

Alumni Survey 2007 (2006 graduates)¹ Student Services and Co-curriculum

What follows are direct comments students' made in answer to the following questions: *What had the most positive impact on you during your time at Eastern?* And, *What had the most negative impact on you during your time at Eastern?*

Involvement in General

Positive Impact

- Also, the amount of opportunities for campus involvement were tremendous. I have been very successful in my professional growth as a result of my involvement in student activities. (230)
- Joining Phi Sigma Pi where I had an opportunity to develop my leadership skills. (53)
- Also the different cultural events that took place. (64)
- Experiences through extra curricular activities. (146)
- Extra-curricular activities and clubs helped in developing social skills as well as team building and leadership qualities. (188)
- Involvement in campus activities. (189)
- Joining and being a leader in a student organization is my best memory. (210)
- Plenty of clubs/organizations to join. (217)
- Organizations where I could hold leadership positions. (239)
- The most positive impact on me during my years at EIU was becoming involved in all the activities I did, both academic and social. Each activity I participated in, I have been able to draw from in my professional career. (281)
- The extra curricular activities provided by the university. There were so many to choose from between my major and minor studies which helped me lead and become more responsible. (315)
- Getting involved in different activities that introduced me to different people and different ways of thinking. (319)
- Group activities. (350)
- I also enjoyed being a member of IAEA. (359)
- Career fairs, associations/ clubs offered at me. University Greek life (involvement) CMAA. (395)
- Getting involved with the RSO's. I swam for EIU men's swimming team on an athletic scholarship and I joined a fraternity where I held office and tugged. (507)
- Being involved in several social activities, as well as meeting and keeping in contact with others. (564)
- University Board—Ceci Brinker. Newman Catholic Center. In other words, extracurricular activities. (621)
- Extra activities outside of class; clubs, groups, etc. (638)
- Intramurals. (671)
- Being a part of college activities helped me to stay involved and I was able to learn a lot from others outside the classroom setting. (674)

¹ The numbers in parentheses following the comments are reference numbers to alumni identification data. More information about the alumni who made the comments is available.

- I was actively involved in clubs and organizations. I had the opportunity to be president of three organizations and I volunteered a lot. These experiences helped to build my leadership skills. (725)
- Working at the Rec Center. All the volunteer opportunities through philanthropy groups, the way campus is set up. (759)
- I enjoyed the whole experience. Extra curriculars. (813)
- The student groups I was able to participate in and the advisors in the student life office. I only wish I did not have to work two jobs to help pay my tuition, so I could have enjoyed campus activities more often. (843)

Volunteer Work/Service Organizations/Religious Organizations

- Alternative spring break programs. (41)
- Student Government. (44)
- The Christian Campus House—my experiences as a leader there and the things I learned about God. (51)
- Eastern Illinois Football Christian Campus House. (70)
- Getting involved with University Board. (90)
- My most educating experiences were found through the Newman Catholic Center because they (members, student organizations, etc) were most actively involved in social justice. (141)
- Also, the Newman Center (Roy Lanham) was a wonderful thing to be involved with. The EIU Rec Center was also a great addition to the overall fabulous experience. (197)
- The alternative spring break program offered at the Newman Center. (297)
- I liked all my teachers and I loved CCH Christian campus house. (436)
- The campus ministry group through the Lutheran Church. They had fun activities without the pressures to party. (556)
- Being a member of a service fraternity. (587)

Athletics/Intramurals/Club Sports/Cheerleading

- Being a student athlete was by far the most meaningful part of my experience. (17)
- Diving practice, meets, trips (fun). (23)
- Playing NCAA Women's Rugby and having Frank Grazlano as my head coach. (105)
- I was an EIU swimmer all four years. Being a part of Ray Padovan's program was the most positive experience I had. It taught me to be dedicated and motivated to not only my teams by to my studies. (168)
- Extracurricular events such as the intramural sports program led by Kevin Linker. (229)
- Playing soccer. (265)
- Playing Rugby for Frank Graziano was an amazing and challenging experience that I will never forget. (297)
- Running track for EIU and the coaching staff. (373)
- Athletics. (689)
- The wrestling program through the business and personal connections made while on the team. It was a key part of my time at EIU. (740)
- Being part of the Eastern Football team. (637)

