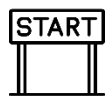


Central Ohio Technical College

Student Entrance Survey Respondent Profile



The following data describe responses to COTC's Entrance Survey between October 26, 2022, and March 22, 2023. Students complete the questionnaire as part of their orientation to the college. Questions relate to how the individual plans to pay for college, working while in school, access to reliable transportation, housing, and food sources, socioeconomic status, comfort with the English language, and their intention for attending COTC. The responses are used by the college's student success coaches so they can be proactive in outreach to support students in meeting their end goals from the moment they start at the college. Responses are grouped by topic area. The total number of respondents is 423. Individual questions may have a different number of responses due to non-responses. Questions may be directed to Joe Argiro, Institutional Research Analyst, at Argiro.1@mail.cotc.edu or cotcire@mail.cotc.edu.



START TERM: Considering the survey administration period, 86% of respondents indicated a desire to start in spring semester 2023 with 11% signaling to start in summer and 4% in autumn. N = 423

In what Term and Year do you plan to first enroll in classes at COTC?	Responses
Spring Semester 2023	363 (86%)
Summer Semester 2023	45 (11%)
Autumn Semester 2023	15 (4%)



ENROLLMENT STATUS: Fifty-seven percent of respondents indicated a desire to attend as a full-time student taking at least 12.0 credits in their first term. N = 422

Do you plan to attend college part-time or full-time	Responses
Full-Time - Typically 4-5 courses and at least 12 credits per semester	240 (57%)
Part-Time - Typically 1-3 courses and less than 12 credits per semester	182 (43%)



COLLEGE INTENTION: Eighty-three percent of students were interested in attending COTC to complete one or more associate degree(s) or certificate(s) for career purposes and another 13% intended to complete one or more associate degree(s) or certificate(s) in preparation for transferring to another college or university. The remaining responses signaled no intention to complete a credential prior to meeting other goals. N = 433

What is your primary intention for attending COTC?	Responses
To complete one or more associate degree(s) or certificate(s) for career purposes	352 (83%)
To complete one or more associate degree(s) or certificate(s) in preparation for transferring to another college or university	55 (13%)
To take a few courses in preparation for transferring to another college or university, not intending to finish a degree or certificate	7 (2%)
To take a few courses for career purposes, not intending to finish a degree or certificate	6 (1%)
For personal interest and enrichment, not for career or transfer purposes	3 (1%)

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PAYING FOR COLLEGE: Seventy-four percent of respondents indicated that their own income or savings would be a major or minor source of funding for college. The next major or minor funding source these students indicated was grants and scholarships (68%) followed by student loans (61%). N = 423

How do you plan to pay for your tuition, fees, textbooks and living expenses while in college?	Major OR Minor Source	Major Source	Minor Source	Not a Source
My own income and savings	315 (74%)	158 (37%)	157 (37%)	108 (26%)
Income and savings from family	131 (31%)	50 (12%)	81 (19%)	292 (69%)
Employer contributions	117 (28%)	50 (12%)	67 (16%)	306 (72%)
Active military and veteran benefits	28 (7%)	20 (5%)	8 (2%)	395 (93%)
Grants and scholarships	289 (68%)	200 (47%)	89 (21%)	134 (32%)
Student loans	258 (61%)	185 (44%)	73 (17%)	165 (39%)
Public assistance	110 (26%)	50 (12%)	60 (14%)	313 (74%)



WORKING WHILE IN SCHOOL: Sixty-one percent of respondents indicated their plan to work 20 to 40 hours per week while attending school while 8% plan to work over 40 hours per week and 9% had no plan to work. One-in-five respondents (22%) said they plan to work less than 20 hours per week while in school. N = 423

How many hours per week do you plan to work while attending college?	Responses
None - I do not plan to work while going to school	40 (9%)
Less than 20 hours of work per week	94 (22%)
20 to 40 hours of work per week	256 (61%)
Over 40 hours of work per week	33 (8%)



