Why do EOP students go to College?

The 123 EOP freshmen who responded to a survey during summer orientation (and gave us permission to use their identification number for research purposes) give the same reasons for going to college as other freshmen: to get a better job, to make more money and to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas. **EOP freshmen are more likely than other freshmen to cite three other reasons:**

- To prepare myself for graduate or professional school 73%
- To improve my reading and study skills 72%
- To prove to others I could succeed 52%

Why do EOP students choose Buffalo State?

More EOP freshmen cited reasons that were very important to them in choosing Buffalo State than other freshmen: low tuition; good academic reputation; and Buffalo State graduates get good jobs.

As one would expect EOP students were more likely than other freshmen to cite these additional reasons as very important influences on their decision:

- Buffalo State offered financial assistance 63%
- Buffalo State offered special education programs 55%
How do EOP students rank Buffalo State among other institutions they considered?

Almost two-thirds of entering EOP freshmen rank Buffalo State first among institutions they considered.

What predictions do EOP freshmen make about their educational careers at Buffalo State?

EOP freshmen are more likely than others to express some concern (59%) or major concern (22%) about their ability to finance a college education.

Like the rest of the freshmen class, EOP students expect to succeed at Buffalo State. Four out of five say chances are very good that they will earn a bachelor’s degree. Their confidence that chances are very good they will earn a B average is somewhat lower than general admit freshmen; but more EOP students expect to graduate with honors (15%) than other freshmen. Most (79%) say there is very little or no chance that they will fail one or more courses. Over half of the EOP freshmen say there is some chance or a very good chance that they will change their major or their career choice.

Almost half (46%) the EOP freshmen rate the chances of being satisfied with Buffalo State as very good compared to 29% of the other freshmen. When asked what the chances are that they will transfer to another institution, 13% say there is a very good chance; 23 percent say there is some chance.

What long-term academic goals do EOP freshmen have?

The goals of EOP freshmen are similar to those of other freshmen; more than two-thirds (67%) expect to earn a graduate degree. Thirty percent (30%) expect to earn a graduate degree at Buffalo State.

What are the long-term personal goals of EOP freshmen?

Freshmen were asked to rate the personal importance of eighteen long-term goals. As it is for other freshmen, the most highly-rated goal for EOP students is "being very well off financially"; more than four-fifths rated this goal as essential (56%) or very important (32%).

The next two goals which freshmen in general rate most frequently as essential or very important are "raising a family" and "helping others." EOP freshmen rate "helping others" (76%) and "being an authority in my own field" (68%) as their next two goals. EOP freshmen are a little less likely to rate "raising a family" as essential or very important (65%), compared with the class as a whole (71%).
While the majority of general freshmen and EOP freshmen rated "obtaining recognition from my colleagues for contributions to my special field" as essential or very important (EOP 56%; general 55%), many more EOP freshmen rated "becoming successful in a business of my own" as essential or very important (EOP 59%; general 33%).

*All data reported here is from the Freshmen Survey administered during Summer, 1998 orientation.

For more information, contact
Rosalyn Lindner
Senior Advisor to the Provost
102 Bulger Communication, 878-6939
lindnera@bscmail.buffalostate.edu