



# 2009 New Student Profile

Office of New Student Programs

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## NSP Notes

The Office of New Student Programs is delighted to present our annual edition of Southeast Missouri State University's **New Student Profile**. We are introducing our new, first-year students by giving members of the Southeast community a glimpse of who our students are and what they are planning to do during and after their academic careers.

The fall 2009 **New Student Profile** is based on 1256 surveys completed by students who attended First STEP and Transfer orientation sessions from February through August 2009. Students provided demographic information, details about their college plans, and information about why they chose Southeast.

Please join us in continuing to help our new students transition into their Southeast community. The importance of a successful first-year experience cannot be overstated and we are grateful for your continued interest in our first-year students!

Sincerely,

Theresa Haug Belvin  
Assistant Director  
New Student Programs



2009  
Orientation  
Leader  
Team

## Student Responses

- **86%** of first-time students report that **personalized attention** was **"important"** or **"very important"** in their decision to attend Southeast.
- **71%** of first-time students report that they plan to pursue a **Bachelor's** degree at Southeast; **21%** plan to pursue a **Master's** degree at Southeast; **6%** plan to **transfer** to another institution.
- **71%** of first-time students plan to live on campus.
- **84%** of first-time students report that **financial aid and scholarship offers** were **"important"** or **"very important"** in influencing their decision to attend Southeast.
- **83%** of first-time students plan to hold a **part-time** job (or are looking for a job) while in school; **5%** of first-time students plan to work **full-time**.
- **72%** of first-time students plan to join a **student group or organization**.
- **Students report their parents' highest level of education:**

-High school diploma/GED:	Mother 26%	Father 29%
-Associate's degree/some college:	Mother 34%	Father 27%
-Bachelor's degree or higher:	Mother 34%	Father 37%
- **47%** of first-time students reported that they are **first-generation college students**.
- **76%** of first-time students report that the **influences of other Southeast students** were **"important"** or **"very important"** factors in influencing their decision to attend Southeast.
- **63%** of first-time students indicate that Southeast was their **first college choice**.
- **57%** of first-time students indicate that after they graduate they plan **to go where the job is**.
- **89%** of first-time students are **"interested"** or **"very interested"** in **internships** in their academic areas.
- **45%** of first-time students are **"interested"** or **"very interested"** in **online courses**.
- **77%** of first-time students report that **their campus visit** was **"important"** or **"very important"** in influencing their decision to attend Southeast.

## HOW ACADEMICALLY PREPARED DO NEW STUDENTS PERCEIVE THEMSELVES TO BE?

	<u>Well Prepared</u>	<u>Prepared</u>	<u>Not Prepared</u>
Math	42%	46%	12%
Reading	56%	39%	5%
Writing	49%	45%	6%
Sciences	38%	52%	10%
Computer Usage	49%	45%	6%
Visual/Performing Arts	32%	42%	26%

## WHY DID OUR NEW STUDENTS COME TO COLLEGE?

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not Important</u>
To get a better job	83%	15%	2%
To improve academic skills	66%	32%	2%
To prepare for graduate school	39%	38%	23%
To further develop personal maturity	44%	46%	10%
To develop and use my athletic skills	20%	23%	57%
To take part in college social life	44%	41%	15%
For self-improvement	66%	31%	3%

## WHY DID OUR NEW STUDENTS CHOOSE SOUTHEAST?

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not Important</u>
Southeast offered desired academic program	65%	30%	5%
Good academic reputation at Southeast	53%	42%	5%
Small class size	46%	44%	10%
On-campus housing	42%	33%	25%
Student recreation and intramurals	30%	47%	23%
Student activities, clubs and social organizations	33%	47%	20%
Tuition costs relative to other schools	60%	32%	8%
Services for students with disabilities	14%	27%	59%
Prompt response from University	37%	47%	16%
Influence of other Southeast students	32%	44%	24%
Influence of alumni	21%	37%	42%
Geographic location	37%	44%	19%
Personalized attention	37%	49%	14%
Honors program	20%	39%	41%
Influence of high school friends	24%	40%	36%
Influence of family	30%	46%	24%
Division 1 Athletics	17%	26%	57%