

New Student Survey Results: Fall 2006

The New Student Survey was administered electronically through a password protected polling system. The link was sent to the First-Year Falcon mailing list, a listserv of new, first-time students (1696 distinct emails) and students were offered the chance to win one of five \$25 gift certificates to the campus bookstore (Center Points). 335 students took part in the survey in 2006. The poll was administered between November 27 at 9:00 a.m. and December 6 at 8:00 a.m.

Students were given the option of five answers to most questions. These answers were: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, or Does Not Apply. For the purposes of this report, responses of **Does not Apply** were excluded from the results. For more information on raw totals, please see accompanying spreadsheet.

Highlights:

- 85.01% agree/strongly agree that they felt comfortable registering for Spring 2007 semester.
- 84.4% agree/strongly agree that they found their academic advisor to be helpful during the registration process.
- 91.22% agree/strongly agree that they know at least one person (faculty or staff) at this institution to whom they can turn if they have questions.
- 85.41% agree/strongly agree that the information given by faculty on Academic Day seemed useful.
- 80.38% agree/strongly agree that customer service is a strength of UW-River falls.
- 93.71% agree/strongly agree that they have enjoyed their experience at UW-River Falls so far.
- 94.53% would advise others to attend UWRF.

Points to Consider:

- 36.73% agree/strongly agree that they have either changed their major or will be changing their major.
- 96.41% agree/strongly agree that they plan to return to UWRF next semester, while only 83.04% agree/strongly agree that they plan to return in Fall 2007.
- 32.51% strongly disagree/disagree that they know what resources are available to them at this institution if they are looking for employment.
- 20.54% strongly disagree/disagree that they know what resources are available if they have questions about paying for college.



New Student Survey Results

Fall 2006 vs. Fall 2005

Positive changes since 2005

WOW helped me to know what to expect academically at this institution:

Agree/Strongly Agree 2006: **54.22%**

Agree/Strongly Agree 2005: **42.90%**

I met new people at WOW that I am still friends with:

Agree/Strongly Agree 2006: **73.02%**

Agree/Strongly Agree 2005: **63.44%**

At WOW, I learned about the different clubs and organizations I could join:

Agree/Strongly Agree 2006: **86.54%**

Agree/Strongly Agree 2005: **78.49%**

The Academic Day sessions on Tuesday, September 6, helped me prepare for the beginning of the semester:

Agree/Strongly Agree 2006: **78.12%**

Agree/Strongly Agree 2005: **72.94%**

The information given by faculty on Academic Day seemed useful:

Agree/Strongly Agree 2006: **85.41%**

Agree/Strongly Agree 2005: **79.32%**

Academic Day helped introduce me to the academic expectations of the institution:

Agree/Strongly Agree 2006: **79.24%**

Agree/Strongly Agree 2005: **73.97%**

Positive changes in strength of agreement since 2005

I found my academic advisor to be helpful during the registration process:

Strongly Agree 2006: **45.87%**

Strongly Agree 2005: **36.83%**

Customer service is a strength of UW-River Falls:

Strongly Agree 2006: **16.14%**

Strongly Agree 2005: **6.4%**

I would advise others to attend UW-River Falls:

Strongly Agree 2006: **44.38%**

Strongly Agree 2005: **39.94%**

I am aware that Outreach Advisors in my residence hall are available to answer academically related questions:

Strongly Agree 2006: **49.17%**

Strongly Agree 2005: **27.72%**



Open Responses to select questions

Fall 2006

I found my academic advisor to be helpful during the registration process (if desired, type additional remarks in write-in space provided):

Positive: 12

Negative: 18

Neutral/qualified:8

Positive Statements:

- ✓ Was extremely helpful throughout the whole semester
- ✓ He was very helpful in helping me understand my DAR
- ✓ My advisor was great at being helpful but not too controlling, making it seem like I still had options and could choose my own schedule and classes.
- ✓ My advisor was very knowledgeable about what classes I did and didn't need to take. He also provided additional classes to take next semester that I had not thought of.
- ✓ When I could not find a class to fill my schedule I went to my advisor's office and he had it figured out in a few minutes.

