

The Parents Survey

This survey is being sent to parents by select colleges and universities as part of an extensive effort to serve both parents and students more effectively. All individual responses will be kept confidential — only averages or summary measures across groups of individuals will be reported. A high response rate from each institution's parents will help us identify both problem areas and model programs. Thank you very much for your assistance in these efforts.

Instructions:

- **Either parent may fill out the questionnaire.**
- Please answer the question about "your child's college/university" in reference to the liberal arts college or the university that sent you this questionnaire.
- If you have more than one child at this college/university, **please answer questions about "your child" in reference to your oldest daughter or son who is enrolled there.**

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

- Use a No. 2 pencil, blue or black ink pen.
- Fill in the circle completely.
- Erase cleanly any marks you wish to change.
- Do not make any stray marks on this form.

CORRECT MARK



INCORRECT MARKS



Part I: You and Your Child

Reminder: In all the questions that follow, "your child" refers to your oldest, or only, daughter or son who is enrolled at the college or university that sent you this questionnaire.

1. What is your child's year in college?

- First year
- Second year
- Third year
- Fourth year
- Fifth year or later

2. What is your relation to this child?

- Parent
- Step-parent
- Guardian

3. Gender:

	<u>You</u>	<u>Your child</u>
Male	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Female	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Part II: Your Child's College or University

4. For each of the following topics, how would you rate the information that your child's college/university has provided *directly to you* as a parent? If you cannot recall having seen any information on the topic, please indicate that and move to the next item on the list.

	The information I have received has been...				I do not recall having seen any information about this.
	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	
Academic life and policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social life and policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residential life and policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religious life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What graduates do after college	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student support services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural and extracurricular activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Campus safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Events for Parents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student organizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-campus programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial aid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financing (installments, pre-pay, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Why college costs what it does	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other: (Please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Overall, how satisfied are you with your child's undergraduate education so far?

- DISSATISFIED Very dissatisfied
 Generally dissatisfied
 Ambivalent
 Generally satisfied
 Very satisfied
- SATISFIED

6. Would you encourage a high school senior who resembles your child (same background, abilities, interests, and temperament) to attend your child's college/university?

- NO Definitely not
 Probably not
 Maybe
 Probably would
 Definitely would
- YES

7. Please answer the following only if your child is a first year student - otherwise skip to question 9.
How would you rate your child's college/university in the following areas?

Please mark one answer in every row.

	Don't Know/Does Not Apply	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
The admissions process						
The admissions process in general	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Admissions forms and required documents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
College visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Easing the stress of the admissions process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Between admission and fall enrollment						
The financial aid application process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communications about housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information about payment and billing options	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other pre-arrival communications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arrival/orientation activities for parents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Please answer the following only if your child is a first year student – otherwise skip to question 9. Was your child accepted to this college/university through early action/early decision (with applications generally due in November) or through the regular admissions process?

- Early action/Early decision
- Regular admissions
- Transfer
- Don't know

9. As a parent, how satisfied are you with each of the following services or aspects of your child's college/university?

Mark one answer in each row. If you lack knowledge of any of the aspects listed, please mark "Don't Know" and move to the next item.

	Don't Know	Very satisfied	Generally Satisfied	Generally Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Quality of the Academic Experience					
Overall quality of instruction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emphasis on undergraduate education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of academic advising	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tutorial help and other academic assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of Campus Services and Facilities					
Student housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Campus security office/campus police	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Career counseling and placement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Student health and counseling services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial aid office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your financial aid award(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial services (bursars office, student accounts, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administration's responsiveness to parent and student concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of Campus Life					
Social life on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your child's safety on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sense of community on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sense of community in your child's residence (on or off campus)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intellectual atmosphere outside classroom	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Relations between ethnic and racial groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extent of ethnic and racial diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. How would you rate the level of attention given to intercollegiate athletics at this college/university?

- Not enough attention is given to intercollegiate athletics
- About the right level of attention is given to intercollegiate athletics
- Too much attention is given to intercollegiate athletics
- Don't know

11. How much have you been concerned this academic year about the following aspects of your child's life?

	Very Much	Quite a bit	Moderately	Somewhat	Not at all
Your child's development:					
Intellectual	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social/interpersonal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religious/moral	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Political	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your child's behavior:					
Eating habits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of alcohol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of illegal drugs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexual activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Study habits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your child's future:					
Admission to graduate/professional school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Child's career choice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting a job after college	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repaying student loans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The college environment:					
Academic stress/pressure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social stress/pressures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Relations with roommate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Residence hall environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of alcohol by other students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drug and substance abuse on campus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safety in campus neighborhood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other: (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reminder: In this survey "your child" refers to your oldest, or only, daughter or son who is enrolled at the college or university that sent you this questionnaire.

Part III: More About You and Your Child

12. Does this child have any older siblings who have attended, or who are now attending, college?

- Yes
- No older siblings attend/attended college
- No older siblings

13. Where did your child live during the fall term?

- Residence hall
- Fraternity/sorority
- Other college housing
- Off-campus
- With parent(s)
- Studying abroad or at another off-campus program

14. In which of the following areas is your child majoring?

Please mark all that apply.

