

Student VOICE Survey #4: Off-campus Environment



Division of Student Life
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
March 11, 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview Page 2
Question 1..... Page 3
Question 2..... Page 4
Question 3..... Page 5
Question 4..... Page 6
Question 5..... Page 7
Question 6 Page 8
Question 7..... Page 9
Question 8..... Page 11
Question 9..... Page 12
Question 10..... Page 13
Appendix: Responses to Question 1 Page 14

Overview

The purpose of the Student VOICE Project was to identify student recommendations for their **V**ision **O**f the **I**deal **C**ollege **E**nvironment. This is part of the development of a new master plan for Indiana University, headed by President Michael McRobbie. The project has a Web site at IUPUI: <http://www.iupui.edu/~sldweb/dos/voice.html>. In addition, an Oncourse site was created to host articles and discussion forums for the project.

President McRobbie launched the project at IUPUI on November 1, 2007. At that time, students were organized into five sub-committees addressing the intellectual, social, and campus-living environments, as well as the off-campus student experience and support services for students. Discussions within each sub-committee were intended to be broad-ranging and to allow members of the committee to offer specific recommendations to President McRobbie.

This project is a small-scale qualitative research study. Qualitative research focuses on depth of exploration into a topic through a variety of sources. This report provides data on just one source of information, namely an informal survey administered online. Through the survey data, committee discussions, focus groups, and other in-house data sources like NSSE and the Student Satisfaction and Priorities survey, a descriptive view of the Student VOICE will emerge.

The pages that follow contain results from the survey used for assessing the off-campus environment at IUPUI (116 responses). This survey was administered online via SurveyMonkey.com, and it was promoted through word of mouth, listservs, JagNews, and JagTV.

Question 1: How would you describe your vision of the ideal “off-campus experience?”

There were 90 responses to this question. Several had trouble responding to the question, saying it was either too broad or they were unclear on which aspect they were to address. Others created definitions revolving mostly around living close to campus, having a close group of friends, quiet places to study, and opportunities for involvement on campus. There was a third grouping who were satisfied with having a low level of involvement due to family or other outside commitments and have no interest in changing that balance. Selected quotes appear below, and the full list can be found in Appendix A of this report. These appear “as is” throughout the report with no corrections to spelling or grammar.

Difficult time answering this question:

- It is unclear what you mean by "off-campus experience." Are you referring to housing, employment, family life, or something entirely different? IUPUI is not a typical campus filled with 18 year old students. I am over 40 and do not know how to answer this question.
- The "off-campus experience" is hard because I have an "on-campus" mentality and work ethic. But the only reason I've been able to adapt is because professors and advisors and faculty understand how hard it was for me personally to go from living near campus to back at home and having to get a job. They've all been helpful and understanding with the commute, responsibilities I have to my family, etc. I wish I lived on campus but I'm grateful that IUPUI works hard to help make the "off-campus experience" as good as the "on-campus experience."
- It is hard to say being a non-traditional student. With a full-time job and a family of five (six including the dog) I typically am on campus only when I have to be. I think the addition of the campus center is great for those of us who do commute, but I have time in between classes. I don't know that I would want anything more for my off-campus experience at this time.

Social support through friends

- Right now I live in a pretty ideal off campus environment. I live ~10 minutes from campus, with five fraternity brothers, we all study, help each other, and stay involved on campus.
- I would describe it as being able to go somewhere comfortable to hang out with people and just have a good time, dancing or watching movies.
- a small group of students. An activity that I couldn't or wouldn't normally do on my own. I really liked the pacers/cavs game that student life put together. It allowed me to afford an activity I wouldn't normally spend the money on.

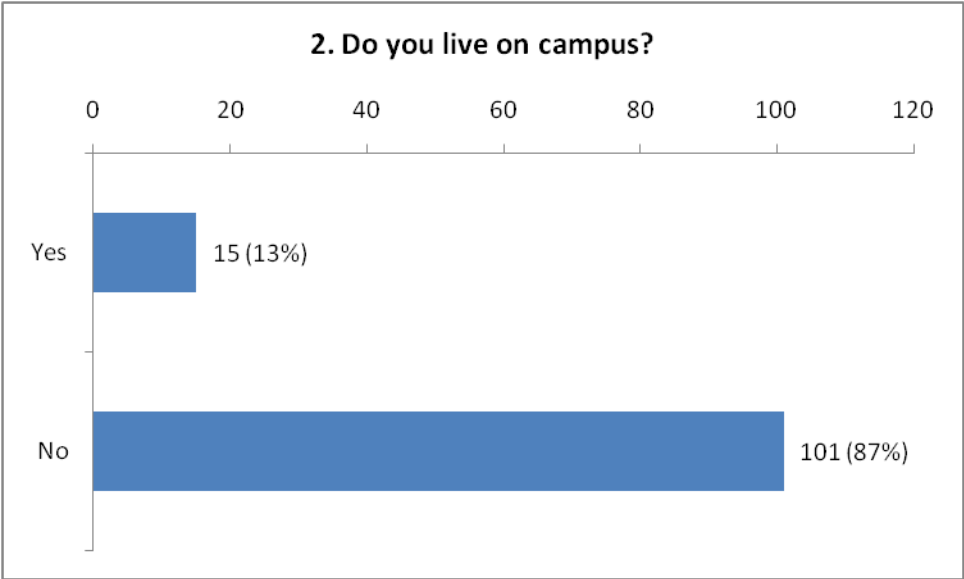
Balance of off-campus and on-campus involvement

