

## **Alumni Survey 2004 (2003 graduates)<sup>1</sup> Student Services & 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?*

### **Activities/Recognized Student Organizations/Athletics**

#### **Positive Impact**

##### **Volunteer Work/Service Organizations/Religious Organizations**

- Quite frankly, the Newman Catholic Center on campus made the most positive impact on me. The staff and students were welcoming from the beginning and it never stopped. That is truly where I found my home. (66)
- [A staff member at Newman Center] and all those involved with the Fair Trade Coalition. (815)
- Epsilon Sigma Alpha—great friends and good service. (578)
- I made the choice to get involved with something at EIU. I decided to join the service sorority Epsilon Sigma Alpha. It was the best thing I ever did. Not only did I make great friendships, but I was involved with school. I also worked on a lot of service projects I would've never worked on without Epsilon Sigma Alpha. (619)
- Being an orientation leader, tour guide. (77)
- My volunteer coaching experiences at Charleston Middle School and High School. (82)
- Holding leadership positions (91)
- My interaction with Chi Alpha. It helped me to grow in my faith in Christ. This growth allowed me to excel in all areas of my life. My advisor in Chi Alpha was a constant support who helped me through several hard times. (104)
- The ASP (Alternative Spring Break Program) offered by Neuman Catholic Center, though not related to the university, definitely was a factor in my joining Americorps. (130)
- My involvement with the Christian Campus House. (180)
- Interservice Christian Fellowship, Christian Campus House, Intramural sports. (183)
- Interservice Christian Fellowship and members. (187)
- [A staff member at Newman Center] at the Newman Catholic Center must positively impacted my life while attending EIU. I wasn't huge into all of the church stuff but he was an inspiration and a role model for the past four years. (264)
- Church group—Lutheran Church Campus minister. (289)
- Opportunities for campus and community involvement. (301)
- Getting involved in a church and service organization. (361)
- Attending the Christian Campus House. I loved having positive influences. (466)
- The most positive impact came from my social justice/environmental activism through the Newman Center. Through the Newman Center I gained access to many resources and information not available or presented to me elsewhere. Even though I am not Christian, I was able to form a community of like minded people and work towards real change in the world and on campus. (551)

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

- The extra activities (Newman Catholic Center) aided the most in my personal development and my desire to be an active citizen. (554)
- Attending Christian Campus House (577)
- The Christian Campus House. (65)
- Christian Campus House. (688)
- Attending Christian Campus House. (714)
- Christian Campus House. (715)
- My involvement with the Wesley Foundation. (762)
- [A staff member at Newman Center] and all those involved with the Fair Trade Coalition. (815)
- My service fraternity experiences (Alpha Phi Omega). (563)
- The organizations I was involved with including Alpha Phi Omega, Tao Kappa Epsilon, and Phi Beta Lambda. (763)

### **Athletics/Intramural/Club Sports**

- EIU track and field—coaches. (594)
- Playing volleyball (49)
- Playing rugby—Coach was great. (52)
- Being involved in a collegiate sport (track). (149)
- Being a member of EIU wrestling team. Teaches discipline and dedication which couldn't be simulated in a classroom. Once you've wrestled, everything else is easy. (169.)
- Playing Women's Rugby with Frank Grazianno (202)
- Athletic dept—especially [athletic staff members]. (270)
- Playing a sport. (314)
- My involvement in college athletics. (348.)
- Being active with athletics, such as a manager, event staff, and the men's rugby trainer. (433)
- Being involved in school sports and playing intramurals. (438)
- Sports. (453)
- The most positive experience I had was being a part of the Eastern athletic program. I had the opportunity to work with a lot of amazing people who have left a positive impact on my life. (558)
- Being involved in intramural sports. Playing, refereeing, and supervising all contributed to the positive experience I gained. (560)
- Being on an athletic team gave me the support academically and socially throughout my four years at school. (572)
- Playing sports for the university. (628)
- EIU athletics. (731)
- My involvement with athletics. (769)
- Also the intramural activities helped me vent from my stresses. They are well organized. (802)
- Playing on a championship football team. (819)
- Rugby. (828)
- Working with the Associate Athletic Director. The time I spent working with him was as valuable but more valuable most likely as experiencing in your professional area is very important. (108)

