Past Surveys

Undergraduate Admissions Turn Downs Survey 2005

This survey, conducted in summer 2005 on behalf of the UVa Admissions and Student Financial Services, asked questions of those UVa who turned down an offer of admission for the 2005-06 academic year about the schools they plan to attend and their experiences with admissions and financial aid offices. All applicants who did not choose UVa, including transfers, were surveyed. Out of a total of 2,847, 1,757 responded for a response rate of 62%. Similar surveys have been conducted in other years. For those results, click here.

Data
Reports
Questionnaire (MS Word doc)
Methodology

Data (Stored in IAS Data Catalog)

Summary Tables
By 200% poverty level (.pdf file)

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Overall
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By domicile
By gender
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Transfer and First-time, first-year
By application type (Transfer v. first-time, first-year)

Text Comments
Admissions Text Comments
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All Text comments (MS Word doc)
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Reports (Stored in IAS Reports)

Complete Report
Introduction
Summary of Findings
Summary of High-Need Text Comments
Methodology

The survey population was all 2,847 applicants who turned down the University of Virginia’s offer of admission at the undergraduate level for the 2005-06 academic year, including transfers and first-time, first-year applicants.

On June 8 and 13, 2005, the entire population was sent personalized letters signed by the Dean of Admission, Jack Blackburn. The letter informed them of the importance and general purposes of the survey, assured them of confidentiality, and invited them to participate. The survey was conducted entirely over the web. Respondents were tracked via an alphanumeric randomized respondent key. Four email reminders were sent to nonrespondents on June 21, July 7 and 21, and August 4, 2005. Four lotteries were conducted as incentives for respondents. A total of 55 prizes were awarded: five $100 gift certificates, ten $50 gift certificates, and forty $25 gift certificates to Amazon.com.

When the field period ended on August 10, 2005, a total of 1,760 students had responded to this survey for a response rate of 62%. At a 95% confidence level, the overall sampling error for the survey was ±1.4%.

Sampling error assumes a random (representative) sample. Analysis was conducted to determine whether respondents differed from nonrespondents in important known characteristics, such as grade point average, SAT scores, domicile, gender, ethnic background and intended program of study. While there were statistically significant differences on some of these factors between respondents and nonrespondents, they were very small in degree. For example, nonrespondents had slightly lower grade point averages in high school (.05 grade points) and slightly lower verbal and math SAT scores (15 and 8 points, respectively). These differences are substantively very small. On the demographic factors, women were slightly overrepresented (52% of the population but 55% of the sample) and African-Americans were somewhat underrepresented (11% of the population but 8% of the sample). Accordingly, the data were weighted by race and gender to account for these differences. With these exceptions, the sample looked very much like the population.

Questions regarding the administration of the survey, the questionnaire, or the results can be directed to Jonathan Schnyer, Assistant Director and Assessment Coordinator, Office of Institutional Assessment and Studies, P.O. Box 400427, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4727 (telephone: 434/924-3417 or schnyer@virginia.edu).