Recognized Student Organizations/Activities/Honoraries

- WEIU-TV has the most positive impact on my time at EIU. I received hands on training and real life training in my intended field. (400)
- Working at Hit Mix 88.9 WEIU and the relationships and experience I gained there. (673)
- Being a member of the Panther Marching Band. (68)
- Student clubs and organizations. AKP and sociology club were great hands on experiences. (106)
- Clubs and programs associated with my major. (107)

- My involvement with CMAA. Being an active student member of CMAA helped me get my internship as well as a job after graduation. The club taught me about networking and starting out as a young manager. (535)
- The Daily Eastern News room taught me lots about computers and electronics in the workplace. (576)
- Being president of the Construction Club. (584)
- I enjoyed my numerous hours participating in music activities. (656)
- EIU Dancers, they are a wonderful club with a fantastic person as their coach . They had such a positive outlook and I know I will use principles learned there for the rest of my life. They need a safe stage! Try to help them out. (780)
- Being involved in on-campus activities like RHA and Hall Council. (804)
- Being involved in an on-campus RSO and being able to develop skills there that have helped me in my job. (808)

Negative Impact

Diversity/Racial Prejudice

- Maybe the racial prejudice. With that issue nothing can be done; that is how some people grow up to be. (478)
- The lack of diversity on campus. In many aspects, EIU seemed to be "split" down the middle. If you are an individual that didn't fit on either side, you are forced to be a loner. I didn't feel like there were many "creative minds" at EIU. Hopefully, when the art building is finished, things might change. (502)
- The radical segregation of the students in social situations. Also, I felt as though I wasn't treated as fairly as some students, due to race. (328)

Participation/Lack of Involvement

- I played softball for EIU and was an active member of a sorority. I was always encouraged to be active around campus. (128)
- Feelings of being an outsider since I did not live on or near campus. (135)
- Also, a lack of diversity in activities to give students a chance to learn about different cultures and opinions. (188)
- The lack of student participation in organizations/activities/sporting events had a negative impact on me and the EIU community. (191)

Misc. Activities

- Student government campaigning. (311)
- I was very active as a student athlete and part of student government at my previous college. I felt as a transfer student, it was very difficult to be a part of an organization. I know Eastern has several RSO's, but it was somewhat difficult to find out about these organizations unless you were part of the Greek System. I really didn't have a negative experience at Eastern. (753)

Athletics/Intramurals/Club Sports/Cheerleading

- I am very ashamed to be related to a university that unfairly cut the school's wrestling program. I think the decision is an embarrassment to alumni everywhere. (843)
- The negative part of my college career was the volleyball program. I played for the EIU volleyball team for 2 years and it was the worst part of college. (641)

Social Aspects
(Personal Relationships, Social Life, Greek Organizations)