### **Recognized Student Organizations/Activities**

- Extracurricular activities also played a large role in the positive experiences I had at EIU. (118)
- My involvement in extracurricular activities. (120)
- Being active in different organizations. (20)
- Active involvement in many registered student organizations. (151)
- Getting involved with organizations on campus. (213)
- Participation in student organizations. (276)

- I enjoyed most of the social clubs the school provided for the student to keep them active in their field of study. (347)
- Involvement in SHRM and Business Advisory Board. (367)
- Student activities. (394)
- My extracurricular activities. (396)
- Getting involved at EIU outside of classes, it allowed me to develop great leadership skills. (416.)
- Being in the university's band. (50)
- The experience I had working at The Daily Eastern News. (275)
- Opportunities for involvement in many activities, which helped me grow as a person and learn many useful skills for the professional world. (387)
- RSOs made EIU feel like a home away from home. (446.)
- My work at the Daily Eastern News, *Where It's At* magazine, and the internships I had at the *Journal Gazette-Times-Courier* prepared me well for my current position as reporter and photographer for the *Effingham Daily News*. (450)
- joining clubs, activities. (467)
- The Alpha Kappa Delta Honors Society for sociology majors gave me a well rounded education by providing opportunities to take knowledge gained in the classroom out into the community. (484)
- Extracurricular activities: Student Dean of College of Sciences, Clubs within major, Undergraduate Research. (489)
- The RSOs that I was involved in. (494)
- All of the RSOs made my time at Eastern full and exciting. RSOs benefited me making me a stronger leader, learning how to work as a team member, and helped me to learn time management, prioritizing, and communication skills. I truly feel my extracurricular activities helped me in my career. (518)
- Involvement in activities. (530)
- Extracurricular- EIU dancers great experience! (537)
- My experiences working for the student newspaper, the Daily Eastern News. (550)
- Getting involved in various functions and activities. (565)
- The extracurricular organizations that I was able to get involved in, business organizations, honors groups, campus, etc. and I was also leaders in these groups, (616)
- Outside clubs had a big impact. (647)
- I believe that being involved with outside organizations was extremely beneficial. (652)
- The extracurricular programs and clubs. (68)
- The outside activities are what really taught me time management and self-development, American Marketing Association, Peace meals , Big Brothers and Big Sisters). (702)
- Campus activities helped me to balance my time. (709)
- Working on campus and staying involved. (733)
- The help WEIU-TV gave me in furthering my education with hands on experience. (735)
- Working at WEIU-TV for 3 ½ years had the most positive impact on me during my time at Eastern. (743)
- Daily Eastern News. (755)
- Working at the Daily Eastern News. (787)
- My leadership organizations. (789)
- Participating in "major" related activities (Health Ed Resource Centers, Health Fair, Eta Sigma Gamma). (798)
- Programs put on by organizations of EIU. (847)
- University Board. (820)

## **Negative Impact**

- Lack of things to do outside of class. (90)
- Lack of entertainment outside of EIU campus. (213)
- The lack of activities to keep me on campus. (260)
- Living in Mattoon for the first two years had a negative impact because I didn't feel involved. (269)
- Most extra curricular activities and campus participation as a whole did not include older transfer students well. The older meaning 23-30. (420)
- Apathy of the students toward anything extracurricular. (571)
- Boring., nothing to do outside of class. (701)
- I had to work full-time and I was not able to be actively involved in the university. (707)
- Also, student apathy (in general) made for a less stimulating and active campus. (780)
- Extra activities were limited. (837)
- No organizations for Jewish students, no congregations, the JCC in Mattoon appalling, had travel to Champaign for holidays. (393)
- The women's basketball coach. As a member of the EIU women's team, Coach did not support my academics 100% and impacted my life with great mental abuse (negative). (61)
- The stresses of being an athlete and student, while my coach thought the sport was more important and everything should revolve around it. (46)
- The football program. (83)
- Lack of school spirit for all sports. (206)
- My varsity athletic coach. (317)
- The clique that developed the DEN newspaper. The made it hard to get involved. (661)
- There weren't enough activities on campus. Eastern needs more school functions (concerts, sports). (774)
- The track and field program. (565)

