

1997 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON SUMMER SESSION SURVEY

Survey Results

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I. Introduction

In the Spring of 1997 Ron Trebon, the University of Oregon's Summer Session Director, contracted with the Oregon Survey Research Laboratory (OSRL) to conduct research focused on the needs, perceptions, and decision-making processes of students attending the Summer Session. Telephone interviews with 405 randomly selected Summer Session students took place in July.

After opening with a brief summary of the survey methodology, this report takes the form of a graphic summary of the survey results.

The graphic summary begins with a presentation of a demographic profile of survey respondents. This is followed by a general summary of the survey results, which is broken into seven sections: (A) classes, credits and class timing, (B) how students found out about Summer Session and when they decided to attend, (C) evaluations and impressions, (D) reasons for attending Summer Session, (E) awareness and use of services, (F) living arrangements, and (G) transportation.

The report ends with two major sections in which results are presented according to two different groupings of the survey respondents: the first compares resident to non-resident students and the second compares part-time to full-time Summer Session students (see the outline which concludes this section).

Graphs present percentage responses to selected questions. "Don't Know," "Refused," and "No Answer" response categories, as well as missing respondents (i.e., the number who may not have qualified to be asked a specific question) have been excluded in order to simplify presentation.

Survey Instrument

The broad goals of the research were to obtain statistically valid and reliable information from students attending the University of Oregon's Summer Session 1997. To address these broad goals, OSRL conducted a representative, random sample survey of 405 students.

In designing the survey instrument, OSRL used a multipath approach including drawing from OSRL's survey archives and creating original survey questions. Both individual questions and the survey in its entirety were thoroughly pretested with members of the survey population, survey experts, and the University of Oregon's Director of Summer Session. The survey was administered using OSRL's Computer-Aided Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system.

Sample and Data Collection

Telephone numbers were drawn at random from a list of all 6,352 Summer Session students, provided by the University of Oregon's Office of the Registrar. All students with working telephone numbers had a virtually equal chance of being called. Of the 6,352 students on the original list, 314 had no telephone number listed. Approximately 24% of the remaining list was ineligible for contact due to non-working telephone numbers. OSRL has no reason to believe that persons who were not contacted due to unlisted or non-working telephone numbers would respond differently than those interviewed for this survey.

Interviewing was conducted all times of the day and all days of the week until the target sample size was achieved. Altogether, OSRL interviewers made 3,694 telephone calls to complete 405 interviews with summer session students between July 24 and July 30, 1997. The average (mean) length of the interviews was 12 minutes.

For this study, the sampling error is ± 5 percentage points on a variable with a 50/50 proportional split (at the 95% confidence level). For a variable with a 5/95 proportional split, the sampling error is ± 2.2 percentage points.

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