Positive Impact

Personal Relationships/Social Life/Peer Interaction

- My friends and teachers were mostly helpful in making me independent and sharing four years of my life down in Charleston. (546)
- Friends I made on campus. (45)
- My friends and fraternity brothers. (14)
- Making friends (met a lot of them) still talk. Met my boyfriend last semester at EIU. (23)
- There was a couple of things that impacted me at EIU. I met the most wonderful friends and I still talk to all of them. (24)
- I met my boyfriend (33)
- Away from home living—friendships. (36)
- The friendships I made at EIU are ones I will carry with me forever. They truly became my family and I love them dearly. (39)
- Fraternity brothers (43)
- To make new friends. (53)
- My support system. (54)
- Friendships in the group work I did. (58)
- Working with other students. (61)
- The attitudes of other students. (86)
- Meeting great friends, who I still keep in contact with. (109)
- Interaction with other students (of all ages). (123)
- Student interactions and projects. (132)
- Social interaction. (138)
- As well as my classmates. (144)
- Having close peers in my major to help with understanding the information. (151)
- Meeting new people. (155)
- Parents. (156)
- I learned as much from my friends as I did from my classmates and I did from my professors. (157)
- The support system among the students. They were always willing to help if need be. (162)
- Making friends. (171)
- Meeting people and taking classes within my age group. The professors treated us like adults instead of like kids on the EIU campus. (178)
- Interactions with other adult students. (187)
- People I met. (205)
- Being able to take classes with other adult non-traditional students, so I didn't have to deal with spoiled, uncommitted underclassmen. (206)
- Friends made. (211)
- The people I met. (216)
- Friends, family. (217)
- Meeting new people. (218)
- The relationships formed while at Eastern had the most positive impact on me as an undergrad. (227)
- Friends. (242)
- My parents pushing me and motivating me to do well and finish on time. (248)
- The most positive impact I received at Eastern was from interacting with a diverse population of people. (260)

- Learning to talk and interact with people I would have never met. I came out of EIU with friends from all aspects, backgrounds, and majors. (266)
- Friends. (273)
- I made great friends. (279)
- Meeting great friends. (282)
- People, fellow students. (298)
- Developing relationships inside and outside the classroom setting. (332)
- The chance to meet and work with others that shared my interests and pursue similar degrees. (337)
- Friends and family support. (342)
- Meeting others. (344)
- The friendships, memories and lessons learned were great enough to last a lifetime. (345)
- Family and friends (376)
- I met a lot of people at Eastern that have impacted my life. (416)
- Great parents and great friends. (420)
- The most positive impact would be the people (students) that I have met that will carry on with me through life. (439)
- The friendships and acquaintances that I acquired while at Eastern were by far the most positive impact on me due to the fact that I was away from home and with them. Eastern began to feel like home. (443)
- Seeing other adults who have returned to school to finish what they had started years ago. (459)
- The relationships I built. (468)
- Family and friends. (474)
- Friends. (482)
- Meeting new people. (484)
- Meeting a wide variety of individuals. (488)
- The friends I made while in Eastern's Sketch comedy group were the most positive things I'm taking with me. (492)
- Since I was not a traditional student, I enjoyed meeting my peers and students at EIU campus. (495)
- My roommate. She was great. I couldn't have done it without her. Also, my study group. (503)
- Very nice people who went to EIU. (508)
- My experience with Education Scholars had a great impact on my time at Eastern. It allowed for me to meet and interact with many people in my field. It also allowed me to meet new friends. (519)
- The most positive impact on me during my time at EIU was the opportunity to meet lifelong friends. (530)
- Being able to be with friends whether it be in the classroom, partying, or playing intramural sports. Being with friends made Eastern a great place to be. We knew when we had to get our school work done and study, but we also knew that we were able to relax and have some fun. (555)
- I was able to make friends with people in my major because we all had the same classes for all four years. (562)
- Interaction with younger students. I completed my degree at age 43. (571)
- My sorority and friends I've met. (572)
- Social events by UB. (574)
- Finding good friends. (578)
- Meeting long-lasting friends. (587)
- The people I went through my four years with. (602)
- Friends. (615)
- The camaraderie and the lifestyle. (619)