## **Social Aspects**

### **(Personal Relationships, Social Life, Greek Organizations)**

## **Positive Impact**

### **Personal Relationships/Social Life/Peer Interaction**

- I have made valuable friends. (625)
- My dorm life in Stevenson and all of my band friends. I'm an only child, so they became my family. (1)
- The support I needed not only from my family, co-workers, and friends, but also from my instructors. My support network went above and beyond the call. (704)
- Students. (38)
- Friends and teammates (83)
- The teachers and student body were fun, friendly, and memorable. (98)
- The people I met. (110)
- Students that I met. (112)
- I made tons of friends that I am still close with. (144)
- Relationships with roommates, friends, classmates. I am completely satisfied with my college education from EIU, but I will always cherish the relationships I formed through gaining this education. (175)
- The socialization with students in classes. (59)
- Friendships (197)
- Peers and family. I feel there is a great support system at EIU. (210)

- The friends I made and interesting people I met had the most positive impact. Friends I made there are currently striving after their dreams and it is inspiring to me that people take risks to achieve happiness. (219)
- Friends (224)
- The overall social interaction amongst students and staff helped me feel comfortable in all situations. (228)
- Interactions with students. (232)
- Coming back to graduate school I and having the same people that I got along with in my undergrad classes in my graduate classes. It made me comfortable. (236)
- The friendships I made through various activities and organizations I participated in. (243)
- The great people that I met and became friends with. The different kinds of social groups and people have helped me out tremendously. I think it helps to have an open mind and to think twice before judging others. (266)
- The friendships I made in and out of the classroom. Learning to live with other people. (282)
- The positive and helpful relationships I built with the students. (296)
- Relationships I developed with fellow students. (301)
- [Fellow] students. (307)
- Nice students (321.)
- I met my soon-to-be wife there. (327)
- Getting to know the fellow students and making new friends. (333)
- Encouragement of family and friends. (335)
- Friends. (340)
- The people. (341)
- The most positive impact I had at Eastern would be the group study time. Not necessarily group projects – just studying with other student preparing for a test. (356)
- The friends I made while rushing a sorority and attending the university. (364)
- Learning and meeting new people. I enjoyed all of my classes and enjoyed meeting other older students from various backgrounds. (370)
- Interaction with other students. (376)
- Good friends. I really grew as a person in four years. I had a great education/access to resources, and made life long friends. I miss EIU! (393)
- Many friends I met. (398)
- The closeness I had with the fellow students in my major. There were only a select few athletic trainers and we always tried to help if we could. (417)
- The most positive impact on me were the friendships I made in class and out of class. The classes were small enough that I got to know my fellow classmates and always had someone to turn to with class problems and or personal problems. I think we taught each other more than the teachers did sometimes. (432)
- Friends. (436)
- The people (friends) that I met there (437)
- Friends (444)
- Getting reassurance from my father. (445)
- The people I met. I was able to meet so many wonderful people in my four years at Eastern. (465)
- Just living on campus, meeting people (467)
- I was not a normal student because I returned to college over twenty years after finishing high school. I felt very accepted by the younger students in my classes. Their friendship was the most positive impact on me at EIU. (479)
- I ran into a few interesting, intelligent classmates who influenced some of my views and ideas to further help me along in classes. (490)
- The students . . . friendships that will last a lifetime. (495)
- Social aspects. (515)

