

DATE: Tuesday, January 15, 2019
TO: Western Governors University Texas
FROM

Poll Summary

Q1. In general, when thinking about the value of a college education today, would you say that the overall value most college graduates get back over their lifetime...

2019 2017

Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: (would that be somewhat agree/disagree or strongly agree/disagree)

[RANDOMIZE Q3A-Q3E]

Q3A. A certificate, certification, or degree beyond high school is essential for getting a good job.

1.	Strongly agree	50%
2.	Somewhat agree	28
3.	Somewhat disagree	13
4.	Strongly disagree	8
5.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	1

Q3B. A certificate, certification, or degree beyond high school leads to a higher income.

1.	Strongly agree	58%
2.	Somewhat agree	29
3.	Somewhat disagree	7
4.	Strongly disagree	4
5.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	2

Q3C. A certificate, certification, or degree beyond high school leads to a better quality of life.

1.	Strongly agree	55%
2.	Somewhat agree	27
3.	Somewhat disagree	11
4.	Strongly disagree	5
5.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	1

Q3D. A certificate, certification, or degree beyond high school increases the respect one receives from others.

1.	Strongly agree	42%
2.	Somewhat agree	39
3.	Somewhat disagree	10
4.	Strongly disagree	7
5.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	2

Q3E. A certificate, certification, or degree beyond high school is a source of pride for most people.

1.	Strongly agree	67%
2.	Somewhat agree	26
3.	Somewhat disagree	4
4.	Strongly disagree	2
5.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	1

Q4. How about you? What is the highest level of education that you have completed? **[READ CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY]**

1.	Less than high school	5%
2.	High school	14
3.	Some college	20
4.	Associate's degree or certificate	14
5.	College degree	25
6.	Post-graduate degree (MA, LLD, PhD)	20
7.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA [DON'T READ]	1

Q4A. **[ASK if Q4==3]** How many semesters did you complete? **[READ CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY]** (*N* = 157, *MOE* = +/-7.82%)

1.	2 Semesters or less	26%
2.	3 to 4 Semesters	42
3.	5 or more semesters	29
4.	Don't know/Can't remember [DON'T READ]	3

Q4B. **[ASK If Q4==4|5|6]** What type of institution awarded your highest credential? **[Read 1-5]** (*N* = 478, *MOE* = +/-4.48%)

1.	A Community College	16%
2.	A 4-year Public University	54
3.	A 4-year Private University	17
4.	A For-Profit University	3
5.	Another type of institution	10
6.	Don't know/Can't remember [DON'T READ]	1

Q5. [ASK IF Q4==4|5|6]

Q8. **[ASK IF Q4<=3]** For each of the following, please tell me whether or not it has been an obstacle to completing a college degree?

Q13. Do you think you will enroll in an educational or training program in the next five years?

1.	Yes	28%
2.	No	58
3.	Maybe	12
4.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	2

Q14.

Q15. If you were considering enrolling in an educational program, would each of the following factors be extremely important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important to your decision? **[RANDOMIZE A-I]**

	<i>Extremely important</i>	<i>Somewhat important</i>	<i>Not very important</i>	<i>Not at all important</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Q15A. Cost of tuition	61	26	4	6	2
Q15B. Availability of financial aid	48	22	13	13	3
Q15C. Programs with online course options	32	42	11	12	3
Q15D. Proximity to your home or work	50				

Q17. Do you think that Texas's state governm

Q19. Do you personally view the problem of student loan debt for people in the United States to be a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem?

		2019	2017	2016	2015
1.	Major problem	79%	73%	78%	72%
2.	Minor problem	13	17	15	18
3.	Not a problem	7	6	6	8
4.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	1	4	2	2

Q20. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: *For Texas' economy to compete with other states, it is essential to have an educated workforce?*

		2019	2017	2016	2015
1.	Agree	93%	90%	93%	93%
2.	Disagree	5	8	6	7
3.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	1	2	1	1

Now I'd like to ask you about online education.

Q21. If you were intending to get a college degree or certificate today, given your own circumstances, would you prefer to get that degree or certificate from a quality online program, or a quality, traditional, in-person program?

	2019	2017	2016	2015
1. Online degree program	36%	28%	25%	31%
2. In-person degree program	57	65	67	63
3. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	7	7	7	6

Q22. Generally speaking, do you think that online college degree or certificate programs are better, about the same, or worse than traditional, in-person programs?

	2019	2017	2016	2015
1. Better	8%	7%	6%	10%
2. About the same	54	42	49	50
3. Worse	31	37	38	34
4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	6	14	7	6

Q23. Generally speaking, do you think that employers rate an applicant who has received their college degree or certificate from an online program the same, better, or worse than a similar applicant who has received their degree or certificate from a traditional, in-person program?

	2019	2017	2016	2015
1. The same	49%	36%	38%	41%
2. Better	8	3	5	10
3. Worse	43	47	46	41
4. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA	0	14	11	8

We're almost done. The final questions are for statistical purposes...

AGEG. In what age group do you fall...

1. 18-29	24%
2. 30-44	27
3. 45-64	32
4. 65+	17

EMPLOY. Which of the following best describes your employment status? **[READ CATEGORIES]**

1. Employed, working 40 or more hours per week	49%
2. Employed, working 1-39 hours per week	15
3. Not employed, looking for work	5
4. Not employed, not looking for work	7
5. Retired	17
6. Disabled, not able to work	4
7. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA [DON'T READ]	2

MARRIED. What is your current marital status?

1. Never married	28%
2. Married	51
3. Divorced	9
4. Widowed	6
5. Separated	3
6. DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA.	3

CHILD. How many children are currently living with you?

1. One	20%
2. Two	16
3. Three	7
4. Four or more	4
5. None	53

PARENTS. Do either of your parents have a certificate, certification, or degree beyond high school.

1. Yes	48%
2. No	49
3. Don't know	4

INCOME. What was your total household income for 2018? **[READ CATEGORIES]**

1.	Less than \$15,000	6%	
2.	\$15,000 - less than \$25,000	9	
3.	\$25,000 - less than \$40,000	15	
4.	\$40,000 - less than \$75,000	21	
5.	\$75,000- less than \$150,000	24	
6.	\$150,000 or more		11
7.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA. [DON'T READ]		14

DEBT. **[ASK IF Q4==3|4|5|6]** Do you happen to know approximately how much money you borrowed to finance your education? Was it... **[READ]?**

1.	Less than \$10,000	41%	
2.	Between \$10,000 and \$20,000	14	
3.	Between \$20,000 and \$30,000	7	
4.	Between \$30,000 and \$40,000, or	5	
5.	More than \$40,000	12	
6.	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NA. (VOL.)	21	

MAJOR. **[ASK IF Q4==5|6]** What was your major field of study in college? **[READ RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

1.	Science, Engineering, or IT	25%	
2.	Social Science, Liberal Arts, or Edui5t2.nd S/SE		

RACE. Would you say that you are...

1.	White/Anglo	45%
2.	African American	12
3.	Hispanic	36
4.	Asian	5
5.	Other	2

GENDER. (BY OBSERVATION)

1.	MALE	49%
2.	FEMALE	51