- 24/7 learning lab of social and academic networking
- The ideal off-campus experience would include an adequate and well advertised balance of on campus activities for me as a student that would include family as well as off campus activities. This would include having moderately affordable options.
- Being involved in as many organizations so that it makes you feel like you live on campus because you're there so much.
- Still feeling connected to my school. My life doesn't feel as if I don't go to a college

A home close to campus

- A comfortable place to live, study and call home, a job close to campus that works with my class schedule and plenty of places nearby for things to do.
- Within walking distance to campus. Safe day and night. Restaurants, coffee shops.

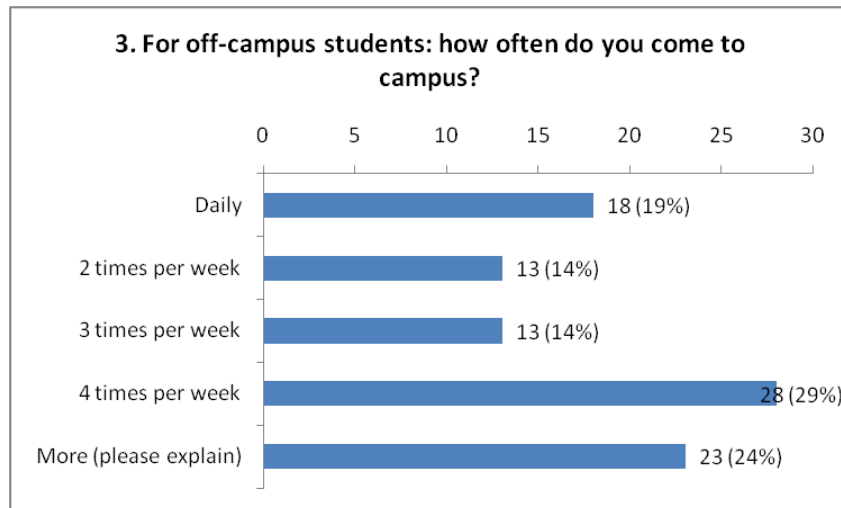
Question 2



About 13% of respondents indicated they live on campus. Campus-wide, the percentage of on-campus residents is less than 4%.

Questions 3-5 were only for off-campus students, or those who answered “no” in Question 2.

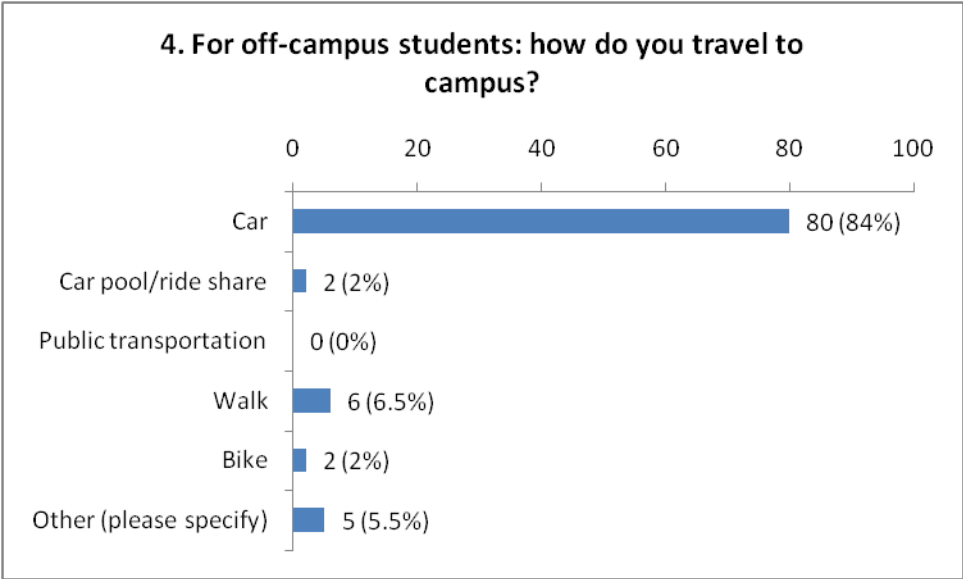
Question 3 (off-campus students only)