- Arts/humanities
- Business
- Engineering
- Natural sciences
- Social sciences
- Other
- No major declared
- Don't know

15. Has your child played an intercollegiate sport during his or her undergraduate years?

- Yes
- No

16. What is your citizenship status?

What about your child?

	You	Your child
United States citizen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. permanent resident (green card holder) and citizen of another country	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Citizen of another country with a non-immigrant/student visa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. Please tell us about your ethnic and racial backgrounds:

Please mark all that apply.

	You	Your child
American Indian or Alaska Native	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Asian	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Black or African American	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hispanic or Latino	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
White	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. Please tell us about your own education.

Please mark your highest degree below.

- No high school diploma or equivalent
- High school diploma or equivalency
- Some college (associate's degree or no degree)
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate degree(s) —

Please indicate which graduate degree or degrees you have by marking all the circles that apply below.

- Master's degree
- Doctoral degree
- Medical degree
- Law degree

19. Do you expect your child to obtain a degree beyond the bachelor's, either at this college/university or another?

- No
- Yes → If yes, what is it most likely to be?

Please mark all that apply.

- Master's degree in the Arts and Sciences (e.g., MA, MS)
- Professional master's degree (e.g., MBA, MSW, MSE, MSN, MAT, MPA)
- Professional doctorate (e.g., EdD, DDiV, Business)
- Ph.D.
- Medical degree (MD, DO, DDS, DVM)
- Law degree (JD, LLB)
- Other advanced degree
- Specific degree not known

20. Has a parent, sibling, or other close relative of this child attended the college/university that sent you this questionnaire? (Mark all that apply.)

- You
- Another parent or step-parent
- A sibling of this child
- Another close relative

Part IV: Financing Your Child's Education

The following questions are designed to help us better understand how families are paying their higher education bills. Your responses will be kept completely confidential. These data will be used for research only and will not affect decisions regarding your financial aid or any other administrative matter.

21. Which of the following best describes the financial aid this college/university provides for your child this academic year (include federal grants but not athletic or other merit-based aid):

- We did not apply for financial aid
- We applied for aid but did not receive any
- We receive aid only in the form of loans and work study
- We receive an aid package that includes some need-based grants, but less than \$15,000 in grant aid
- We receive an aid package that includes \$15,000 or more in need-based grants

22. Money given out as grants from the college/university and the government (federal or state) helps some families pay for some higher education costs. Because these funds do not cover the entire cost of a college education, families make up the difference using many sources of funds.

How are you funding your family's portion of the cost of your child's education this academic year?

Below, we list a number of resources to which families may have access. Please approximate the share of your family's total college expenses met with each type of resource. For example, if you must pay \$10,000 this year for your child and withdrew \$4,000 from savings and took out \$6,000 in PLUS loans, you would mark 26-50% on the "Family Savings" line and 51-100% on the "Parent Loans" line. Please mark the "Not used" category where appropriate.

	Meets more than half of my cost (51-100%)
	Meets half or less, but more than one quarter, of my costs (26-50%)
	Meets a quarter or less of my costs (1-25%)
	Not Used (0%)

Family Assets

- Family savings (sales of financial assets such as mutual funds, CDs, & stocks)
- Sales of non-financial assets (e.g., car, real estate)
- State-sponsored college savings plan or prepaid tuition plan
- Withdrawal from a retirement plan (e.g., IRA, 401K, 403B)*

Borrowing

- Parent Loans (e.g., PLUS)
- Student Loans (Stafford, University, and other loans)
- Home mortgage refinancing/home equity loan/second mortgage
- Borrowing from relatives or family friends
- Borrowing from a retirement plan (e.g., IRA, 401K, 403B)
- Other types of borrowing. Please specify: _____

Current Income from Parent or Student

- Income from parents' usual job(s)
- Income from a parent's second job or overtime work
- Student work-study/term-time job
- Student earnings during vacation periods
- Tuition assistance benefits from parents' or student's employers

Gifts and Scholarships

- Gifts from relatives or family friends (such as grandparents)
- Scholarships (including merit-based aid from all sources and all scholarships other than needs-based aid from this institution or the government)

Other:
(Please specify)

* If you borrowed from your retirement plan and expect to pay it back, please choose the option under "Borrowing".

Please check to make sure your answers add up to approximately 100%.

23. In total, how much money have you borrowed so far to pay for this child's college education? Include all amounts that you are obligated to repay, including *all* types of borrowing from the list above. Do not include amounts that your child is obligated to repay. Just give your best estimate.

- \$0
- \$1-4,999
- \$5,000-9,999
- \$10,000-14,999
- \$15,000-19,999
- \$20,000-24,999
- \$25,000-49,999
- \$50,000-or more

24. What has been the impact on your family of paying for your child to attend this institution?

Mark one circle

- None/Slight
- Moderate
- Considerable
- Severe
- Not applicable (We have not contributed funds for our child's education)

25. Has your child's experience at this institution been worth the impact on your family's finances?

Mark the statement that comes closest to describing how you feel.