- The people I met there. (642)
- The people I met. (643)
- Meeting new people. (650)
- The relationships I formed with friends. (659)
- The people. (677)
- The most positive impact during my time at Eastern was the social aspect of school, inside and out. The conversations within and out of the classroom were very thought-provoking. (680)
- Meeting new people, making great friends. (681)
- Students. (689)
- Meeting new friends. (694)
- Creating lasting friendships with the girls on my floor. (707)
- The friends I met. (717)
- Interacting with different individuals. Group work. (719)
- Friends. (721)
- The friends I made. (734)
- I come from a very small town, so I would have to say that the opportunity of meeting and creating relationships with a diversity of people had the best impact on me. It opened my mind to a whole new world, in a good way. (749)
- Friends and classmate. (754)
- My brother being there making me go to class! (766)
- My various social activities (that did not include any form of Greek life). (767)
- Relationships with friends. (778)
- Many of the friends I met at EIU that helped me through the hard times. (793)
- Friends that I've made will last a lifetime. (813)
- My friends. (818)
- Meeting my husband and having our daughter. (827)
- Having a good time and making new friends. (833)
- Obviously my friends. (835)
- Meeting new people. (837)
- I developed very positive friendships with other students both in and out of my major. (841)
- The positives are the friends and other people I met at Eastern. (843)

Greek Organizations

- Being highly involved in the Greek system. (321)
- Sorority. (18)
- Sorority and other organizations. (20)
- Being involved in Greek life. With this opportunity I was able to become more involved with the school, community, and fellow peers. I held positions, met others in my major and participated in many philanthropies. I find this to be one of my most positive impacts at Eastern. (37)
- Tri Sigma allowed me to take on leadership roles and social skills. (46)
- Fraternity involvement strengthened oral and communication skills. Leadership within also prepared me well for outside world. In many way running and fraternity is like running a business. (101)
- DEN. Greek life has taught me a great deal. (133)
- Also, I got involved in the Green system, which allowed me the opportunity to become involved with the community projects as well as the opportunity to network outside of the academic setting. (136)
- SSS Sorority (143)
- Group projects and Greek life. (190)
- Sigma Chi fraternity. (211)
- Delta Zeta. (223)

- Pi Kappa Alpha (277)
- Beta Alpha Psi. (291)
- Sigma Pi Fraternity - IM's - Tugs – Brotherhood. (293)
- A sorority member. (334)
- Greek life high personal and academic standards and encouraged the pursuit of excellence. Greek life set me up for success. (345)
- Great campus life and activities, Greek life (376)
- Greek life. (414)
- Fraternity. (418)
- My involvement in honor societies and Greek life. (409)
- Joining a sorority which enabled me to become active throughout many opportunities on campus. (430)
- The Greek system it was my main influence in getting involved on campus community service and events. (471)
- Greek Life, Campus activities. (493)
- I loved my sorority. (545)
- Fraternity life. (550)
- Being a member of the Greek Community. (757)
- Sorority. (818)
- My membership in Alpha Sigma Tau. Without having had amazing educational and social experiences - I would not love this school or appreciate it as much as I do. My graduate school experience is just as wonderful here as well! :) (830)
- My involvement with Kappa Delta Pi (831)
- Sorority made my college life unforgettable. (835)
- Rushing my fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha. (838)
- The thing that I did while attending Eastern was joining Tri Delta and becoming a part of the Greek community. I was able to meet a lot of people, that if I hadn't joined, I never would have crossed paths with. (781)
- My active Greek participation also helped me develop the social skills and work ethic that has got me to where I am. (796)
- The Greek community. (800)
- My time with sister in Sigma Alpha Lota was also very positive for me. (656)
- Joining my sorority. EIU's Greek community is amazing. Eastern is a wonderful university. (720)
- Joining Epsilon Sigma Alpha. (768)
- Greek life. (601)
- My interaction with other students through my fraternity. (Lambda Chi Alpha). (603)
- The strong Greek life community. (612)
- Greek life. (614)
- The experience of joining a sorority had the biggest impact on me while attending EIU. (617)
- Being involved in EIU organizations such as the Greek system and the EIU blood drive committee really made my college experience complete and well rounded. (388)

Negative Impact

Personal Relationships/Social Life/Peer Interaction

- People who did not treat their time at EIU seriously. (142)
- Dumb classmates. (154)
- Pressure from friends.(693)
- Peer pressure.(766)
- Some of the students were rude, disrespectful at times in class... kinda wish the teachers would have snapped. ☺ (222)