There were 95 responses to this question. The majority of respondents travel to campus between 4 times per week or more (72%). The remaining 28% of off-campus respondents travel to campus 2 or 3 days per week. There was an opportunity for respondents to comment under the “more” response option, and a few indicated they traveled *less* than two times per week, especially due to online courses. These responses follow:

- 4 days for class or an internship, Fridays for meetings with people, staff, etc. and Sundays for colony meetings
- I work on campus, attend classes on campus, and conduct research in the campus library, which brings me to campus 5-7 times per week.
- Four days per week for class, several more times for work/internship
- I have classes or work on campus M-F
- as little as possible, I take all the online classes I can
- sundays for meetings and 4 days a week for classes
- 7 days work, class, student organizations
- 4 days a week for classes and then every sunday
- I come to campus M, T, W, R for school and M,T, W, F, S, S for work.
- Rarely - on-line classes and live over an hour away
- 5 days a week (4 responses)
- monday-friday
- I have class everyday, plus research over at an IU med facility
- 4 or five
- Never! I've never been on campus.
- taking an online class this semester - do not visit campus
- once per week
- I am on campus 4-5 days per week

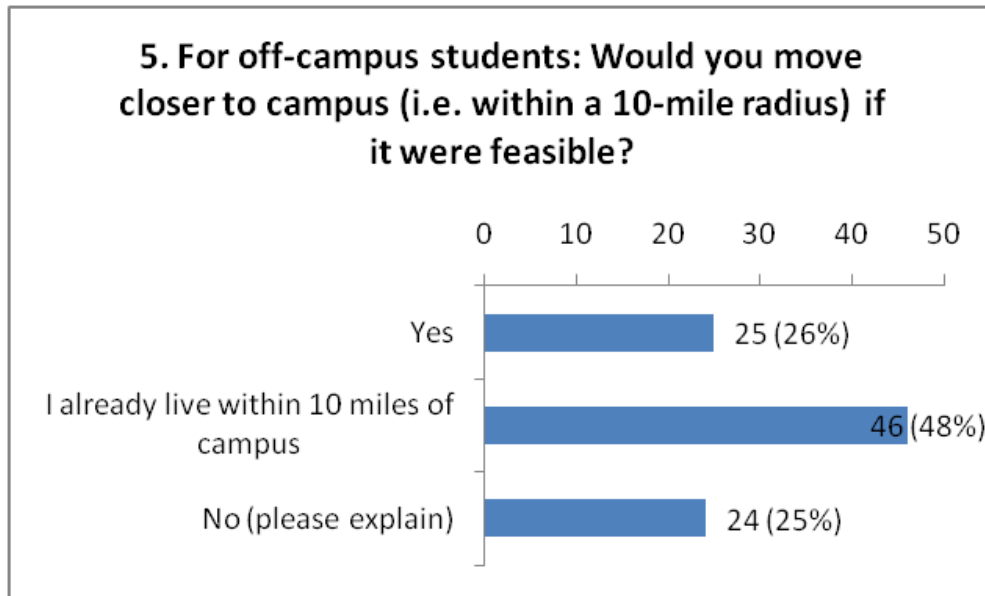
Question 4 (off-campus students only)



The overwhelming majority of off-campus respondents drive to campus. There were five “other” responses that represent a combination of transportation modes:

- Sometimes car, sometime bike, sometimes car pool, sometimes bus
- Bike when I can, driving in the winter
- I haven't yet - but when I do, I'll come in my car.
- Bike or car
- Two days by car alone, one day in a carpool with another grad student

Question 5 (off-campus students only)

