



2026 First-Year Student Experience Survey

Observations

The 2026 administration of the FYSES yielded a strong response rate (37%) with a comparable distribution demographically by race/ethnicity. This is the largest response rate for a first-year survey since 2018.

There are three areas of attention in the FYSES:

Satisfaction: Levels of satisfaction with various University resources (seven items).

Belonging: A sense of fitting in or feeling like you are an important member of a group (six items).

Self-Efficacy: A person's belief in their ability to succeed in a particular situation (eight items).

Seventeen of the 23 questions yielded a positive response (mean of 3.00 +).

The largest mean score was "How respectful towards you are IWU faculty and staff?" (3.66).

The lowest mean score was attributed to "How well do people at IWU understand you as a person?" (-2.72).

Five items had combined low ratings of 20% or greater: Course Availability, Value of an IWU Education, People Understanding You as a Person, Connection to Faculty & Staff, and Mattering to Others (the same items appeared in the 2025 FYSES).

Ninety-three percent of the student respondents indicated that they were "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" with their choice to attend IWU.

Similar to last year's FYSES administration, when examining correlation coefficients the following areas have the greatest relationship with overall student satisfaction:

1) Belonging (.704) - **Very Strong Relationship**

2) Satisfaction with University Resources (.624) - **Strong Relationship**

3) Self-Efficacy (.474) - **Moderate Relationship**

Please see Page 7 for more details.

Demographics**Participants**

Students Solicited	551
Respondents	203

Response Rate **37%**

Gender

Men	64	32%
Women	130	64%
Non-Binary	8	4%

Total **202** **100%**

Transgender

Yes	11	5%
No	191	95%

Total **202** **100%**

Race/Ethnicity

Amer Indian	0	0%
Asian	15	7%
Black	26	13%
Hispanic	18	9%
International	4	2%
Pacific Isle	1	0.5%
Multi Racial	11	5%
White	128	63%

Total **203** **100%**

Sexual Orientation

Heterosexual	134	67%
Gay	4	2%
Lesbian	7	4%
Bisexual	40	20%
Queer	6	3%
Other	9	5%

Total **200** **100%**

"Other"

