wait list)
- Early action or early decision
- Transfer student
- Don't know

10. Did you advise your child on whether to apply via early action or early decision (at this college or elsewhere)?

- I advised against it
- I advised that he/she apply early to this school
- I advised that he/she apply early elsewhere
- I made no recommendation to my child either way

11. How would you evaluate your child's entire educational experience at this institution?

- Excellent
 - Good
 - Fair
 - Poor
-

Part II: Being the Parent of a College Student

(continued)

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

	DISAGREE Strongly	DISAGREE Somewhat	Neither agree nor disagree	AGREE Somewhat	AGREE Strongly
I am happy my child attends this college.					
I feel connected to my child's college.					
I helped my child choose which colleges to apply to.					
I helped my child choose which college to attend.					
Financial aid was a major factor in our family's college choices.					
I wish my son/daughter had chosen a different college.					
I feel out of place when I visit my child's college.					
The benefits of attending this institution will out-weigh whatever financial sacrifices that our family has had to make.					
This is the right school for my son/daughter.					
It has been very difficult for us to pay for my child's college education.					
This college is a place where students of all religious backgrounds can feel welcome.					
This college is a place where people of all economic backgrounds can feel welcome.					
This college is a place where people of different sexual orientations can feel welcome.					
This college is a place where people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds can feel welcome.					
This college is a place where people with differing political points of view can feel welcome.					

13. Indicate whether each of the following applies to you and this child:

	Yes	No
I visited this college with my child before he/she applied for admission		
I visited the college with my child after he/she applied but before he/she accepted an offer of admission.		
This college was <u>my</u> first choice for my son/daughter		
We used a paid college counselor to help select schools and prepare applications		
My child took a test-prep course to prepare for the SAT or other examination		

14. The following is a list of some areas that you, as a parent, may worry about. Tell us how much you have worried about each during this academic year.

Do you worry that your child...	Not at all	Somewhat	Quite a bit	A great deal
... is under too much academic stress at school?				
... is lonely or isolated?				
... may drink too much?				
... is not being adequately prepared for the career he/she has chosen?				
... has made the wrong friends?				
... has chosen or will choose the wrong major/career?				
... is not performing up to his/her abilities?				
... is not eating right?				
... is under too much peer pressure?				
... is not maturing as fast as he/she should?				
... is not performing at the top of his/her class?				
... is unable to manage his or her own health issues independently?				
Do you worry that your child...	Not at all	Somewhat	Quite a bit	A great deal
... is not safe from crime?				
... doesn't study enough?				
... may make bad choices about sex?				
... is not attending religious services?				
... is not making adequate academic progress?				
... may use illegal drugs?				
... is growing away from you?				
... is not getting enough exercise?				
... will have trouble finding a job after graduation?				
... will not know what career to pursue after graduation?				
... will graduate with too much debt?				

Part III: 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.

15. Which, if any, of the following forms of financial assistance did your child receive to help pay for the current academic year?

(Mark all that apply OR "None of the above.")

- Work-study job
- Subsidized student loans
- Unsubsidized student loans
- Need-based grant (including federal programs)
- Merit based grant through this college/university
- Other private scholarships
- Athletic scholarship
- None of the above

16. Did you apply for need-based financial aid for the current academic year?

- Yes
- No

17. Please use the scale below to describe the amount of GRANT AID that your child received for the current school year. Include all need- or merit-based grants (aid that need not be repaid) (Mark one.)

- None
- \$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 or more

Need-based grants are based on ability-to-pay and typically require an application (such as a FAFSA) that discloses income and other information.

Merit-based grants are based on academic or other achievement or promise; they include national merit scholarships.

Athletic scholarships include only to those made to athletes recruited by Division I NCAA schools.

18. Please use the following list to describe how your family is meeting your college expenses this year.

The percentages refer to the share of your family's expenses after subtracting the grants listed in Question 17. Please mark one answer in each row, marking "Did not use" where appropriate. Do not hesitate to give your best estimate.

	Did Not Use	Percentage of this year's family expenses met with this resource		
		1-25%	26-50%	51-100%
FAMILY ASSETS				
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)				
<u>Withdrawal</u> from a retirement plan				
PARENT BORROWING	Did Not Use	1-25%	26-50%	51-100%
Home equity loans				
"PLUS" and other loans through the financial aid office				
Parent educational loans from private lenders				
Borrowing from relatives or friends				
<u>Borrowing</u> from a retirement plan				
Other types of borrowing				
CURRENT PARENT INCOME	Did Not Use	1-25%	26-50%	51-100%
Income from parents' usual job(s) or business				
Parents' second jobs or overtime work				
Parents' employee benefits				
STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS	Did Not Use	1-25%	26-50%	51-100%
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				
OTHER RESOURCES	Did Not Use	1-25%	26-50%	51-100%
Gifts from relatives or others (e.g., grandparents)				
Resources not listed above				

Part III: Paying for College

(continued)

19. So far, how much money have you or your spouse/partner borrowed to pay for your child's college education? Include all years. Exclude amounts the student is obligated to repay.

- \$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

20. If you borrowed money to pay for your child's education, will he/she help repay these loans?

Mark the best answer.