- Interaction – academically and socially – with other students, including the student organization I was part of. (516)
- Meeting new individuals from all walks of life, including new friends, (519)
- Meeting life long friends. (532)
- The contacts/friendships I made at Eastern were (534)
- The people I met had the most positive impact on me. The friends and classmates I have met at Eastern are all wonderful people and most of them I still talk to now. (54.)
- Other students in honors program. (552)
- Being involved with my friends in campus activities – hall council, RHA, SCEC . . . (609)
- My acceptance by the students and professors while attending the university. Particularly at my age—a senior citizen. (612)
- The closeness our group of the same majors had during our methods courses. (595)
- Fellow students. (617.)
- Meeting my husband. (618)
- Friends that I met on the way. (635)
- Great social life with great relationships. (636)
- Interaction with other students, friendly students. (642)
- Just having friends throughout college going through the same stress of school helped me to realize that I was not alone. (645)
- The opportunity to be enrolled with other adult learners. (653)
- Meeting and learning from other students from around the country, and world. (664.)
- Fellow students. (667)
- Small, but yet a close community of friends. 2)
- My friends (689)
- The thing which most positively impacted me during my years at Eastern were: family and friends. When times were stressful or hard, I could always turn to my friends and family for support. (694)
- The positive impact provided by the people I played soccer with and the people I met in classes. (696)
- The support I needed not only from my family, co-workers, and friends, but also from my instructors. My support network went above and beyond the call. (704)
- Closeness of classmates.(705.)
- Working with other students. (707)
- The friends I made (735)
- My parents, my friends (741)
- The best thing about being an off-campus student was having many of the same students in each class. Over the three years I had learned to depend on the other students for support and help because the professors were not easily available for us. (772)
- Meeting my fiancé. (807)
- The social atmosphere. This is not to say, however, that the pinnacles of wisdom found in EIU’s history and economics departments offered minimal positive influence. They offered ideas and arguments later refined at the bar during an intellectual debate of which I am grateful for. (809)
- Meeting my wife. (819)
- Meeting great people, lasting friendships. (823)
- My peers! Mostly peers. (825)
- An adult social life away from home and parents. (830.)
- Knowing that my mother was in my corner pulling for me. (833)
- Friendships. (197)
- The friendships I made through various activities and organizations I participated in. (243)
- Meeting my fiancé. (807)

## **Greek Organizations**

- Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority–helped me become a confident person in everything I do. (19)
- Being involved with the Greek community helped to keep me involved on campus. It opened the doors to many other activities and groups/clubs that I otherwise would not have known about. It also taught me great time management skills. (26)
- Being involved in a fraternity (i.e. social, educational, leadership roles). (51)
- I was involved in from being in a sorority (77)
- Joining a fraternity and making life long friends. (90)
- Being a member of Delta Sigma Pi. (133)
- My fraternity. It gave me some very good business contacts and lifelong memories. (176)
- I really enjoyed the closeness of the FCS students. I loved getting to know everyone in my major. Also the Greek system helped me in many ways. Getting involved was the best thing I ever did. (195)
- Being active in a sorority; (226)
- Sorority – Kappa Delta Greek Life (230)
- My most positive experience was being a part of the Greek community and working with [the professional staff member] He has had such a tremendous influence in my life, as well as, the Greek system at EIU. (253)
- Joining a sorority and becoming active on campus. It was a great opportunity to meet people and get involved. (309.)
- Social (sorority) activities. (314)
- The members of the Greek Organization Sigma Chi. (358)
- The Greek system! (371)
- Being part of a sorority while attending Eastern. I met many wonderful people who were Greek including my Fiancé. (403)
- My Fraternity – Sigma Phi Epsilon (405)
- Sorority/fraternity Greek life. (414)
- Being in a fraternity. (415)
- My sorority. (437)
- Sigma Pi fraternity/Beta Gamma! (439)
- My involvement in student life is what prepared me the most for life after college and my present job. Being a member of EIU’s Greek life taught me the most about myself and prepared me for graduation. (443)
- Fraternity, friends. (453)
- My experience of living in a sorority (469)
- Greek Affiliation (489)
- Student life groups (Greek Life). (493)
- Joining a sorority, which gave me opportunities to grow and become involved on campus. (499)
- Joining my sorority and getting involved around campus. (513)
- My frat had great impact. (526)
- Being a member of a Greek Organization (Kappa Delta) had a huge impact on my college experience. Through my sorority, I became involved in many other organizations on campus. (567)
- My friends (Alpha Phi Sorority). (574)
- Sigma Pi fraternity. (582)
- Becoming a member of Delta Sigma Pi and having my brother follow in my footsteps by attending Eastern. (585)
- Also the opportunities I had with Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity. (591)
- Sorority. (616)
- My fraternity. (647)

- Being a part of Homecoming 2002 committee “Life’s a Game Show Theme”, Greek community, meeting my best friend. (662)
- Being a part of Greek life. (678)
- My sorority, friends, (679)
- My Greek experience and the wonderful and helpful people in the Student Life Office. It enabled me to improve my team work skills and leadership, as well as help me learn to respect all people whose beliefs and values were not the same as mine. (680)
- By joining Delta Chi, when I was a freshman, I was introduced to many new friends, events, traditions, and responsibilities. It made me a better man. (694)
- My fraternity and friends (Sigma Chi). (701)
- PHC, Alpha Delta, Order of Omega, Peace meals. (702)
- Participating in Delta Sigma Pi activities. (756)
- My time I spent in my sorority, Alpha Sigma Tau, helped me with leadership skills, time management, professionalism, and being involved in the community. (768)
- My involvement in extracurricular activities—Greek organizations and. Attending professional conferences and working with outside organizations. (820)
- The friendships I made through the Greek community. (824)
- Lambda Chi Alpha. (828)