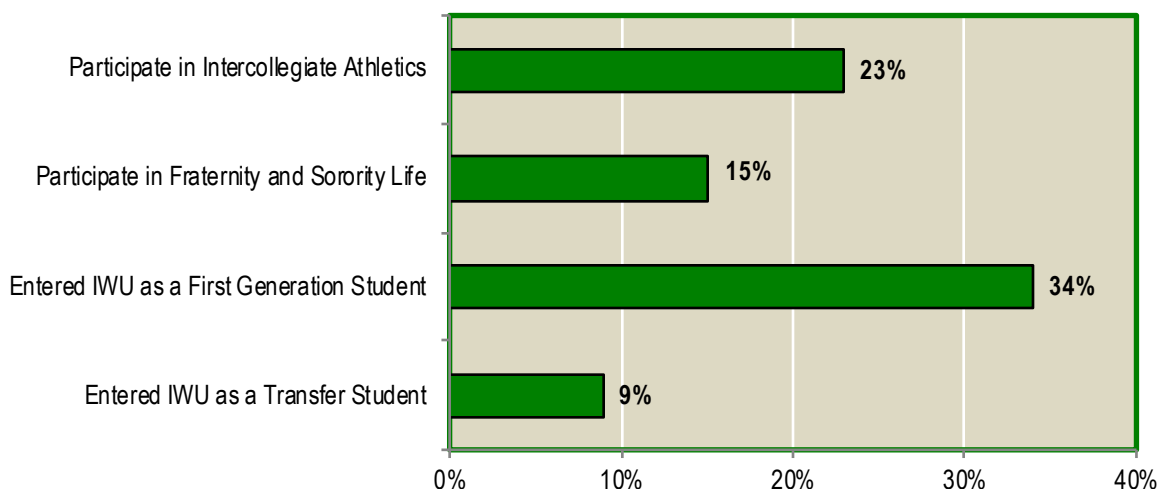
Asexual	5
Pansexual	1

Majors

Accounting	4	2%
Art	1	0%
Biology	18	9%
Biochem	3	1%
Chemistry	2	1%
Business	13	6%
Comm	3	1%
Computer Sci	8	4%
Criminology	2	1%
Data Sci	1	0%
Economics	1	0.5%
Education	8	4%
English	4	2%
Entrepreneur	3	1%
Environ Std	1	0%
Finance	14	7%
Graphic Des	5	2%
Hisp Std	2	1%
History	3	1%
Intl & Global	1	0.5%
Kinesiology	14	7%
Marketing	2	1%
Math	3	1%
Music Edu	1	0%
Music Thtr	1	0%
Neuroscience	4	2%
Nursing	20	10%
Philosophy	1	0.5%
Physics	2	1%
Political Sci	11	5%
Psychology	24	12%
Public Health	4	2%
Quant Fin	1	0.5%
Sociology	2	1%
Theatre Arts	3	1%
Undecided	7	3%
Vocal Perf	4	2%

Total **201** **100%**

Please indicate which, if any, of the following categories applies to you:



Satisfaction Scale

Based on your experience at Illinois Wesleyan, please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following aspects of the University:

** Please note that some of the figures for the combined satisfaction calculations may differ slightly from the frequency tables due to rounding issues.*

Access to Faculty Members

Very Satisfied	46%
Satisfied	53%
Dissatisfied	1%
Very Dissatisfied	0%
<i>N</i> = 193	100%
Very Satisfied & Satisfied =	99%
2025 FYSES = 98%	

Quality of Teaching

Very Satisfied	26%
Satisfied	67%
Dissatisfied	6%
Very Dissatisfied	1%
<i>N</i> = 193	100%
Very Satisfied & Satisfied =	93%
2025 FYSES = 99%	

Course Availability

Very Satisfied	15%
Satisfied	60%
Dissatisfied	22%
Very Dissatisfied	3%
<i>N</i> = 193	100%
Very Satisfied & Satisfied =	75%
2025 FYSES = 77%	

First-Year Academic Advising

Very Satisfied	42%
Satisfied	49%
Dissatisfied	7%
Very Dissatisfied	2%
<i>N</i> = 193	100%
Very Satisfied & Satisfied =	91%
2025 FYSES = 92%	

Satisfaction Scale (continued)

Based on your experience at Illinois Wesleyan, please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following aspects of the University:

Fellow Students' Academic Ability

Very Satisfied	27%
Satisfied	68%
Dissatisfied	5%
Very Dissatisfied	0%

N = 192 100%

Very Satisfied & Satisfied = 95%

2025 FYSES = 91%

The Academic Reputation of IWU

Very Satisfied	51%
Satisfied	47%
Dissatisfied	2%
Very Dissatisfied	0%

N = 193 100%

Very Satisfied & Satisfied = 98%

2025 FYSES = 98%

Value of an IWU Education for the Price

Very Satisfied	15%
Satisfied	61%
Dissatisfied	19%
Very Dissatisfied	5%

N = 192 100%

Very Satisfied & Satisfied = 76%

2025 FYSES = 75%

Belonging Scale

As an IWU student...

People Understanding You as a Person

Very Well	18%
Quite a Bit	43%
Some	32%
Very Little	7%

N = 191 100%

Very Well & Quite a Bit = 61%

How well do people at IWU understand you as a person?

2025 FYSES = 58%

Connection to Faculty & Staff

Very Connected	24%
Quite a Bit	38%
Some	34%
Very Little	4%

N = 191 100%

Very Connected & QaB = 62%

How connected do you feel to the IWU faculty and staff?