- Not Applicable (no debt)
- 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

21. So far, how much has your child borrowed for college? Include all amounts that he or she is obligated to repay.

- \$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 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 or more
- My child has borrowed, but I don't know how much

22. If your child has borrowed money for college, do you expect to help him or her pay off these loans?

Mark the best answer.

- Not Applicable (no debt)
- 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

23. If you are living with this child's step-parent, did both of you contribute to this student's college expenses?

- Not Applicable
- Yes
- No

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

- Not Applicable
- Yes
- No

25. What has been the impact on your family of paying for your child to attend this institution? Mark one.

- None/slight
- Moderate
- Considerable
- Severe
- Not applicable (We have not contributed funds for our child's education.)

26. Has your child's experience at this institution been worth the impact on your family's finances?

- Yes, definitely
 - Somewhat
 - No, definitely not
-

Part IV: About You and this Student

27. What is your relation to this child?

- Custodial parent, step-parent, or other legal guardian (including joint custody)
- Non-custodial parent
- Other

28. Sex

** If two parents completed survey, select "joint".*

	You*	This student
Male		
Female		
Joint		

29. What is your child's year in college?

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

30. Has your child participated in intercollegiate sports as an athlete while in college?

- Yes
- No

31. Where did your child live during the most recent fall term?

- Residence hall
- Fraternity/sorority
- Other college housing
- Off-campus (alone or with roommates)
- With parent(s)
- Studying off-campus (abroad or in U.S.)

32. In which of the following areas is this student majoring?

Please mark all that apply. Names of majors vary by school.

- Anthropology & archeology
- Biological/life sciences
- Business/management
- Computer science
- Engineering
- English
- Fine & performing arts
- Foreign & classical languages
- Mathematics
- Nursing and other health
- Philosophy or religious studies
- Physical sciences
- History
- Psychology
- Economics
- Political Science/public policy
- Women's studies
- African American studies
- Area studies
- Other social sciences
- Other
- Don't know

33. What is your citizenship status? What about this student?

Please mark one answer in each column.

	You	This student
United States citizen		
U.S. permanent resident (green card holder)		
Citizen of another country with a non-immigrant/student visa		

Part IV: About You and this Student

continued

34. Please tell us about your ethnic and racial backgrounds:

A. Colleges and universities are asked by many, including the federal government, college guides, newspapers, and our own communities, to describe our students. For this purpose, please mark one or more of the following groups that you consider yourself to be in.

<i>Please mark all that apply.</i>	You	Your spouse/ partner (if applicable)	This student
American Indian or Alaska Native			
Asian American			
Black or African American			
Hispanic, Spanish origin, or Latino/a			
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander			
White			

B. Colleges and universities have an educational interest in creating a diverse student body. For this purpose, please indicate your ancestry, nationality, ethnic origin, or tribal affiliation in the spaces below. (For example: do you think of yourself as Italian, Jamaican, African American, Cambodian, Ethiopian, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, German, Lebanese, Polish, Navaho, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on).

You:

Your spouse/partner:

Your child:

35. Please mark your highest degree below. If you are married or living with a partner, mark his/her highest degree as well. Mark only one answer in each column.

	You	Your spouse or partner
No high school diploma or equivalent		
High school diploma or equivalency		
Some college (no degree or Associate's degree)		
Bachelor's degree		
Graduate or professional degree(s)		
Not applicable		

36. If you have a graduate or professional degree, please indicate which. Again, if you are married or living with a partner, respond for him or her as well. Mark all that apply.

	You	Your spouse or partner
MBA		
Other Master's degree		
Doctoral degree		
Medical degree		
Law degree		

37. Has a parent, sibling, or other close relative of this child attended the college/university that sent you this questionnaire? Mark all that apply.

- You
- Another parent or step-parent
- A sibling of this child
- Another close relative

38. On your last birthday, how old were you? If you are living with a spouse or partner, how old is he/she?

	You	Your spouse or partner
Not Applicable		
Under 45		
45-49		
50-54		
55-59		
60-64		
65-69		
70 or older		

39. Counting this student, how many children do you have now? Include all living children, even if they are now independent. Include step-children and others that you helped to raise or for whom you share financial responsibility.

	0	1	2	3	4 or more
Number of children (this student is "1"):	--				
Use the grid below to summarize their college plans and experience:					
Number you expect to attend college in the future					
Number who are currently undergraduates (this child is "1")	--				
Number who are college graduates					
Number who have attended college but did not graduate					

40. Please use the following categories to tell us what your before-tax family income from all sources was in 2006. Again, all information you provide is completely confidential and will be used only for research.

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$124,999
- \$125,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 - \$174,999
- \$175,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 - \$249,999
- \$250,000 - \$299,999
- \$300,000 or more

41. Please indicate your ZIP code in the space provided.

- U.S. Zip Code (5 digit)
- Please check box if you do not have a U.S. address

Part V: Your Comments

Please use the following four 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.

C1. What has most pleased you about your child's college/university?

C2. What has most disappointed you about your child's college/university?

C3. 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, including sacrifices you made, what you "wish you knew" before you started out, and so on.

C4. Please use this space to make any other comments you would like about any of the topics raised in this survey or any other matter of concern to you.

Additional Questions from [school]

Thank you for participating in our survey. Your responses will be very helpful to the faculty and administration as they work to improve the quality of all aspects of life at our school.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact [school contact].

If you wish to speak to someone about any concerns you have about your child, please contact ____.