PAYING BILLS AND EXPENSES: About one quarter (24%) of respondents indicated having trouble paying one or more bills in the past year like rent, internet, childcare, cell phone, and utilities. Bills that were specifically cited include rent, insurance, car payments, cellphone, childcare, credit cards, internet, utilities, groceries, gas, health insurance, medical, student loans, and college tuition. N = 423

In the last year, have you had trouble paying bills like rent, internet, childcare, cell phone, or unitality bills?	Responses
No – I've been able to afford my bills	322 (76%)
Yes – I've had trouble with at least one bill	101 (24%)

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HOUSING: About the same proportion of incoming students say they plan to live with family or friends (34%) as in a rental that they primarily pay for (35%). A quarter of respondents (25%) indicated planning to live in a home that they primarily pay for while attending COTC. Twenty students (5%) were actively looking for housing/rental options at the time they completed this survey. N = 423

Where do you plan to live while attending college?	Responses
Rental housing that I primarily pay for	146 (35%)
With family or friends	145 (34%)
Home that I primarily pay for	110 (26%)
I'm actively looking for housing/rental options	20 (5%)
Residence hall on campus	2 (<1%)

Thirteen percent of respondents indicated having to temporarily stay with friends or family when they didn't have stable housing. Less than 5 percent of respondents reported needing to sleep in a car, couch surf, temporarily stay in a hotel or motel, stay in a shelter, sleep in a building not meant for human to live, or staying in an RV or camper. While it's a small proportion, this translates to 62 unique individuals who reported at least one housing insecurity.

In the last year, have you experienced any of the following?	YES	NO
Slept in a Car	13 (3%)	410 (97%)
Couch Surf	17 (4%)	406 (96%)
Temporarily Stayed with Friends or Family	57 (13%)	366 (87%)
Temporarily Stayed at a Hotel or Motel (not for Vacation)	6 (1%)	417 (99%)
Stayed in a Shelter	3 (1%)	420 (99%)
Slept in a Building Not Meant for Humans to Live	4 (1%)	419 (99%)
Slept in an RV/Camper (not for Vacation)	3 (1%)	420 (99%)



TRANSPORTATION: Six respondents (1%) indicated they do not have reliable transportation, and of these students, 1 reported that they still plan to drive themselves, 2 said a family member or friend will drop them off, and 3 plan to take only online courses. These students may still need transportation assistance if they need to come to campus for any reason. Ninety-nine percent of respondents expect their transportation to be reliable and the vast majority (88%) plan to drive themselves. N = 423

Do you have reliable transportation?	Responses	Responses by Subgroup
Unreliable Transportation	6 (1%)	
- Drive Myself		1 (17%)
- Friends or Family will Drop me off		2 (33%)
- N/A I Plan to Take Online Courses Only		3 (50%)
Reliable Transportation	417 (99%)	
- Bicycle		1 (<1%)
- Drive Myself		365 (88%)
- Friends or Family will Drop me off		12 (3%)
- N/A I Plan to Take Online Courses Only		37 (9%)
- Public Transportation		2 (<1%)

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FAMILY CARETAKING: The majority of respondents (61%) indicate they do not have any dependents in their household, child or adult. However, a sizeable subgroup (36%) reports having to take care of others. Of these, most dependents being reported are children. Fourteen respondents with dependent children and 1 with dependent adults indicated having care arranged, though it's not always reliable. N = 421

I am the primary caretaker of...; Do you have reliable care arranged for your dependents while you attend classes?	Responses	Responses by Subgroup
No Dependents in the Home	259 (61%)	
Dependent Children	153 (36%)	
- Yes, I have a care arrangement, but it's not always reliable		14 (9%)
- Yes, I have a reliable care arrangement		139 (91%)
Dependent Adult	4 (1%)	
- Yes, I have a care arrangement, but it's not always reliable		1 (25%)
- Yes, I have a reliable care arrangement		3 (75%)
Both Dependent Children and Adult	5 (5%)	
- Yes, I have a care arrangement, but it's not always reliable		1 (20%)
- Yes, I have a reliable care arrangement		4 (80%)



