

# COFHE 2012 Parent Survey: Participation Form

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.

The survey consists of several sections, and the entire survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Once you submit each page by hitting the "Next" button, your answers will be saved from that page. You may complete part of the survey and return at a later date to finish it. If 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!

## Tell Us How We Are Doing

1. 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

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

	Very dissatisfied	Generally dissatisfied	Generally satisfied	Very satisfied	Don't know
Overall quality of instruction					
Emphasis on undergraduate education					
The administration's responsiveness to parent concerns					
Social life on campus					
Sense of community on campus					
Intellectual atmosphere outside the classroom					
Your own sense of personal connection to Washington University					
Your child's safety on campus					
Quality of academic advising					
Contact with faculty					
Athletic facilities					

3. 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 Washington University.					
It has been very difficult for us to pay for my child's college education.					
My child is under too much academic stress.					
Overall, my child is doing well at Washington University.					
I am worried that my child will graduate with too much debt.					
I am worried that my child will have trouble finding a job after graduation.					
Washington University is committed to making a WU education affordable.					
St. Louis is a good location for my child's college experience.					

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

	Not at all important	Not too important	Somewhat important	Very important
Provide a broad-based education that promotes intellectual growth				
Recruit a diverse student body				
Provide training for a specific career or profession				
Improve students' future earning potential				
Promote personal growth and maturity				
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)				
Create opportunities for on-campus interactions with students from diverse backgrounds				
Provide opportunities to access a valuable alumni/ae network				

5. 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
Washington University could spend less and still maintain a high quality of education.					
Washington University should try to help improve its surrounding community.					
Intercollegiate (NCAA) athletics receive too much attention at Washington University.					
Washington University is a place where people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds can feel welcome.					
Alcohol plays too dominant a role in social life at Washington University					
Washington University provides adequate resources for the health and wellness of students.					
Faculty research at Washington University enriches the undergraduate experience.					
Washington University is a good investment in my child's future.					
Washington University is one of the top 25 universities in the world.					

6. 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 not
- Definitely not

## **Being the Parent of a College Student: Staying Informed**

1. Do you feel that you are receiving sufficient communication from Washington University?

- I am receiving too little communication
- I am receiving sufficient communication
- I am receiving too much communication

2. 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

3. 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

4. Please rate the usefulness of the following:

Five-point scale: Not very useful to Very useful, include N/A (don't know)

- \_\_\_ *Family Ties* (quarterly parent email newsletter)
- \_\_\_ *Washington* magazine (the university's main publication in print and online)
- \_\_\_ WUSTL.edu (the university's main website)
- \_\_\_ The annual letter from the provost to parents and students regarding tuition, room, board and fees.
- \_\_\_ Other correspondence from university officials, such as the chancellor, provost, deans of your child's school/college, etc.
- \_\_\_ The annual parents' calendar mailing
- \_\_\_ The parents Web site ([www.wustl.edu/community/parents](http://www.wustl.edu/community/parents))

5. How would you prefer to receive or access communications about Washington University parent programs as well as general news and information? Check all that apply.

- \_\_\_ Email
- \_\_\_ Postal Service (paper mail)
- \_\_\_ Facebook
- \_\_\_ LinkedIn
- \_\_\_ Twitter
- \_\_\_ Posted on a website
- \_\_\_ Mobile application (e.g., smartphone, iPad, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Other (Please specify)
- \_\_\_ No preference
- \_\_\_ Prefer not to receive

## Day-To-Day Involvement With College Life

1. 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

2. How many times have you visited the campus during the current academic year? Please include trips to drop-off or pick-up your child.

- None
- Once
- Two or three times
- More than three times

3. During the current academic year, have you...

	Yes	No
Visited Washington University's website?		
Watched videos available from Washington University's website?		
Read the college newspaper (on-line or in print)?		
Followed blogs or social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) from Washington University?		
Attended an event at Washington University in which your child was involved?		
Attended an event at Washington University in which your child was not directly involved?		

4. During the current academic year, have you interacted by phone, e-mail, in person, etc., with...

	Yes	No
...financial aid office staff?		
...one of your child's instructors?		
...a staff person in a dean's office?		
...career services office staff?		
...residential life staff?		
...your child's academic advisor?		
... financial services/bursar's office staff?		
...others at Washington University we have not mentioned? Please specify the office or role.		

5. During the current academic year, how often have you done each of the following?

	Did not do this	Rarely	Occasionally	Often	Very often
Helped your child make decisions about which courses to take.					
Talked with your child about course material.					
Talked with your child about his/her long-term career or academic plans.					

## Choosing a College

1. From your perspective as a parent, to what extent did each of the following help your child in the college admission process? Consider all aspects of the process, including selecting schools to apply to, preparing applications, and making the final choice about where to attend. [OPTIONAL]

	Not at all	Some	Quite a bit	A great deal	Not Applicable
You and the child's other parent(s)					
High school guidance or college counselors					
Coaches					
Other high school teachers and advisors					
Special high school, after school, or summer programs					
Paid college counselors					
Test prep programs					
Magazines and college guidebooks					
Web sites designed to help students choose colleges					
College visits					
A recommendation from a current Washington University student, parent or an alumna/us					
A Washington University Admissions Counselor					

2. Tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Financial aid was a major factor in my child's college choices.

- Agree strongly
- Agree somewhat
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree somewhat
- Disagree strongly

3. 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?

- 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

3a. Have you used any of these calculators (available through the Washington University Admissions website)?

\_ Yes    \_ No    \_ Not sure

3b. If so, how helpful did you find these tools?

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not very helpful

## Paying for College – This Year

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

1. 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. [Include athletic scholarships.] [NOTE: Athletic appears only for Duke, Georgetown, JHU, Northwestern, Rice, Stanford]

Yes      No

### [POPS UP ONLY FOR THOSE WHO GOT GRANTS]

2. Please use the scale below to describe the amount of grant aid your child received for the current academic year.

\$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 or more

### SHOWS IF GETGRANT=YES OR IF SKIPPED

3. 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 you may have reported above. Please mark one answer in each row, marking "Did not use" where appropriate. We know this is a hard question. Just make your best guess.

### SHOWS IF GETGRANT=NO

3. 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. Please mark one answer in each row, marking "Did not use" where appropriate. We know this is a hard question. Just make your best guess.

<b>FAMILY ASSETS</b>	<b>Did Not Use</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>Did Not Use</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>Did Not Use</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>Did Not Use</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>Did Not Use</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**

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

1. So far, how much money have you or your spouse/partner borrowed to pay for your child's college education? Include all years. Do not include 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

1a. Will your child help repay these loans? Mark the best answer. [Pops up only if debt selected in previous question.]

- 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

2. If your child has borrowed money for college, do you expect to help him or her pay off these loans? Mark the best answer.

- My child has no student 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

3. 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

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

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

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

- Yes, definitely
- Somewhat
- No, definitely not

5a. 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.

1. What is your child's gender?

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

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

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

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

Yes No

4. 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 abroad or at another U.S. college

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

Business

- Engineering or Applied Sciences
- Humanities
- Natural Sciences
- Art & Design
- Architecture
- Physical Sciences or Mathematics
- Social sciences
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Undecided

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

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

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

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

8. Counting this student, how many children do you have in college now (this academic year)? Include step-children and others you helped to raise or for whom you share financial responsibility.

- One [only this student]
- Two
- Three or more

9. Are you married or living with a partner?

Yes No

## About You

1. On your last birthday, how old were you?

Under 45  45-49  50-54  55-59  60-64  65-69  70 or older

1a. If you are living with a spouse or partner, how old is he/she? **[shows only if person selects yes for spouse/partner]**

Under 45  45-49  50-54  55-59  60-64  65-69  70 or older

2. What is the highest degree you have earned? What about your spouse or partner (if applicable)?

You						Your spouse or partner <b>[shows only if person selects yes for spouse/partner]</b>					
No high school diploma	High school diploma or equivalent	Post-secondary school other than college	Some college or associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or Professional degree	No high school diploma	High school diploma or equivalent	Post-secondary school other than college	Some college or associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or Professional degree

3. 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	MBA	Other Master's degree	Medical degree	Law degree	Doctoral degree	Other
Your Spouse/Partner <b>[shows only if person selects yes for spouse/partner]</b>	MBA	Other Master's degree	Medical degree	Law degree	Doctoral degree	Other

4. Has a parent, sibling, or other close relative of this child attended Washington University?

Yes  No

5. Are you a citizen or permanent resident of the United States?

Yes  No

5a. Is your spouse or partner a citizen or permanent resident of the United States? **[shows only if person selects yes for spouse/partner]**

Yes  No  Not applicable

6. What is your race or ethnicity? What about your spouse or partner (if applicable)? Mark all that apply.

	Asian	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	Native American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White
You	-	-	-	-	-	-
Your Spouse/Partner <b>[shows only if person selects yes for spouse/partner]</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

7. 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.

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 - \$499,999

\$500,000 or above

8. If you presently are living in the United States, please indicate your ZIP code in the space provided.

U.S. Zip Code (5 digit)

## **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.

What has most pleased you about Washington University?

What has most disappointed you about Washington University?

Looking back, what do you "wish you knew" before your relationship with Washington University began?

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

## **LAST SECTION**

*This is the last page of the survey. If you wish to review your responses, please use the navigation buttons below to go back, or select Next to save and complete your survey.*

## **THANK YOU!**

**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 wish to speak to someone about any concerns you have about your child, please contact Sharon Stahl, Associate Vice Chancellor, at (314) 935-3359 or email [KirstenSmith@wustl.edu](mailto:KirstenSmith@wustl.edu).**

**If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the Market Research Office at [unser@wustl.edu](mailto:unser@wustl.edu) or (314) 935-4623.**