2025 FYSES = 57%

Belonging Scale (continued)*As an IWU student...***IWU Welcoming**

Very Welcoming	44%
Quite a Bit	40%
Some	14%
Very Little	2%

N = 191 100%

Very Welcoming & QaB = 84%

How welcoming have you found IWU to be?

2025 FYSES = 81%

Peer Respect

Very Respectful	52%
Quite a Bit	38%
Some	10%
Very Little	0%

N = 190 100%

Very Respectful & QaB = 90%

How respectful towards you are other IWU students?

2025 FYSES = 89%

Faculty & Staff Respect

Very Respectful	71%
Quite a Bit	25%
Some	4%
Very Little	0%

N = 190 100%

Very Respectful & QaB = 96%

How respectful towards you are IWU faculty and staff?

2025 FYSES = 99%

Mattering to Others

Very Much	17%
Quite a Bit	44%
Some	33%
Very Little	6%

N = 191 100%

Very Much & Quite a Bit = 61%

How much do you matter to others at IWU?

2025 FYSES = 62%

Self-Efficacy Scale*How much do you agree with the following statements?***Goal Achievement**

Strongly Agree	39%
Agree	59%
Disagree	2%
Strongly Disagree	0%

N = 186 100%

Strongly Agree & Agree = 98%

I will be able to achieve most of the goals that I have set for myself.

2025 FYSES = 99%

Accomplishing Difficult Tasks

Strongly Agree	34%
Agree	59%
Disagree	7%
Strongly Disagree	0%

N = 187 100%

Strongly Agree & Agree = 93%

When facing difficult tasks, I am certain that I will accomplish them.

2025 FYSES = 99%

Self-Efficacy Scale (continued)*How much do you agree with the following statements?***Obtaining Important Outcomes**

Strongly Agree	46%
Agree	53%
Disagree	1%
Strongly Disagree	0%

N = 187 100%

Strongly Agree & Agree = 99%

In general, I think that I can obtain outcomes that are important to me.

2025 FYSES = 97%

Overcoming Challenges

Strongly Agree	40%
Agree	57%
Disagree	3%
Strongly Disagree	0%

N = 187 100%

Strongly Agree & Agree = 97%

I will be able to successfully overcome many challenges.

2025 FYSES = 98%

Task Comparison

Strongly Agree	30%
Agree	60%
Disagree	10%
Strongly Disagree	0%

N = 187 100%

Strongly Agree & Agree = 90%

Compared to other people, I can do most tasks very well.

2025 FYSES = 96%

Succeed at Endeavors

Strongly Agree	39%
Agree	56%
Disagree	5%
Strongly Disagree	0%

N = 112 100%

Strongly Agree & Agree = 95%

I believe I can succeed at almost any endeavor to which I set my mind.

2025 FYSES = 93%

Performing Effectively

Strongly Agree	39%
Agree	57%
Disagree	4%
Strongly Disagree	0%

N = 185 100%

Strongly Agree & Agree = 96%

I am confident that I can perform effectively on many different tasks.

