

Current Student Survey 2014-2015

May 2015

**Southeastern Louisiana University
Office of Institutional Research**

Student Characteristics

The majority of respondents were single (n=222, 82.5%), while 14.5% (n=39) were married, and 3.0% (n=8) were previously married. Also, the majority of students had no children (n=231, 86.8%), while 6.4% (n=14) had one child, 5.3% (n=14) had two children, 1.1% (n=3) had three children and 0.4% (n=1) had four or more children. Six percent (n=15, 5.6%) are veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

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, 29.2% (n=140) of the undergraduate respondents were non-traditional students, while 70.8% (n=339) were traditional students.

The survey results support the notion that Southeastern has a large commuter population. The majority of respondents (37.4%, n=99) 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	22%	57
Less than 5 miles	13%	35
Between 5 and 10 miles	8%	20
Between 11 and 20 miles	9%	23
Between 21 and 30 miles	12%	31
More than 30 miles	37%	99

The majority of students (54.1%, n=146) work off campus, while 11.5% (n=31) work on campus, 5.9% (n=16) work both on and off campus, and 28.5% (n=77) do not work at all. Of those students who indicated they worked, 11.5% (n=22) work no more than 10 hours per week, 30.7% (n=59) work 11-20 hours per week, 27.6% (n=53) work 21-30 hours per week, and 30.2% (n=58) 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, 20.4% (n=55) of our students are first generation college students. An additional 23.0% (n=62) have a least one parent with some college, but no degree. Eight percent (8.5%, n=23) have at least one parent with an Associate degree, 28.5% (n=77) have at least one parent with a Bachelor’s degree, and 15.2% (n=41) 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.