INTERNET ACCESS AND TECHNOLOGY: Twenty-five respondents indicated that they either do not have access to an internet connection at home or that it's unreliable. N = 423

Please describe your internet connection.	Responses
I have reliable internet at home	398 (94%)
I have internet at home but it's not very reliable	23 (5%)
I do not have an internet connection at home	2 (<1%)

All but 2 respondents reported having access to some technology to use for attending class and for completing coursework with 88% indicating they plan to use a desktop or laptop computer. Twenty-eight individuals (7%) reported plans to primarily use a tablet for school and 20 (5%) reported plans to use a smartphone.

Which of the following devices do you plan to use as your PRIMARY device when attending school and completing coursework?	Responses
Computer (desktop or laptop)	373 (88%)
Tablet (Surface, iPad, Galaxy Tab, etc.)	28 (7%)
Smartphone	20 (5%)
None of these	2 (<1%)

Central Ohio Technical College

Student Entrance Survey Respondent Profile



FOOD SECURITY: One hundred and eleven respondents (26%) indicated that they sometimes or often worried about running out of food before they had money to buy more. N = 423

In general, how true is the following statement? "I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more."	Responses
Never True	312 (74%)
Sometimes True	92 (22%)
Often True	19 (4%)

Of the 111 unique respondents indicated experiencing some type of food insecurity on the Entrance Survey, the most-commonly cited issue with food access eating less than the individual needed because they didn't have the money for food (62%) followed by cutting the size of meals because they couldn't afford food (60%).

What type of food limitations did you experience?	Responses
Cut the Size of your Meals Because You Didn't Have the Money	67 (60%)
Ate Less Than You Needed Because You Didn't Have the Money	69 (62%)
Were Hungry but Didn't Eat Because You Didn't Have the Money	45 (41%)
Not Eat for a Whole Day Because You Didn't Have the Money to Buy Food	24 (22%)
Lost Weight Because You Didn't Have the Money to Buy Food	27 (24%)



SLEEP HABITS: About the same proportion of respondents say they sleep 6 or fewer hours in a typical night as those sleeping 7 hours (36% and 35%, respectively). Less than one-in-five respondents said they sleep 8 hours a night (17%). Twelve percent said they sleep 9 or more hours in a typical night. N = 423

How many hours do you sleep on a typical night?	Responses
6 or fewer hours	40 (36%)
7 hours	39 (35%)
8 hours	19 (17%)
9 hours	9 (8%)
10 or more hours	4 (4%)



SUPPORT FOR ATTENDING COLLEGE FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Eighty-seven percent of respondents report that their family or friends are supportive of them attending college. Seven individuals (2%) report not receiving support from family or friends to attend college while the remaining 48 individuals (11%) indicate having a little support from family or friends. N = 423

How supportive are your family and friends of your decision to go to college?	Responses
Very Supportive	368 (87%)
A little supportive	48 (11%)
Not Supportive	7 (2%)

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Cross-referencing the support system results with the reported highest level of education of parents and guardians shows somewhat mixed results. Just over half (55%) of those indicating being very supported have at least one parent or guardian with at least some college. On the other side, more than half (53%) of students with either little or no support for attending college also have no parent or guardian who attended at least some college. On average, students who reported having low support for attending college were 33.5 years old compared to those reporting high levels of support being 28.4 at the time of completing the Entrance Survey, a 4.6-year gap.

How supportive are your family and friends of your decision to go to college?	Responses	Percent of Parents or Guardians with at least Some College	Percent of Parents or Guardian's without College	Average Age
Very Supportive	368 (87%)	204 (55%)	164 (45%)	28.4
A little supportive	48 (11%)	21 (44%)	27 (56%)	29.3
Not supportive	7 (2%)	5 (71%)	2 (29%)	33.5



SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS: Entering students are asked about the income earned of all working individuals in their household. About half (49%) indicate their household earns up to \$40,000 per year while 41% indicate household earning between \$40,000 to \$100,000. N = 422.