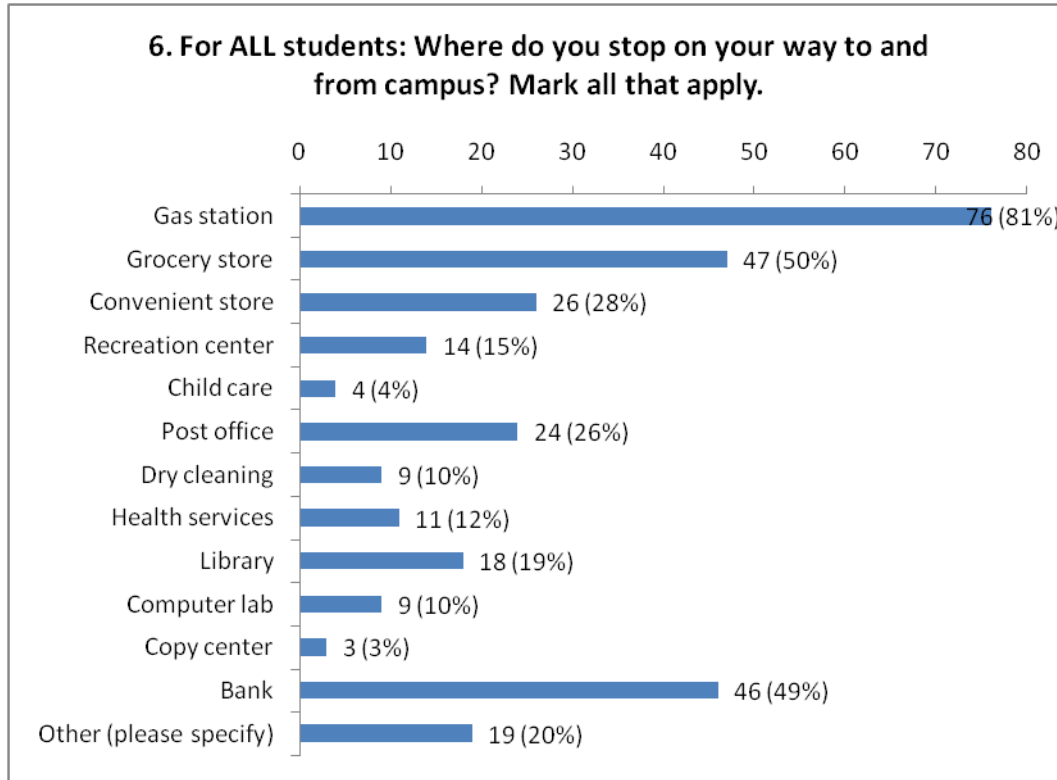


Just under half (48%) of the respondents already live within 10 miles of campus. About a quarter wants to move closer, and another quarter does not. For those who indicated they did not want to live within 10 miles, many cited safety issues as a concern, while others simply have lives established in other cities. A couple of respondents live just over 10 miles away and are satisfied with the distance, and several mentioned their children's schooling as a reason to stay further out of town. Most of the responses follow:

- I love being away from campus to get away from people
- I like living in a rural setting
- It's too dangerous to live downtown, with theft and all the weed-n-see neighborhoods.
- I own a home and moving downtown with my child is not in any way something that I would consider.
- My children
- I have established ties in another city (4)
- My kids are in school and I am happy with the school district we are in (2)
- i like my house, 12 miles away
- Campus doesn't seem inviting enough to need to be near it
- The surrounding neighborhoods close to campus are not nice safe living places
- I save money by living at home.
- Own home (2)
- I have a family.
- live in a small town, can't sell my house in this bad market
- I am within twenty minutes of school in a home I own.
- I wouldn't feel safe
- As I only take one class a week, it would not be worth my while to move closer to campus. I work very close to campus, and the commute is easy.
- I don't want to live downtown.
- I truly despise Indianapolis. It is the worst big city that I've ever been to.

Questions 6-10 were for all respondents, regardless of location of residence.

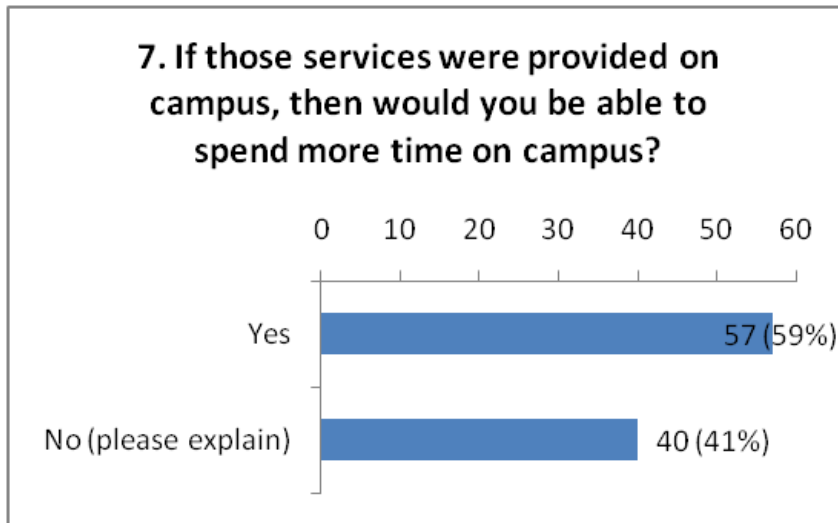
Question 6



Other, please specify:

- None (3)
- nowhere. i ride my bicycle straight to and from campus.
- childrens school
- I walk to campus so i dont stop anywhere
- Restaurants; shopping
- McDonalds
- credit union
- tanning salon
- Starbucks and Jimmy Johns
- Pick up my siblings at their high school.
- natatorium
- Video Rental Store
- video store
- WORK
- shops
- Goodwill Store
- My day job.

Question 7: If those services were provided on campus, then would you be able to spend more time on campus?



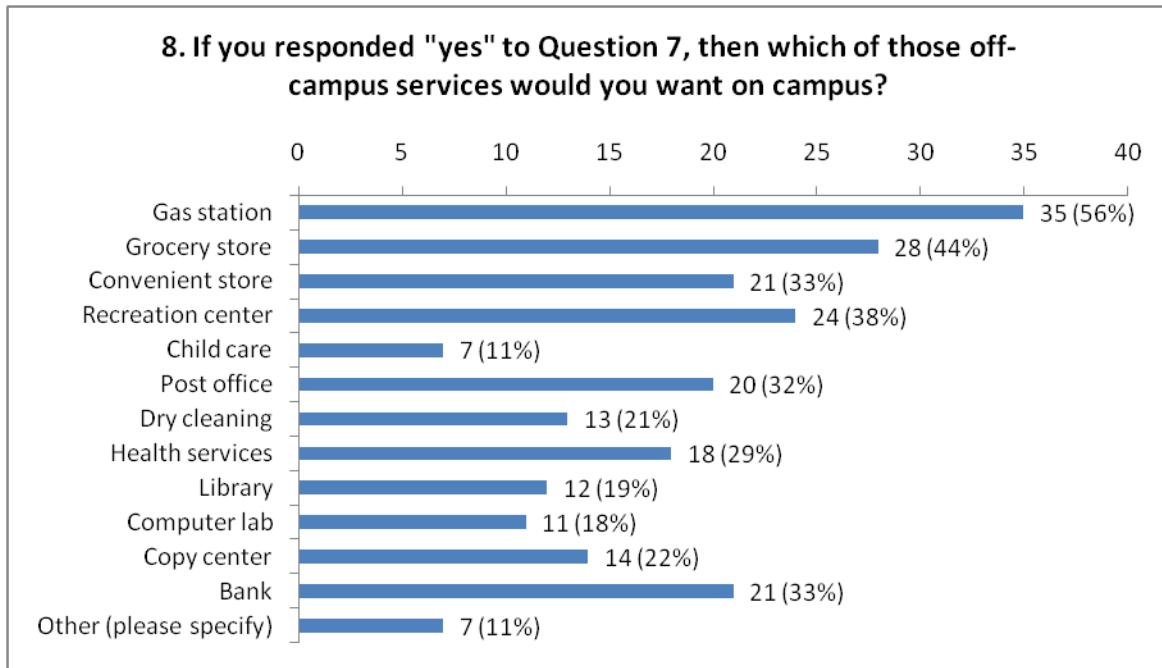
Many of the respondents who indicated “no” explained that they have no interest in staying on campus more than they already are. Many cited their family commitments or lack of convenience (example: “I would not carry groceries from on campus to the far away place that I have to park my car.”). Several questioned the ability to have a gas station on campus.

The list of comments follows:

- I already spend a lot of time on campus, but there is already a bank on campus (which is not mine, nor would I switch)...It would probably also be overpriced compared to off-campus facilities
- Depends on the prices at those places, usually things cost more on campus and I would rather drive out of my way than purchase on campus.
- no--why would the campus need a full service grocery store? that's the only type I would use, and I know you wouldn't put one on campus
- I spend the majority of my time on campus as it is, from 9 am until 9pm or later.
- There is absolutely no reason to stay on campus more than necessary. It is without a doubt not a recreational choice for me.
- I live far away
- children involved in many after school activities
- Then i wont be able to be with my family
- can you have a gas station on campus?
- These places are on my way home anyway, so I'd probably still stop there on the way home.
- I do not want to see a gas station on IUPUI's campus
- they already are, but the parking near the library is inneficient
- They are on my way home and I usually need them for home not school
- Some of them are, I just live so far away that I usually wait til I'm close to home or go when I'm just leaving home.
- I wouldn't be on campus longer, it would reduce my errands when I got home
- I'd still probably go to my own bank (teachers C.U), and I prefer a certain gas station (Speedway)

- A gas station on campus would really not change anything.
- I would, but why?
- Can't get a gas station on campus
- The only way I would spend more time on campus is if there are more social interactions between students on campus and build friendship
- Fueling my car doesn't have an impact on the time i spend on campus
- I want to leave campus every once in a while. I would feel trapped and still go elsewhere to use the services indicated.
- I would not carry groceries from on campus to the far away place that I have to park my car.
- I don't live in Indy, I only come to IUPUI campus when necessary.
- i still live 20 minutes away and have to go to work
- Prefer my local retailers.
- Most of the time that I'm on campus, I'm either coming from work or going to work, so it's more of a time issue than an availability issue.
- not applicable (see number 6)
- Perhaps, it just would depend on my work schedule etc.
- why would i spend more time on campus if i didnt ahve to?
- not on campus very often
- need to be where I live
- I'm either at school or work already
- I use the ones on campus itself.
- I get gas as needed
- No, my main need on campus is food.
- do not need to spend more time on campus
- I only come to campus to take classes.
- No, I try to spend a minimal time on campus

