

ACT Faces of the Future Survey For Credit Students:
2001 Results
Executive Summary

Purpose

The Faces of the Future Survey was intended to provide information about Joliet Junior College's students including their use of computers, their perceived importance of attaining certain career and educational goals, and their employment while attending college. The survey also sought information about their current college experiences.

Method

The ACT Faces of the Future Survey was distributed in November 2000 to 35 randomly selected credit sections stratified by department. Both day and evening sections were solicited, as were sections from all three campuses. Three hundred twenty-nine surveys were completed/returned from nine of the academic departments.

Profile:

Almost three-fifths of the respondents (58.3%) of the ACT Faces of the Future Survey were 20 years of age or under and nearly one fourth were age 25 or older (23.3%). Just fewer than seventy percent of the respondents (69.9%) were of white non-Hispanic background. The JJC sample was comparable to the demographics of the national community college sample.

Forty-five percent of the students (45.3%) were full-time taking four or five courses for credit at JJC. Twenty-five percent of those responding (34.0%) have completed 13-30 credit hours at JJC. Almost one quarter of the students (24.3%) have taken 1-3 non-credit courses at this institution.

Over one quarter of the group (27.1%) considered themselves to be employed on a full-time basis. Fifteen percent of the respondents reported that they worked 40-50 hours per week and 4% of the respondents worked over 50 hours per week. For the national community college sample, 26% of the students were employed full-time.

Results:

Internet/Computer Usage:

Nearly all the respondents (93.6%) reported that they had used the Internet. Thirty percent of those surveyed use the Internet or WWW daily, this represents a nine-percentage point increase to last year's survey.

When asked whether they had an e-mail address through the college, home, or at work, over half of the students (56.2%) responded that they had not set up an e-mail address through the college. This was 20% lower than the national average for community college students. Almost three-fourths (74.8%) had an e-mail address at home and over three-fourths (77.8%) had access to an e-mail address at work. These results were very similar to the national community college sample.

Career Goals:

When asked to rate the importance of attaining certain accomplishments or goals on a 5-point scale (where 5=very important, =moderately important, and 1=not important), over three-fourths of the respondents (76.0%) rated to have a steady, secure job as being very important. Seventy-two percent (71.7%) showed to have time for personal/family interests as very important. Sixty-six percent (65.7%) felt it to be very important to be self-reliant. Again, this was very similar to the national community college sample.

Current Employment:

The respondents were asked to indicate the number of hours they worked per week, almost one quarter (24.6%) worked between twenty-one and thirty hours during the semester. Over one-third of the survey completers (35.3%) worked between the hours of 8AM-4PM/9AM-5PM and another thirty-four percent of the survey completers (34.3%) work evenings/second shift.

When questioned on what their employers would pay for; over three-fifths of the respondents (60.8%) answered their employer does not pay for any of their education/training expenses. Ten percent indicated that their employer paid for part of their tuition.

Reason for Attending College:

Students were asked to rate the reasons for taking the current course/program using a 4-point scale: 4=major reason, 3=moderate reason, 2=minor reason, and 1=not a reason). The top five were as follows:

Reason	Average of JJC Respondent Ratings	Average of ACT National Sample Ratings
To meet requirements for my chosen occupation	3.22	3.17
To develop my mind and intellectual abilities	3.00	3.11
To increase my earning power	2.84	2.83
To study new & different subjects	2.43	2.56
To make a career change	2.07	2.25

As seen above, the JJC respondents were fairly aligned with the national community college sample.

Using a 5-point scale (where 5=very important, 3=moderately important, and 1=not important), those surveyed were then asked to rate how important certain factors were in helping them to decide whether to attend JJC, the top five were as follows:

Factors	Average of Respondent Ratings	Average of ACT National Sample Ratings
Cost of attending JJC	3.87	3.83
Distance of the college from permanent residence	3.77	3.76
Variety of courses offered	3.44	3.30
Particular program of study	3.38	3.55
Academic reputation of JJC	3.09	3.16

Again using a 5-point scale (where 5=strongly agree, 4=agree, 3=neutral, 2=disagree, and 1=strongly disagree), those surveyed were asked their agreement level about certain aspects of JJC, the top five were as follows:

Statements	Average of Respondent Ratings	Average of ACT National Sample Ratings
Instructors treat students in my racial/ethnic group with respect	4.31	4.14
I would recommend this college to friends and relatives	4.25	4.09
The college has a good reputation	4.19	3.96
Instructors treat students in my gender group with respect	4.19	4.12
I feel a sense of general safety on campus	4.06	4.05

The JJC respondents ranked these statements slightly more favorable than the national community college sample.

Marketing Information:

When questioned on the source from which they learned most about JJC before enrolling, 33.1% said through a family member/friend, 21.0% answered through a high school teacher/counselor, 20.1% responded through a college catalogue/brochure/flier.

Only two percent of the respondents said that they heard about JJC through newspaper/television/radio advertisements. Likewise, only 2% learned about JJC from the internet/www or from the newspaper. These results were analogous to the results of the national community college sample and that posted by the 2000 Faces of the Future survey.

Satisfaction Level:

When asked to rate their overall satisfaction with JJC, almost three-fourths (72.3%) of those surveyed responded with very satisfied or satisfied with JJC. This was a 6% decrease from last years survey results.

Comparably, four percent of the respondents (2.1%) indicated that they were dissatisfied. This was a 1.5% decrease from last year's survey of 3.6%.