Why do STAR students go to college?

STAR students go to college for the same reasons other freshmen do: to make more money, to get a better job and to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas. Like freshmen in EOP, they also cite: to prepare myself for graduate or professional school (52%) and to prove to others I could succeed (50%). Unlike other freshmen, STAR students are more likely to cite one additional "very important" reason for deciding to go to college: my parents wanted me to go (51%).

Why do STAR students choose Buffalo State?

Like other members of the freshmen class, STAR freshmen cite the following as very important reasons for choosing Buffalo State: low tuition (38%), Buffalo State graduates get good jobs (33%), and Buffalo State has a very good academic reputation (31%). Like freshmen not in a special program, the majority of STAR freshmen report that there is no single reason that is very important in deciding to attend Buffalo State.

How do STAR students rank Buffalo State among other institutions they considered?

STAR freshmen are somewhat less likely than other freshmen to rank Buffalo State as their first-choice institution; more than sixty percent of all other freshmen name Buffalo State as their first choice (63%), but only 55% of STAR students do.

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

When compared with freshmen who are not in special programs, STAR freshmen are somewhat less likely to express concern about their ability to finance a college education; 12% express major concern, while 54% express some concern. Among freshmen, who are not in special programs, 17% express major concerns.

Unlike the rest of the freshmen class, fewer STAR students expect to succeed at Buffalo State. Sixty-one percent say the chances are very good or somewhat good that they will earn a bachelor's degree compared to 78% of freshmen not in a special program. STAR freshmen are less confident than other freshmen about the chances that their academic performances will be
distinguished, 36% expect to earn a B average and 6% say they have a very good chance of graduating with honors. About three-fourths say there is very little or no chance they will fail a course. When asked to estimate the chances they will change their major or their career choice, STAR freshmen give about the same responses as the rest of the class. Over a third say there is some chance or a very good chance they will change their major or their career choice.

Over one quarter (28%) of the STAR freshmen rate their chances of being satisfied with Buffalo State as very good. When asked what the chances are that they will transfer to another institution, 16% say there is a very good chance; 40% say there is some chance. While the percentage of STAR freshmen who expect to be satisfied with Buffalo State is the same as that for general admission freshmen, many more STAR freshmen report that there is some chance they will transfer (40%) than general freshmen (28%). The percentage who report a very good chance they will transfer is the same for both STAR freshmen and general admission freshmen (16%).

What long-term academic goals do STAR freshmen have?

The goals of STAR freshmen are similar to other freshmen; 67% expect to earn a graduate degree. About 27% expect to earn a graduate degree at Buffalo State.

How do STAR freshmen see themselves?

When asked to compare themselves with "the average person your age" on a range of personal characteristics, STAR students generally give themselves about the same ratings as other freshmen on competitiveness, creativity, and understanding others. They are less likely than other freshmen to rate themselves above average on drive to achieve and cooperativeness. In comparison with Buffalo State freshmen, who are not in special groups, STAR students are more likely to rate themselves above average in physical health, social self-confidence, self understanding, athletic ability, and intellectual self-confidence.

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

Freshmen were asked to rate the personal importance of eighteen long-term goals. As it is for all freshmen, the most highly-rated goal for STAR freshmen is "being very well off financially"; over 80% rate this goal as essential (30%) or very important (53%). Over three-quarters of STAR respondents name "raising a family" as an essential or very important goal. The next goal most frequently rated essential or very important by STAR freshmen is "becoming an authority in my field" (61%), followed closely by "helping others who are in difficulty (59%). Their ratings of this goal are lower than those given by the freshmen class as a whole (72%). Fifty-three percent (53%) of STAR
freshmen rate "obtaining recognition from my colleagues" as essential or very important; these ratings are similar to those given by the class as a whole.

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

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