- I had difficulty at first finding other students with my interests in terms of weekend activities. (253)
- Interpersonal relationships with the wrong students, but that was a learning experience also. (299)
- Students not caring about school and/or not trying.(303)
- My shyness to make friends easily. (433)
- Friends. (482)
- All the stupid people... (507)
- Personal and family issues. (43)
- Distance from home. (46)
- I think I was going through a lot of emotional turmoil and I was able to seek help through the university which helped me immensely. (65)
- Working with others outside of class by email and working full-time was difficult. (85)
- Health issues had the most negative impact on my time at Eastern. (122)
- Trying to work, attend school, be with family, and coach. (126)
- There's always going to be mediocre teachers/classes, but my personal problems I had were the only real negative impact on my schooling. However, I succeeded through my personal tests as well as educational. (149)
- It was difficult to work full time and take classes. Perseverance paid off! (165)
- The stresses of classes and other responsibilities had the most negative impact on me while at Eastern as an undergrad. (227)
- There is not one significant event but rather the whole experience of growing up, emotionally, socially, and physically had its downsides at times. I view this not as a negative but as a part of the reason we go to college. (281)
- Just juggling coursework, work and family. (288)
- Personal issues, family issues, none of which I wanted to affect my studies. At times they did, but I graduated which was most important. (310)
- The unexpected death of my father the year before I graduated. (313)
- Being asked/forced to leave school, by the counseling center, for a non-life threatening and treatable mental disorder. (373)
- Maybe nerves of giving a presentation but that went away after giving so many. (383)
- The aspect that was negative if there was something negative: at times the projects were overwhelming as far as how many I had at once. (408)
- The first year down at Eastern took a lot of adjusting to. I changed majors a couple of times and that put me behind. (435)
- I had a developing mental illness that went largely unnoticed, even by faculty who knew me very well, residential staff, and counselors at the Counseling Center. Not to blame—just something to be aware of. (438)
- Personal legal issue. (564)
- I was so immersed in school and work and friends that I did not prepare myself for the real world and the time and effort that would entail. (592)
- Study hard; get a good job with a safe, secure, company with benefits. Work hard for money. Be specialized. (Should have been more educated on having money work for me.) Knowing a little about a lot instead of a lot about a little. (633)
- Not enough time from having to work full-time and school full-time. (645)
- Academic suspension. I took it really hard, but I guess it ended up being because I was able to come back and graduate. (657)
- I was deployed and had to miss a year of school. It was difficult to focus on school when I first got back. (743)
- Undergoing chemotherapy while a student. (755)
- Outside problems that effected some of my classes. (538)

Drinking

- Alcohol. (70)
- Drinking--but I don't blame that on the University. I made my own decisions. (452)
- The excessive drinking of the students from Thursdays to Tuesdays. (515)
- Drinking too late and too often.(653)

Greek Organizations

- Joining Alpha Phi Omega, an organization that pretends to be focused on volunteering with service project in the community but does not do so. (53)
- Greek rush freshmen year. I went through the entire process and in the end did not receive a bid. I was very devastated and depressed freshmen year because of this. I then had a negative attitude towards the Greek system. (66)
- Not really into the Greek aspect of college. (98)
- My fraternity. I joined expecting community involvement and role models for the university. I got something different. Overpaid for dues to listen to guys think of their next best party rather than their next great service project. (158)
- Too high of a percentage of the campus is Greek oriented. That's a personal decision, but even within the Greek community, the houses seemed highly divided and "cliquish". Overall "Awesome" college experience (207)
- Bob Dudolski (277)
- The sororities and fraternities were negatively impacting because of the Greek letters everywhere and the drinking it promoted. (315)
- The Greek system. I was involved in the Greek system and quite because the experience was not a good one. (519)
- The Greek system. (554)
- The most negative impact that I experienced at Eastern was the loss of a friend and sorority sister in 2000. Other than that tragedy, I have no other negative memories. (617)
- Greek life is overly emphasized; although they do provide leadership opportunities, their involvement on campus was rarely visible. (621)
- I did not like that the whole campus life was based on Greek life. The college put too much interest in that group. (632)
- Greek Life. School is biased toward independents. (658)
- Fraternity standards: Fraternities are supposed to be fun and the restrictions for having parties are awful. I understand things need to be kept under control, but let the students have some fun. College students are going to drink alcohol regardless of what you do. (708)
- Lack of compassion from sorority members.(797)
- I would say the huge emphasis on fraternities and sororities. As a student, not being part of that community made me feel isolated at times. (829)
- I was never crazy about the social sororities and fraternities.(841)