- Yes, definitely.** The benefits of attending this institution will out-weigh whatever financial sacrifices that our family has had to make .
- Somewhat.** I have sometimes doubted whether the benefits of this institution will be worth the financial sacrifices.
- No, definitely not.** I feel that the benefits of attending this institution will not be worth the financial sacrifices that our family has had to make.

28. Currently, most financial aid is based on financial need. If the **federal government** were to give out *additional* financial aid, on what basis should it be distributed? Should the *additional* aid be given out based only on financial need, based solely on academic ability, or somewhere in between? What about additional aid given out **by this college/university** from its own resources?

For each row, mark the circle that comes closest to how you feel.

Additional financial aid from...	Should be distributed based...				
	On financial need only	More on need than ability	Equally on financial need and academic ability	More on ability than need	On academic ability only
The Federal Government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This College/University	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

26. Because of a lack of money, has your child had to forego any of the following while in college?

Please mark each item that applies to your child.

- Study abroad
- Extracurricular clubs
- Internships
- Fraternity/sorority membership
- Community service
- Vacation and break-time travel
- Non-paying research/internships

27. Please use the following categories to tell us what your before-tax family income from all sources was in 2001. Again, all information you provide is completely confidential and will be used only for research.

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000-\$49,999
- \$50,000-\$74,999
- \$75,000-\$99,999
- \$100,000-\$124,999
- \$125,000-\$149,999
- \$150,000-\$174,999
- \$175,000-\$199,999
- \$200,000 or more

Part V: Your Comments

29. What has most pleased you about your child's college/university?

30. What has most disappointed you about your child's college/university?

If the college or university that sent you this questionnaire has included some supplemental questions, please answer them in the following spaces.

31. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

36. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

41. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

46. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

32. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

37. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

42. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

47. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

33. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

38. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

43. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

48. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

34. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

39. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

44. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

49. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

35. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

40. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

45. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

50. (A)(B)(C)(D)(E)

Thank you very much for your assistance. Please use the back page to make additional comments about this questionnaire, your child's college/university, higher education in general, or being a parent of a college student.

2002 Parents Survey – Cornell Supplemental Questions

*Please answer the following questions by marking your responses in the spaces provided on the last page of the questionnaire booklet (questions 31 through 50). **Do not mark your answers on this sheet.** Choose only one answer for each question.*

During the most recent fall semester, how often did you communicate with your son or daughter via each of the methods listed below?

	Several times a week or more	Once a week	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a semester	Never
31. Telephone	A	B	C	D	E
32. E-mail	A	B	C	D	E
33. Letter	A	B	C	D	E
34. Visited son or daughter at Cornell	A	B	C	D	E
35. Son or daughter visited you at home	A	B	C	D	E

How satisfied are you with the information about Cornell you have obtained from each of the following sources?

	Very dissatisfied	Generally dissatisfied	Generally satisfied	Very satisfied	Did not obtain info from source
36. Cornell publications	A	B	C	D	E
37. Visits or meetings at Cornell	A	B	C	D	E
38. Letters from Cornell faculty or staff	A	B	C	D	E
39. Conversations with Cornell faculty or staff	A	B	C	D	E

Questions 40 to 50 are on the reverse side of this page.

As a parent, how satisfied are you with the extent to which Cornell has provided the following opportunities to your son or daughter?

	Very dissatisfied	Generally dissatisfied	Generally satisfied	Very satisfied	Don't know
40. Opportunities to be taught by faculty members who are experts in their field of study	A	B	C	D	E
41. Opportunities to participate in research with faculty	A	B	C	D	E
42. Opportunities to have discussions with faculty outside the classroom	A	B	C	D	E
43. Opportunities to interact with students from diverse backgrounds and cultures	A	B	C	D	E
44. Opportunities to participate in intellectual discussions with other students outside the classroom	A	B	C	D	E
45. Opportunities to participate in community service activities	A	B	C	D	E
46. Opportunities to develop leadership skills	A	B	C	D	E
47. Opportunities to acquire a broad general education	A	B	C	D	E
48. Opportunities to acquire job or career-related knowledge and skills	A	B	C	D	E

49. Please answer the following question only if your child is a freshman student – otherwise skip to question 50.

How satisfied are you with the quality of the living experience provided to your child by the North Campus residences?

- a) very **dissatisfied**
- b) generally **dissatisfied**
- c) generally satisfied
- d) very satisfied
- e) my child does not live on North Campus

50. Cornell is creating a residential community for upper-level undergraduate students on its West Campus. Each house will have a live-in faculty member, graduate student mentors, dining room, and will offer opportunities for frequent interaction with faculty and involvement in house governance. What is your level of interest in having your child live in this residential community?

- a) definitely **not** interested
- b) probably **not** interested
- c) neither interested nor disinterested
- d) probably interested
- e) definitely interested

Thank you for participating in the survey!