## **Negative Impact**

### **Personal Relationships/Social Life/Peer Interaction**

- My most negative experience was other students who did not take their careers as students seriously. (42)
- I think the most negative impact on me was finding an after school support system for single parents or nontraditional students. I think this was the only aspect or negative experience of being enrolled at Eastern, my needs weren’t being met like the other student’s needs seemed to be. (84)
- The lack of a political conscience among EIU students. I think students would be more challenged to learn if they were aware of our government and its activities. (130)
- Some other students’ reactions to class work. There were occasions they believed they were not going to have to deal with real world situations. This was their problem and not the schools. (291)
- I would like to think of everything in a positive light, but I would say it was difficult being an older student and a single parent. I think that made me not fit in very well. But I still made friends. It is difficult though, going to school, not being around people my own age, not having a social life, and not having as much time with my son as I would like. (334)
- Many students leave on the weekend, it makes Eastern feel like a commuter school. (360)
- Friends passing away, either by murder or suicide. (371)
- Other students from which I previously knew before college. (407)
- Conflicts with other students, getting used because I am too nice. (433)
- A couple of roommates. (516)
- Freshman year, first semester. It was hard to adjust to the new environment, since I lived at home and not on campus. If I had it to do over again, I would have lived on campus for the first year, at least. (521)
- My living arrangements. I lived with 4 girls and couldn’t study like I would’ve liked. (621)
- It was hard to live away from home at first, but making friends eased the homesickness. (691)
- Most EIU students are very, very poorly prepared for college. (712)
- Difficulty with roommates my first two years. (721)
- Being undecided for 6 semesters. Having classmates who were uninterested, that complained about coursework, “I thought this subject was easy, that’s why I majored in it.” Also, the general apathy and unfriendliness. (791)

- The lack of understanding and consideration of nontraditional students. (800)
- I commuted from home, therefore I didn't spend much time in Charleston expect to go to classes. I wasn't involved in any organizations or groups, and I think that affected my social life at Eastern. (822)
- Bad roommate. (699)
- There was an incident with another student. I received a great deal of negative feedback from his friends/associates before I took him to judicial affairs. (52)
- The way stress affected some of my peers and helped guide them down the wrong path. (228)
- Not enough hours in the day. (176)
- All the long hours. (186)
- My commute. (214)
- My deteriorating hearing was the only negative circumstance at Eastern. I had a tough time getting the grades I wanted. (286)
- The time required to attend classes and do the homework, takes time from family if a person is working full time. (237)
- The campus was close enough to my home. I returned there often—something I wish I hadn't done. (255)
- Being away from loved ones back home. (296)
- Nothing the school had any control over. (457)
- I was not ready for the transition into college, and as a freshman I struggled with my classes. (473)
- I don't think I had any negative impact. If I didn't like one, nor had a hard time in a class, I would push through or talk to them about it. Worse case scenario, I would drop the class, I only dropped two! (499)
- Only the travel to and from classes (533)
- Death of a family member caused stress. (586)
- More personal family matters. (626)
- Nothing about the university. I had a hard time once in a while being far from home, friends, and family. (634)
- Procrastination. (643)
- My first 2 years were educationally, emotionally, [difficult]. I switched majors a few times and was stressed out. (645)
- Personal family problems that were unexpected and tragic. I look back at all of those situations and still wonder how I managed to even finish the semester. (704)
- The most negative impact while I was at Eastern was being 2 ½ hours away from home. Besides that, my experience was great! (717)
- Stress, but it is part of life! (729)
- Having to leave my family for nine months out of the year. (734)
- Traveling daily. (745)
- The travel distance. (769)
- 9/11 (821)
- I am a perfectionist, so I spent so much time working to get straight As, that I had no social life. (240)

