Why do freshmen in Natural Science go to college?

Natural Science freshmen name the following as very important reasons for going to college:

- Make more money 79%
- Gain a general education and appreciation of ideas 72%
- Get better job 71%
- Prepare for graduate school 71%
- Become a more cultured person 59%
- Improve reading and study skills 53%

In general, these are the reasons given most frequently by the freshmen class as a whole, but "improve reading and study skills" is cited more often as a very important reason for going to college by Natural Science freshmen than by other freshmen.

Why do Natural Science freshmen choose Buffalo State?

These freshmen name the following reasons as very important influences on their decision to choose Buffalo State:

- Buffalo State has low tuition 44%
- Buffalo State graduates get good jobs 41%

Again, the reasons are similar to those given by other freshmen, but Natural Science freshmen were less likely than other freshmen to cite "has a good academic reputation."
How do Natural Science majors rank Buffalo State among other institutions they considered?

Almost half (48%) rank Buffalo State first among the colleges they considered, and a third (33%) rank Buffalo State second. The remaining 19% rank Buffalo State third or lower. **Natural Science majors are much less likely to rank Buffalo State first and more likely to rank Buffalo State third or lower when compared to other freshmen.**

What predictions do Natural Science majors make about their careers at Buffalo State?

Compared to other majors, freshmen in Natural Science are the least likely to expect to succeed at Buffalo State; 89% say there is some chance or a very good chance that they will graduate with a "B" average.

Twenty-one percent think there is some chance or a very good chance they will fail a course. Likewise, more Natural Science majors than other freshmen think there is some chance or a very good chance that they will change majors (59%) or careers (59%) while in college. This group is also less likely than other freshmen to think there is some chance or a very good chance they will be satisfied with Buffalo State (83%) and one out of two say there is some chance or a very good chance they will transfer to another institution.

What are the long-term academic goals of Natural Science freshmen?

Freshmen who plan to enter the Natural Sciences have very high long-term academic goals. Only 18% expect the baccalaureate to be their highest degree; 18% expect to get a master's degree, and 64% say they will earn a doctoral or first-professional degree.

**Significantly more Natural Science freshmen than other freshmen expect to earn a doctoral or professional degree.** Two-fifths expect to earn a graduate degree at Buffalo State.

How do Natural Science freshmen see themselves?

Freshmen were asked to rate themselves on nineteen traits by comparing themselves with "the average person your age." Their responses can be compared to those of a large norm group of freshmen who entered four-year public colleges in Fall 1998. Generally speaking, Buffalo State freshmen rated themselves somewhat lower than the norm group. Freshmen who intend to enter the Natural Sciences are most likely to rate themselves above average on the following traits:
• Drive to achieve 64%
• Physical health 60%
• Understanding others 58%
• Athletic ability 56%
• Competitiveness 56%
• Cooperativeness 56%
• Creativity 56%
• Intellectual self-confidence 52%
• Social self-confidence 52%
• Leadership ability 51%

Natural Science freshmen rated themselves above average on more traits than other freshmen.

What are the long-term personal goals of Natural Science freshmen?

Freshmen were asked to rate the personal importance of eighteen long-term goals. These are the long-term goals rated essential or very important by the greatest number of Natural Science freshmen:

• Be very well off financially 81%
• Raise a family 77%
• Help others in difficulty 72%
• Become an authority in my own field 69%
• Obtain recognition from colleagues 56%
• Make theoretical contribution to science 55%
Although Natural Science freshmen do not differ from other freshmen in most of their long-term personal goals, not surprisingly, they are the only major group to cite "make a theoretical contribution to science" as a goal.

*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