2025 FYSES = 99%

Performance Resiliency

Strongly Agree	33%
Agree	62%
Disagree	5%
Strongly Disagree	0%

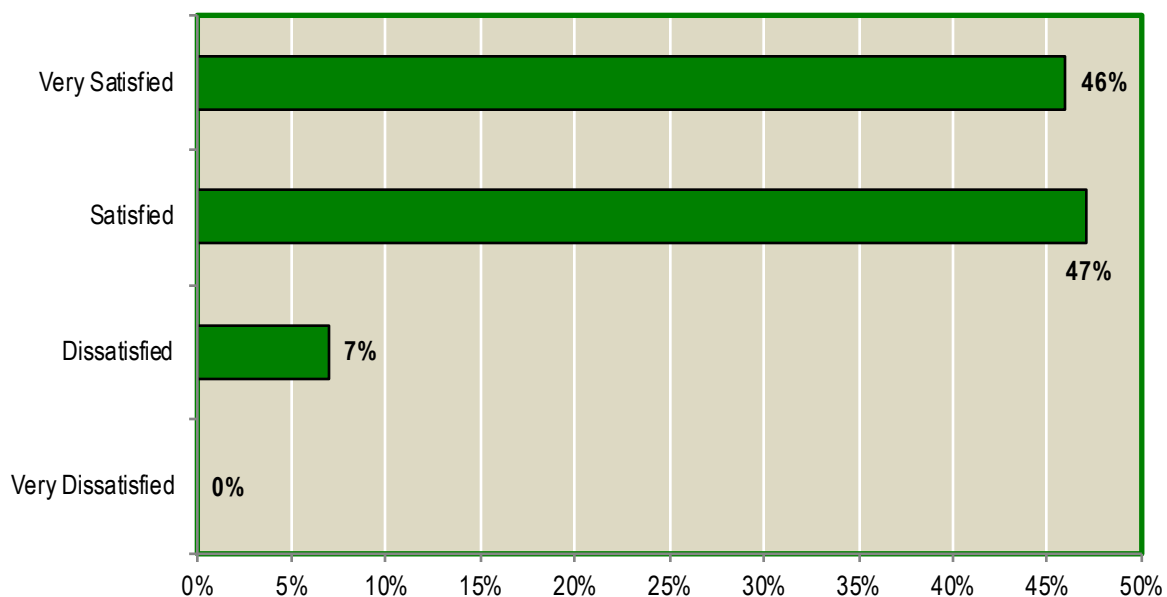
N = 187 100%

Strongly Agree & Agree = 95%

Even when things are tough, I can perform quite well.

2025 FYSES = 96%

How satisfied are you with your choice to attend IWU?



Very Satisfied & Satisfied = 93%

N = 189

2025 FYSES = 89%

Correlation Coefficients between Overall Satisfaction and 1) Resource Satisfaction, 2) Belonging, and 3) Self-Efficacy

Correlation coefficients measure the strength of the relationship between two variables. A correlation between variables indicates that as one variable changes in value, the other variable tends to change in a specific direction.

Similar to last year's FYSES administration, when examining correlation coefficients, the following areas have the greatest relationship with overall student satisfaction:

- 1) Belonging (.704) - Very Strong Relationship**
- 2) Satisfaction with University Resources (.624) - Strong Relationship**
- 3) Self-Efficacy (.474) - Moderate Relationship**

Correlations are significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Mean Scores for the Individual Questions

	2026	2025	
	Mean	Mean	Difference
<i>Satisfaction</i>			
Access to Faculty Members	3.46	3.48	-0.02
Quality of Teaching	3.20	3.27	-0.07
Course Availability	2.88	2.91	-0.03
First-Year Academic Advising	3.29	3.28	0.01
Fellow Students' Academic Ability	3.22	3.18	0.04
The Academic Reputation of IWU	3.49	3.29	0.20
Value of an IWU Education for the Price	2.86	2.80	0.06
<i>Belonging</i>			
People Understanding You as a Person	2.72	2.64	0.08
Connection to Faculty & Staff	2.82	2.69	0.13
IWU Welcoming	3.27	3.12	0.15
Peer Respect	3.42	3.38	0.04
Faculty & Staff Respect	3.66	3.69	-0.03
Mattering to Others	2.73	2.64	0.09
<i>Self-Efficacy</i>			
Goal Achievement	3.36	3.45	-0.09
Accomplishing Difficult Tasks	3.27	3.36	-0.09
Obtaining Important Outcomes	3.43	3.46	-0.03
Succeed at Endeavors	3.34	3.33	0.01
Overcoming Challenges	3.37	3.42	-0.05
Performing Effectively	3.34	3.46	-0.12
Task Comparison	3.20	3.38	-0.18
Performance Resiliency	3.26	3.40	-0.14
<i>University Satisfaction</i>	3.37	3.22	0.15