### **Drinking**

- The booze (158)
- The bars and drinking parties. (183)
- Too much partying and not enough studying. (256)
- Having very little to do on or near campus that did not have anything to do with alcohol. (361)
- The students who constantly partied had the most negative impact on me. They were always the ones who were late for class, sleeping in class, or often absent from class. They rarely had their

homework done or knew what was going on. They were wasting time and money, probably belonging to someone else. I feel that they made me look bad, being so close to the same age and also being a student. I think you should have fun while in college, but do it in moderation. (683)

- Beer, sex, rock n' roll – no joke. (698)
- Some of the people at the university, too many people into partying and a bad way of life. (705)
- Lack of social opportunities. There was nothing to do but drink, and I'm not a drinker. I met less than half a dozen other students who didn't drink (other than Christian organizations), so finding friends and socializing was almost impossible. EIU claims that only a small number of their students drink. But I lived in the dorms and assure you that, on weekends, 70%-80% of the students came in stumbling drunk. (751)
- Excessive and out of control campus parties. Negative stereotyping of students. (760)

### **Greek Organizations**

- The way that all of the fraternities & sororities segregated themselves from campus & thought they were better than others because of the fact that they were in a fraternity/sorority. (25)
- The huge influence that the Greek system had on everything. I wasn't Greek! (31)
- The amount of fraternities on campus and how they treated those not in frats. (56)
- Sororities (80)
- Making the wrong choice of a sorority my freshman year. I think they should not let freshmen rush until their second year. This way they can be sure on their choice. (282.)
- Greeks. (313)
- The Greek students and their obsession with being 'all that' and thinking they are the coolest kids on campus! I hate Greeks! (466)
- I think the fact that all the social activities were centered around Greek Court. Not everyone felt the need to buy into an organization to make more friends. (417)
- My sorority experience. (583)
- Greek life had the most negative impact on me during my time at Eastern. The students with Greek affiliation were intimidating, held themselves in higher regard than others and showed disrupted for property, other students, and staff, and themselves. I stayed away from Greek life and I feel better about my education. (600)
- The amount of people who were involved in Greek or sport organizations that weren't open minded about letting outsiders in. I wish I would have had more opportunities to make friends with these people. (631)
- I feel the school is very sorority and fraternity based. Everything always seemed to revolve around them, and cater to them. I think more attention needs to be given to non-Greeks, rather than to the Greeks. (669)
- Due to the emphasis on Greek culture, often times classmates and group members would make activities related to Greek life as priority over class work. (713)
- Being a member of the Greek system (714)
- Too Greek. Charleston doesn't seem to have much to offer besides Greek life and bars, need more alternative choices. (719)
- Separation of Greek students (Greek and Non-Greek) etc., (759)
- It's not exactly negative, but rather didn't help my views much. That was a few (not all) of the sororities. They weren't very friendly to those not in them. (765)
- Greek life. (807)
- Now that I am in a school that is very compatible to Eastern, I see the negative effects that the Greek life can have on a campus. WWU has a sense of unity, openness, and friendliness I never experienced at EIU. Students here Love not having Greek Life! (834)

## **Residence Halls & Dining Services**

### **Positive Impact**

- Residence Halls (Directors/RAs) (178)
- The Residence Life Program had the most positive impact. I was involved as an R.A. for 1 ½ Years and on the Executive Board of NRHH. These experiences prepared me to handle the duties required of my current employment. (39)
- My experience as a resident assistant. (80)
- Being a resident assistant and participating in the events and programs that the job included. (308)
- Living in the dorm my first two years of college. (20)
- I also enjoyed my time living in the dormitory, Douglass Hall. (34)
- Living in the dorm my freshman year. (49)
- Having a roommate that had the same major as me and the same interests. It made my stay very enjoyable. (65)
- Living in Pemberton Hall where I made good friends who were always available to help with my studies. (342)
- Experiencing student life in Carman Hall freshman year was very positive also. (393)
- The dormitory life; the dorms provided me every social and friendly environment that kept me from feeling too much stress during my time at EIU. (448)
- In addition, my experience living and working as an R.A. in Weller Hall had a hugely positive impact on my life at EIU. I made the best friends, with whom I still keep in constant contact, and I learned a lot about myself and life in general. (460)
- Great friends made in university housing. (563)
- Living in the Residence Hall. It was such a positive impact on me socially and academically. (674)
- The most positive impact was living in the residence halls. I spent all four years in the same building and made the best friends ever. (744)
- My time as a Resident Assistant (834)
- Probably when I was an RA I learned a lot about dealing with people. (754)
- Being a part of residence life helped make me into the person I am today. (374)
- My job as an R.A. It help me develop critical skills that will help me the rest of my life. (434)
- Being a Resident Assistant had the biggest impact on me while I was at Eastern; it allowed me to become a stronger person and to get to know more about the university, as well as people on campus. (669)
- I worked as a Resident Assistant for two years and got to know the ins and outs of housing. I truly believe that the housing services is one of the best in Illinois. It gives so many options and alternatives to alcohol. The emphasis on community within the halls is also very positive. (30)