In what range is your household income per year? Account for everyone you live with who works.	Responses
Under \$20,000	68 (16%)
\$20,001 to \$40,000	141 (33%)
\$40,001 to \$60,000	89 (21%)
\$60,001 to \$80,000	52 (12%)
\$80,001 to \$100,000	33 (8%)
\$100,000+	39 (9%)



LANGUAGE: Two new questions for 2022-2023 ask about the individuals' comfort with the English language and what languages are most comfortably spoken, written, and read. The vast majority (99%) do consider themselves to be fluent in English however 3 individuals said no, they don't consider themselves fluent.

Do you consider yourself to be fluent in the English language?	Responses
YES	419 (99%)
NO	3 (1%)

Of those who indicated no being fluent in English, Nepali was cited twice, and Tigrinya and Amharic were cited by the third individual when asked what language(s) you are most comfortable speaking, reading, and writing. Other languages for those saying yes, they do consider themselves fluent in English include Spanish, Haitian Creole, Somali, Swahili, Hindi, Gujarati, Nepali, and French.

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What language(s) are you comfortable reading, speaking, and writing?	Responses
Spanish	4 (1%)
Haitian Creole	1 (<1%)
Somali	4 (1%)
Swahili	1 (<1%)
Hindi	1 (<1%)
Gujarati	1 (<1%)
Nepali	8 (2%)
French	1 (<1%)



REFERRALS TO CAMPUS SERVICES: During orientation, the college now asks if students would like to receive information about specific departments in order to connect them to services, functions, and student life. Responses to this question help Success Coaches expedite referrals and demonstrates the range of resources available to incoming students as they work to meet their academic and career goals. N = 422. Sixty-five respondents (15%) said yes to providing a referral for mental health counselling, the largest count of the services asked about on the questionnaire. This was followed by 40 respondents (9%) seeking information about disability services and 34 (8%) asking for information on multicultural affairs. LGBTQIA+, military, and Ohio Means Jobs/Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services referrals each had 5% or few respondents seeking information. N = 422

Would you like information on any of the following college departments or services?	Responses
YES – Office of Disability Services	40 (9%)
YES – LGBTQIA+ resources	16 (4%)
YES – Mental health counseling	65 (15%)
YES – Office of multicultural affairs	34 (8%)
YES – Veteran, military, and military-connected student supports	20 (5%)
YES – Ohio Means Jobs and Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services supports	11 (3%)

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CHANGE OVER TIME: As periodic snapshots incoming COTC students, the Entrance Survey also serves to monitor changes over time in the student population seeking to enter the college. Where applicable, this section compares the previous survey data covering students generally planning to start in autumn semester 2022 to these data covering students mainly planning to start in spring and summer 2023. Like-questions are compared with percentage point change also displayed on the table.

BENROLLMENT STATUS: The proportion of students indicating a desire to attend full-time grew from 55% to 57%.

Status	3/29/22 – 9/3/22	10/26/22 – 3/22/23	Point Change
Full-Time	55%	57%	+2
Part-Time	45%	43%	-2

PAYING FOR COLLEGE: Using income and savings from family as a college funding source declined from 37% to 31% (-6 percentage points) while anticipated employer contribution grew from 22% to 28% (+6). Active military and veteran benefits, grants and scholarships, student loans, and public assistance all increased by 3 percentage points between groups. Using grants and scholarships remained the second highest anticipated funding source for both groups behind personal income and savings.

Paying – Major or Minor Source	3/29/22 – 9/3/22	10/26/22 – 3/22/23	Point Change
My Own Income and Savings	75%	74%	-1
Income and Savings from Family	37%	31%	-6
Employer Contributions	22%	28%	+6
Active Military and Veteran Benefits	4%	7%	+3
Grants and Scholarships	65%	68%	+3
Student Loans	58%	61%	+3
Public Assistance	23%	26%	+3

WORKING WHILE IN SCHOOL: The same proportion of both groups, at 9%, indicate no plans to work while in school while those working part-time, under 20 hours per week, declined to 22%. Working between 20 and 40 hours per week increased to 61% and working over 40 hours per week increased to 8%.