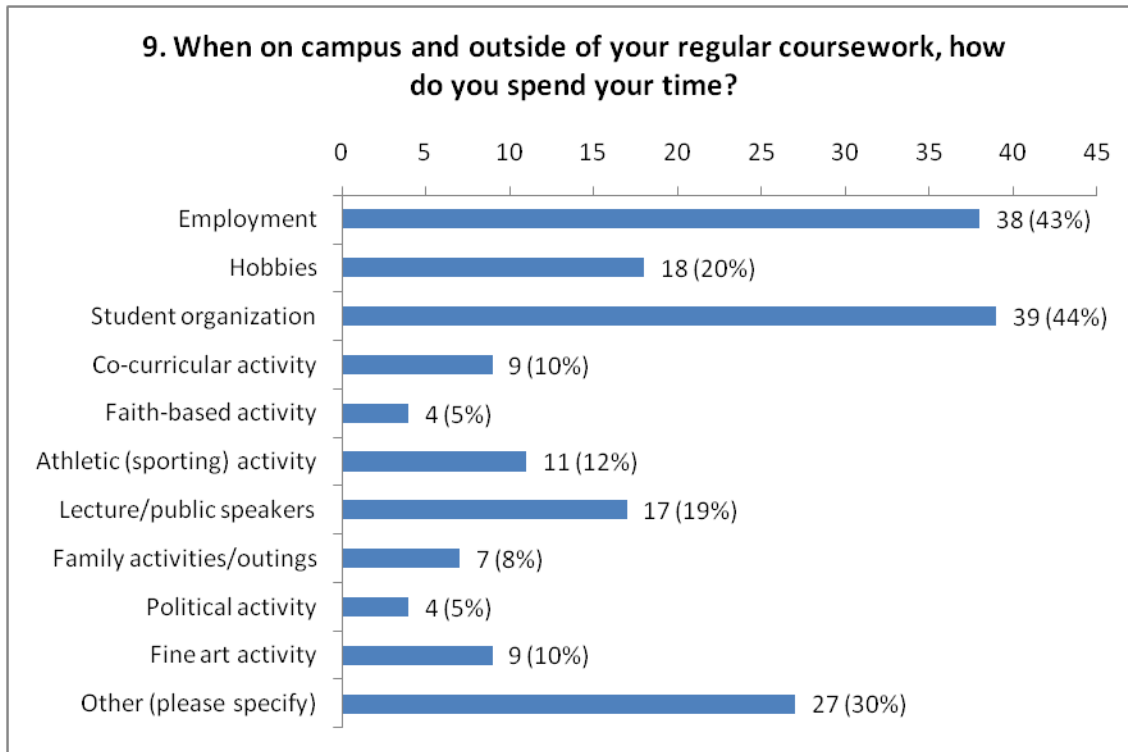
Question 8



Other:

- A gas station offering student discounts would be GREAT!
- tanning booth that is cheaper for students
- Starbucks and Jimmy Johns
- bowling
- game room, bowling alley, roller skating
- movie store
- none

Question 9

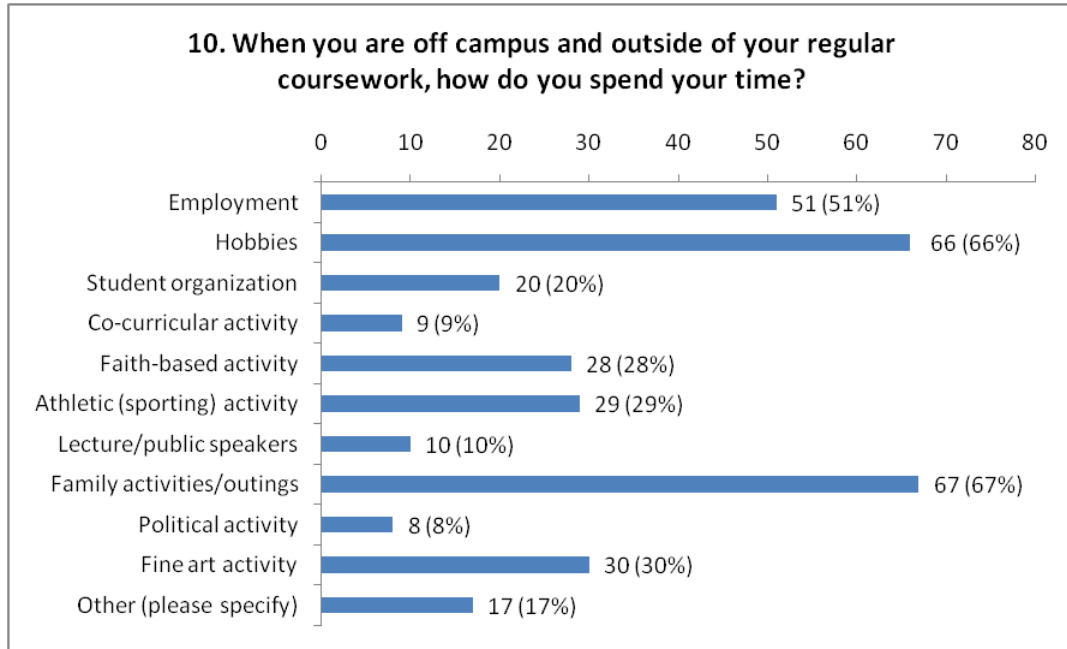


Other:

- Outdoor activities, with friends
- I study between class and then go home
- with friends
- relaxation?
- studying
- i go home
- studying
- studying at the library or doing group project
- I live on campus so I just am here all the time.
- If I'm on campus I do homework or just chat with friends.
- I'm an academic mentor
- I don't spend any time on campus other than for coursework.
- campus community life and sapb activities
- working on thesis
- None
- chillin
- talkin to my peers
- visiting friends who are on campus for any reason
- Studying, catching up on e-mails and coursework.
- Studying
- w/ friends
- exercise by swimming laps

- Being counseled, eating, printing for class
- none -- only come to campus for class
- teaching
- I am only on-campus to take classes.
- Library

Question 10



Other:

- Outdoor activities, concerts, with friends, etc.
- relaxation and entertainment
- hanging out with my friends
- Movies
- Sleeping
- movies, playing video games, on the internet
- sleeping
- hanging out with peers
- only if exercise is outside of (sporting) activity
- fitness, non-sporting, pleasure reading
- tanning, going to the movies, working out
- caring for my cat
- w/ friends
- survival
- Bookstore
- Shopping
- Dance performances

Appendix – Responses to Question 1

- Easily accesible, during time when you are not wokring
- A place that is relaxing, and you can go with friends. The main thing would be the cost. If it was cheap we would more likly go there multiple times.
- Fun, social and exciting
- Right now I live in a pretty ideal off campus environment. I live ~10 minutes from campus, with five fraternity brothers, we all study, help each other, and stay involved on campus.
- Living close to campus in a quiet apartment with some green space (trees, field)
- something I wouldn't normally do; exciting; useful (i.e. learn something new or gain some career experience or get to see someone or participate in something really well-known)
- the ideal off-campus experience to me would just to spend a few hours in the city
- Different organizations joining together to have events and keep the students active like they should be on campus.
- Library database access from personal computers is identical to access from campus-networked computers.
- An ideal off campus experience would consist of having an ultimate day of fun with my friends; not worrying about homework and graduate schools; it would consist of a water park experience where the thrills keep coming and you remember the thrills for days after because of your body being sore.
- The best knowledge given in the most easily accessible way.
- It is unclear what you mean by "off-campus experience." Are you refering to housing, employment, family life, or something entirely different? IUPUI is not a typical campus filled with 18 year old students. I am over 40 and do not know how to answer this question.
- I would like it to be very close like the on campus experience! I want to spend most of my time on campus instead of at my house without other students!
- Better parking, quicker commute.
- Lots of resources to be involeved on campus, resources for students to be able to be connected to faculty from home
- The ideal off-campus experience would provide time to associate with, and meet, current IUPUI students, and potentially students from other Indianapolis schools.
- More time to study and do things I enjoy.
- A comfortable place to live, study and call home, a job close to campus that works with my class schedule and plenty of places near by for things to do.
- be able to hang out and carpool with other people
- I would describe it as being able to go somewhere comfortable to hang out with people and just have a good time, dancing or watching movies.
- Being involved in as many organizations so that it makes you feel like you live on campus because you're there so much.
- still being connected even through you may have to travel to do any thing
- i don't understand the prompt. what is it in relation to?
- I would describe it as something that would appeal to all types of people.
- Living close enough to campus to walk or bike. Living in safe, reasonably quiet housing conducive to studying.
- to see new things and have fun
- Hanging out with friends
- cheap apartment close to school but not too close.