Residence Halls and Dining Services

Positive Impact

- Rooms. Food was good. (23)
- I enjoyed living in the dorms and also enjoyed the food in the cafeterias (should be more variety in food selection). (24)
- There was great food and a great Rec center. (29)
- Living in the dorms. (77)
- Dorms I lived in were great. (217)

- My residence hall, Pemberton, provided many opportunities for social activities and was a great place to live for 4 years. Housing and Dining did a wonderful job with meal plans and such, too. (228)
- Being an RA. (254)
- Being a resident assistant. (306)
- Being active in the Eastern community by becoming a resident assistant helped show me ways to serve my community and make positive changes in my life and the world. (334)
- All experiences that I had as a resident assistant. (362)
- Living in the dorms. (373)
- Working on campus at the Academic Advising Center. (388)
- Being a resident assistant and working for University Housing. (392)
- The experiences living on campus. (603)
- Living in the dorms. (707)
- Being an RA in housing. (716)
- Dorm life. (735)
- Residence life. (760)
- My most positive experience while at Eastern was living in the dorms. It was a positive experience because of all the people you meet and the programs offered by the residence halls. (819)

Negative Impact

- Security (homeless person living in Stevenson's basement the one year). (23)
- Security on the dorm phones and receiving a lot of prank calls. (Should get rid of telephone book). (24)
- The dorm life. (64)
- Untimely maintenance to my door when it was leaking. It took over 2 months to fix, so I had to relocate to a friend's dorm room. (90)
- Did not really like my dorm. (98)
- My freshmen year roommate was a tool, but that is about it. (157)
- Dining centers were good, but healthier fresher options would have been nice. (197)
- The only problem I occurred was with my random roommate selection freshman year. Even that wasn't too bad because I got involved around campus. (237)
- My roommate. (248)
- Working with some of the people in housing. Not Jody Stone or Mark, but the people between. (702)
- The dorm experience was the worst experience. Small rooms, community bathrooms, and roommates. (703)
- My roommate freshman year of college. I was living in the dorms with an individual that I didn't get along with. I ended up moving out, but it was a stressful living situation. (725)
- The immature behavior of many people living in a dorm. (748)
- The internet connection in Greek Court didn't always work properly. Everything else was good. (758)
- Living in the dorms, not having a lot of social events to interact with the other girls in my dorm. (768)
- Roommate situations. (804)
- Living in dorms with too many rules and random people. (818)
- Experience and being handicapped and being housed in a building on the 7th floor that had fire alarms going off 7 times in one semester. (836)
- I lived on-campus all 4 years and I felt like the food provided in the dining halls was very unhealthy. (839.)

- Meal plans are unnecessary in some cases. I prefer to cook my own food, which was not easy in the dorms. (12)
- I did not like the roommate selection process for the dorms. Need a more comprehensive form to fit people together. (570)
- Poor living conditions. Taylor Hall mold made me very sick—no one would do anything about it. Also, it was always so hot on my floor. (5th no elevator). (612)
- Living in University Court—my apartment flooded multiple times for multiple reasons and I felt like the U court staff didn't care. (640)
- Roommate issues. (698)
- Excessively noisy neighbors in my residence hall my senior year made it more difficult to focus on my work. (517)
- Living arrangements on campus; University court was appalling. (504)