Work	3/29/22 – 9/3/22	10/26/22 – 3/22/23	Point Change
None - I do not plan to work while going to school	9%	9%	+/-0
Less than 20 hours of work per week	29%	22%	-7
20 to 40 hours of work per week	56%	61%	+5
Over 40 hours of work per week	6%	8%	+2

HOUSING SECURITY: Small, yet important proportions of entering students report various types of housing insecurity. No changes between these groups were observed for sleeping in a car (1%), staying in a shelter (1%), sleeping in a building not meant for humans to live (1%), or slept in an RV/Campus not while on vacation (1%). Temporarily staying in a hotel or motel not for vacation declined to 1% but couch surfing increased to 4% and temporarily staying with friends or family increased to 13%.

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Housing	3/29/22 – 9/3/22	10/26/22 – 3/22/23	Point Change
Slept in a Car	3%	3%	+/-0
Couch Surfing	2%	4%	+2
Temporarily Stayed with Friends or Family	8%	13%	+5
Temporarily Stayed at a Hotel or Motel (not for Vacation)	2%	1%	-1
Stayed in a Shelter	1%	1%	+/-0
Slept in a Building Not Meant for Humans to Live	1%	1%	+/-0
Slept in an RV/Camper (not for Vacation)	1%	1%	+/-0

TRANSPORTATION: Both survey groups from March to October 2022 and from October 2022 to March 2023 reported 98% and 99% reliable transportation, respectively.

Transportation	3/29/22 – 9/3/22	10/26/22 – 3/22/23	Point Change
Reliable Transportation	98%	99%	+1
Unreliable Transportation	2%	1%	-1

FAMILY CARETAKING: The proportion of incoming students reporting having dependents in their home, both children and children and adults, increased in the most recent group. Having dependent children in the home increased by 6 points, from 30% to 36%, and having both children and dependent adults in the home increased by 4 points, from 1% to 5%.

Family	3/29/22 – 9/3/22	10/26/22 – 3/22/23	Point Change
No Dependents in the Home	68%	61%	-7
Dependent Children	30%	36%	+6
Dependent Adult	1%	1%	+/-0
Both Dependent Children and Adult	1%	5%	+4

INTERNET ACCESS AND TECHNOLOGY: High proportions of both groups report having reliable internet connection at home. However, a small, but important, group (5%) indicate not having reliable internet at home, and in the most recent group, 1% reported not having any internet connection at home.

Internet and Technology	3/29/22 – 9/3/22	10/26/22 – 3/22/23	Point Change
I have reliable internet at home	95%	94%	-1
I have internet at home but it's not very reliable	5%	5%	+/-0
I do not have an internet connection at home	0%	1%	+1

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FOOD SECURITY: No changes in food security categories are observed between groups, however, greater than one-in-four incoming students (26%) still report worrying about running out of food before they have money to buy more sometimes or often.

Food security	3/29/22 – 9/3/22	10/26/22 – 3/22/23	Point Change
I Never Worry About Running Out of Food Before I Have Money to Buy More	74%	74%	+/-0
I Sometimes Worry About Running Out of Food Before I Have Money to Buy More	22%	22%	+/-0
I Often Worry About Running Out of Food Before I Have Money to Buy More	4%	4%	+/-0

SUPPORT FOR ATTENDING COLLEGE: No changes in support from family or friends is observed for both survey groups, with 87% of each saying they're very supported, 11% saying they're somewhat supported, and 2% saying they're not supported.

Food security	3/29/22 – 9/3/22	10/26/22 – 3/22/23	Point Change
Very Supportive	87%	87%	+/-0
Somewhat Supportive	11%	11%	+/-0
Not Supportive	2%	2%	+/-0
No Response	<1%	0%	+/-0