- Personally, I am not into night life or partying. It would be nice to learn about off-campus experiences on campus. These off-campus experiences could include what the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra is playing and when, what is going on at Conner Prairie, what festivals are available (like Irish fest) or perhaps other music festivals. Other off-campus experiences could include learning about the who and what of our local government. Another example could be what community service opportunities are available. Finally, it might be nice to know about local restaurants and transportation.
- 24/7 learning lab of social and academic networking
- Good communication with support staff.
- the easiness of getting a job outside for an international students
- close to campus, lots of shops near by and reasonable rent
- An ideal "off-campus experience" would be a gathering of students of all walks of life and backgrounds getting together and doing something productive for the community.
- fun, adventurous
- Living close to campus, within walk or biking distance. I would want to be close to restaurants and stores also.
- More online classes available
- Hmm trip to cedar point.
- The ideal experience is that you can get to school without too much difficulty and when you get here you actually can find a parking spot.
- The "off-campus experience" is hard because I have an "on-campus" mentality and work ethic. But the only reason I've been able to adapt is because professors and advisors and faculty understand how hard it was for me personally to go from living near campus to back at home and having to get a job. They've all been helpful and understanding with the commute, responsibilities I have to my family, etc. I wish I lived on campus but I'm grateful that IUPUI works hard to help make the "off-campus experience" as good as the "on-campus experience."
- a small group of students. An activity that I couldn't or wouldn't normally do on my own. I really liked the pacers/cavs game that student life put together. It allowed me to afford an activity I wouldn't normally spend the money on.
- Convenient, timely, inclusive, relevant.
- Free or VERY cheap. Going to Pacer, Fever, & Colts Games. In the summer, going to events like Jazz Fest or having things on the lawn at White River Park, or taking Out-of-state trips via bus. In the winter, we should have things at museums, rent out an entire movie show, or take trips to out of state places (mammoth caves...somewhere fun, but not too far that can be cheap).
- It is hard to say being a non-traditional student. With a full-time job and a family of five (six including the dog) I typically am on campus only when I have to be. I think the addition of the campus center is great for those of us who do commute, but I have time in between classes. I don't know that I would want anything more for my off-campus experience at this time.
- I would like to have some sort of free transportation to school, and I would like to have school community activities near by.
- home-owner with baby
- Some 'small' group recreational activities, where a student can bring a guest, at a much lower price than normal. For example, when I went to the University of Southern Indiana, we took a weekend camping/white water rafting trip on the Ocoee river for \$40.
- fun, exciting, can be or not be school-related, chill.
- Safe, affordable housing. Easy access to entertainment.

- first off- what exactly do u mean by off-campus experience? It is a little too broad. Closer to IUPUI, and much more activities related to IUPUI
- Traveling some where I've never been, whether it be in town or out of town, all expenses paid!!
- Still feeling connected to my school. My life doesn't feel as if I don't go to a college
- I don't really have an opinion. I'm not a traditional student, and because of that I don't feel like this applies to me.
- This question is incredibly vague... Plenty of social and work opportunities? Availability to find what I need for school/work/daily life at an affordable price?
- I don't understand what you're asking.
- other-worldly
- Within walking distance to campus. Safe day and night. Restaurants, coffee shops.
- a nice stroll to the mall or circle without tons of pollution or crowded streets.
- Secure, affordable housing near campus.
- being able to live in an apartment or at home and driving to school maybe 3 at the most days a week for class.. and finding a parking spot easily everytime
- Lots of quiet locations to study, but also lots of places to party (both for undergrads and 21+)
- Lots and lots of VIC classes.
- The ideal "off-campus" experience would most likely involve not being around a campus or near anything that resembled a campus.
- The ideal off-campus experience would include an adequate and well advertised balance of on campus activities for me as a student that would include family as well as off campus activities. This would include having moderately affordable options.
- If I was living off campus I would like to live within reasonable walking distance of the campus. I also would like the buses to run through local apartment complexes so that students there could ride if it was raining or otherwise.
- Convenient parking, and required classes offered during the evening so that I may take them when I get off work.
- Having an affordable apartment that is walking distance from campus that is also somewhat safe.
- local opportunities to get involved
- cheap, close to campus, and by lots of friends.
- Ideally, living off-campus would allow someone increased freedom and independence while still maintaining a strong sense of involvement with the campus. Living within a 20 minute walking distance provides a life separate from campus but also allows someone to quickly and easily return.
- Frequent and diverse international work and learning experiences which would not depend on in class courses while abroad or even working through other universities. Internet based thesis courses for undergraduate and graduate level courses tailored to any major or discipline.
- Not sure what you mean by this, but I am going to assume you mean living off-campus. I envision decent apartments that cater mainly to students and offer a decently quiet atmosphere. They should be within walking distance to the campus and have sufficient parking.
- Walkable, friendly, lots of eating and entertainment
- Bunch of friends, stuff for everyone to do and lots of interaction.
- not sure
- I actually have talked enough with my classmates to "know" them. When I am on campus I see people I know.
- Living close enough to walk to campus, and close enough to downtown attractions.

- If you mean as a one time event, I would say one that builds relationships and is entertaining as well as educational. If you mean, as an off campus living environment, I would say, one where I could still connect with other students. If you mean as an off campus study scene, I would say one that is relaxing and offers both talking and quiet rooms...starbucks is an ideal environment for studying
- The ability to concentrate solely on school work. Having the time to efficiently prepare for classes and concentrate strictly on classes.
- The off-campus experience should be characterized by easy access to information through online library and information networks, easy access to university services, and a diversity of course offerings at convenient times and with accomplished professors.
- Having places close to campus that are fun and for college students.
- Social events
- Unsure of what is meant by "off-campus experience"
- I can sum that up in two words. Bloomington, Indiana.
- better parking information - 1st week on campus was a nightmare
- better parking information - 1st week on campus was a nightmare
- My ideal off-campus experience would involve having fun with other students around my age and I would have a sense of community.