The Top 5s: A profile of APU's 2012-2013 Freshman Class

Based on responses to the Freshman Survey by APU's 2012-2013 freshman class, the following are five categories of top five items.

Top 5 reasons for choosing APU (In order of importance):

- I was attracted by the religious affiliation/orientation of the college
- 2. I was offered financial assistance
- 3. This college has a very good academic reputation
- 4. I wanted to go to a school about the size of this college
- 5. A visit to campus

The top 5 reasons for choosing to go to college (In order of importance):

- To learn more about things that interest me
- 2. To get training for a specific career
- 3. To be able to get a better job
- To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
- 5. To be able to make more money

Top 5 probable career choices (aggregated)

- 1. Business
- 2. Health professional
- 3. Artist
- 4. Doctor (MD or DDS)
- 5. Nurse

Top 5 Priorities in life (In order of importance):

- 1. Raising a family
- 2. Helping others who are in difficulty
- 3. Being very well off financially
- 4. Becoming an authority in my field
- Improving my understanding of other countries and cultures

Top 5 social values (In order of strongest agreement):

- Colleges should prohibit racist/sexist speech on campus
- 2. Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now
- Dissent is a critical component of the political process
- 4. A national health care plan is needed to cover everybody's medical costs
- Students from disadvantaged social backgrounds should be given preferential treatment in college admissions

More insight into APU's 2012 freshman class:

- 71% have at least some concern over their ability to finance their college education
- 39% plan to work full-time while attending college, which is up from 32% in 2010
- 70% consider themselves to be born-again, which is down from 78% in 2010

Prepared by Dr. Chris Olson, Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment