

Southern Illinois Poll Fall 2013 – Higher Education Questions

Table 1 – SIU Favorability

“We would like to know your views of various industries and occupational groups in our area. For each one that I read, please tell me whether you have a very favorable attitude, favorable, unfavorable, or very unfavorable attitude toward that group. If you don’t have an opinion either way, just tell me that. First is (rotate)

“Southern Illinois University”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Very favorable	22.1%
Favorable	54.1%
Unfavorable	8.7%
Very unfavorable	4.2%
No opinion	7.9%
Other/Don’t know	3.0%

Table 2 – Quality of Public Higher Education

Respondents were asked about the quality of public higher education, in general, in the State of Illinois. They then were asked about the quality of public higher education “in your area or part of the state.”

<u>Response</u>	<u>In Illinois</u>	<u>In Your Area</u>
Excellent	10.4%	10.1%
Good	33.3%	39.7%
Average	39.0%	34.7%
Below average	7.2%	7.4%
Poor	5.7%	5.7%
Other/Don’t know	3.2%	2.2%

Table 3 – Public Higher Education Funding

“Overall, do you think the funding for public universities and colleges in Illinois is enough to meet their needs or not enough to meet their needs?”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Enough	35.2%
Not enough	53.3%
Other/Don't know	11.4%

“If you came to believe increased funding for public universities and colleges in Illinois were necessary, should it come from” (*Rotate*)

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
State tax increases	32.3%
Tuition and fee increases	29.5%
Both (VOL)	10.2%
Neither (VOL)	14.6%
Other/Don't know	13.4%

Table 4 – Importance of Quality Higher Education

“How important would you say it is for Illinois to have *top quality* public universities and colleges? Would you say this is a . . .”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Top priority	33.0%
Very important but lower priority	42.7%
A somewhat important priority	21.3%
Not too important a priority	1.7%
(VOL) Not important at all	0.3%
Other/Don't know	1.0%

“Do you think states with top-quality public universities and colleges are more likely to attract economic development, less likely to attract economic development, or doesn't it make much difference one way or the other?”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
More likely	54.6%
Less likely	1.5%
Doesn't make much difference	41.4%
Other/Don't know	2.5%

“Would you say that achieving a college degree is more or less important today than it was for your parents' generation?”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
More important	83.1%
Less important	11.9%
Equally important (VOL)	3.7%
Other/Don't know	1.2%

Table 5 – Access to Higher Education

“Do you believe that currently, in Illinois, the vast majority of people who are qualified to go to college have the opportunity to do so, or do you think there are many people who are qualified to go but don’t have the opportunity to do so?”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Vast majority have the opportunity	31.3%
Many who don’t have the opportunity	65.0%
Other/Don’t know	3.7%

“Now I’d like to know if you think qualified students from low-income families—regardless of ethnic background—have less opportunity, more opportunity, or about the same opportunity as others to get a college education?”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Less opportunity	43.7%
More opportunity	15.9%
About the same opportunity	37.2%
Other/Don’t know	3.2%

“And, would you say there are greater or fewer opportunities to achieve a college education today than there were for your parents’ generation?”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Greater opportunities	77.7%
Fewer opportunities	17.9%
About the same opportunities (VOL)	3.2%
Other/Don’t know	1.2%

“When today’s children are of college age, do you think they will have greater or fewer opportunities to attend college than you did?”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Greater opportunities	56.1%
Fewer opportunities	30.3%
About the same opportunities (VOL)	7.2%
Other/Don’t know	6.5%

Table 6 – Choose Higher Education or Employment

“Which statement comes closer to your own view, that (ROTATE) . . .”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
High school graduates should go on to college because they’ll have better job prospects in the long run	66.5%
--OR--	
High school graduates should take any decent job offer they get, because there are so many unemployed people already	17.9%
Other/Don’t know	15.6%

Table 7 – Cost and Quality – Two-year vs. Four-Year Schools

“Do you think that four-year colleges and universities work hard to keep the price of college education down, or that they raise prices whenever they can to bring in more money?”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Work to keep the price down	27.3%
Raise prices whenever they can	58.6%
Other/Don’t know	14.1%

“And what about two-year community colleges? Do you think community colleges work hard to keep the price of college education down, or that they raise prices whenever they can to bring in more money?”

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Work to keep the price down	71.5%
Raise prices whenever they can	20.1%
Other/Don’t know	8.4%

“Do you agree or disagree that students at two-year community colleges can learn just as much as they would in their first two years in a four-year college or university?” (IF AGREE/DISAGREE: Do you strongly or somewhat AGREE/DISAGREE?)

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Strongly agree	63.5%
Somewhat agree	19.9%
Somewhat disagree	5.7%
Strongly disagree	4.7%
Other/Don’t know	6.2%