Negative:

- ✓ Can't this university somehow make a list of things needed to do before and after registration (like a checklist) so we do know what is going on!
- ✓ He told me some wrong information.
- ✓ He was very busy, I had to wait over 30min. after my scheduled appt. time because he took a walk-in student before those with appointments!!!
- ✓ My advisor was a little on edge and didn't seem like he wanted to help very much before 1st semester.
- ✓ She didn't seem to know what she was talking about and she just confused me more.

Neutral/Qualified:

- ✓ She was helpful but seemed stretched pretty thin, she had so many advisees that she would forget my situation even a week after seeing me
- ✓ She was helpful, but I was very disappointed that there were so little class seats available, I am having trouble registering for classes that are necessary to my degree; and I am not the only one I have heard it around campus and among other degrees and areas of studies. In my opinion there is a need for more classes not student centers and redoing the landscaping in front of North Hall and other areas repeatedly.
- ✓ She was helpful, but the school messed up on my verification PIN and my holds, so I still have not been able to register for classes.
- ✓ I was caught between majors so it was difficult to decide on which classes to register for. My advisor helped as much as he could.
- ✓ But he didn't have me on his list of students, so I ended up not receiving an email saying to schedule an appointment.



First-Year Experience

Open Responses to select questions, (Cont.)

Fall 2006

Customer service is a strength of UW-River Falls (if desired, type additional remarks in write-in space provided).

Positive: 1

Negative: 10

Neutral/Qualified: 2

Positive Statements:

- ✓ The staff at the school store are amazing.

Negative Statements:

- ✓ I have no idea where to get help
- ✓ I have not seen any proof of this, besides these polls I wouldn't know it mattered
- ✓ I think this school does a horrid job of keeping its students satisfied. The dorms are way too small, the food is crap, and eSIS did not even work for registering. If this school has one thing going for it, it is the few professors who realize the school is being run poorly
- ✓ It is very Bureaucratic in this institution when trying to get something done. When you find an issue that needs to be answered you are directed more places than the IRS sends you.
- ✓ Most of the offices are more adversarial than helpful. It's more "tough shit" than "we'll see what we can do."
- ✓ When ever I talk with anyone from administration I feel that I am inconveniencing them or I get a crabby attitude.

Neutral Statements:

- ✓ Sometimes secretaries would be wise to remember that first year students don't know everything yet.
- ✓ I don't think the customer service is super bad but its not awesome either



Open Responses to select questions, (Cont.)

Fall 2006

I plan to return to UW-River Falls next semester (if no, please list reason in write-in section).

- ✓ But, I am transferring next year.
- ✓ I suppose I have to, I don't know where else to go, now. I feel as if I'm trapped here.
- ✓ I will be abroad.
- ✓ I will be at Basic Training next semester and will be returning in the Fall of 2007
- ✓ Transferring for 1 year then coming back to UWRF
- ✓ Transferring to Milwaukee because it's closer to home

I plan to return to UW-River Falls next academic year (if no, please list reason in write-in section).

- ✓ Changed major, transferring!
- ✓ cost...cheaper to go to uw-milwaukee because I don't have to pay for housing or food
- ✓ Don't have major
- ✓ I have had a hard time being away from home, and having a terrible roommate has not helped
- ✓ I may change my school if I decide to change majors or depending on how the winter is. Something may change in the future, the campus is not bad but I may require a larger institution.
- ✓ I suppose I have to, I don't know where else to go, now. I feel as if I'm trapped here.
- ✓ I wanna attend a college that is more accredited when it comes to my major.
- ✓ I wasn't happy with the classes or teachers.
- ✓ I will be finished with school
- ✓ interior design not available
- ✓ It is not what I expected, I hate it here. I would much rather go to a larger school, with many more options.
- ✓ It's a pretty lonely place if you're not an 18 year old Agricultural Science major.
- ✓ I'd rather be in the city.
- ✓ might be switching schools
- ✓ Not enough going on
- ✓ There isn't enough out of school activities on campus or in town.
- ✓ Transferring to MATC
- ✓ Very Boring Town



First-Year Experience