### **Negative Impact**

- Living in a dorm. (31)
- I lived in a Stevenson suite with four other suitemates. One of the suitemates was antisocial, violent, stubborn, and slovenly. He forced his roommate to live in the suite living room before that person ultimately moved. He made all of their rest of ups miserable but since we were the ones with ones with complaints, we were the ones expected to move out or live with him. Karl Aldrich (no longer employed) made little effort to help us mediate with the bad suitemate. Even [the Director] did nothing to help. Housing really failed the five of us (the bad suitemate included). But, I saw that other students were happy. (382)
- Pemberton Hall, I hated living there. At first, I enjoyed the community feel it offered but shortly it turned into a very strict environment to where we were not allowed to speak in the hallways and bathrooms. I eventually moved out. Also, it didn't help that my RA chose to dislike me and my

group of friends. We were labeled “Pem’s Problems” by other girls in the dorm because we partied outside of the dorm. (445)

- Housing (both on and off campus). However, the RAs of on-campus housing were always outstanding. (510)
- I lived in Pemberton for two years and it was uncomfortable without air conditioning. Also, there was a lot of construction and for the most of my four years; the library was in several different places. (542)
- University Housing itself; poor quality and poor maintenance. (563)
- I did not enjoy living in the dorms, and the food wasn’t that healthy in the cafeterias. Also, I think more dorms and floors should have been non-smoking. (696)
- Some trouble with Housing and the heating system. Overall, nothing major. (733)
- The food service. (797)
- Dorm living; freshman year was fine. The university maintains that dorm living is the ultimate experience. Sure, for the grossly expensive price of \$3,000 a year to live in a box with someone (sophomore year – awful). Rules so archaic and designed for those who fail to function without an authority figure. (809)
- Dining services. (837)
- Cold dorm rooms. (839)
- There should also be a more intent eye on matching dorm residents for the incoming freshman year. I was with my complete opposite, which made my first semester a bit more difficult to get through. (840)
- I wonder if there could be more strict visitation hours in the dorms, like there used to be years ago, seeing how there were so many couples staying over. Surely this has no positive impact on our society and is only encouraging premarital sex, abortions, and more pain to an already hurting world. (844)
- An overzealous R.A. my sophomore year. (610)

## **Career Preparation/Services/Job Placement**

### **Positive Impact**

- Career Services [career counselor] super friendly and helpful. (289)
- Career Services was very helpful during my time at Eastern. They had so many beneficial workshops and different service that they provided. (185)
- The helpfulness and availability of Career Services. (223)
- Career services helped me a ton—[the Director] is amazing. (270)

### **Negative Impact**

- I did not feel prepared for interviews or parent teacher conferences. (19, Elementary Education major)
- If I had to choose something, I would say the lack of help/encouragement in finding a job after graduation. (66, Elementary Education major)
- Job placements, would like to have more help finding in my field of Art History. (91)
- lack of help in finding a job. (102, Finance major)
- Career Services definitely needs improvement. I have many friends who attended other universities who had programs which helped much more with job placement upon graduation. (113, Sociology major)
- The companies that attended the job fair were mainly geared toward students who wanted to remain in central Illinois. That decreased the number of opportunities that some students had. Because there weren’t many companies at our job fair, I went to the ISU job fair. (123, Marketing major)

- I haven't found a better paying job yet. (147, BOT major)
- Lack of help for job placement, teachers were not well connected to industry. (206, Industrial Technology)
- The availability of trying to locate a job. Career Services put together a resume but didn't give advice of finding a job. (254, Management major)
- The lack of Chicago area companies recruiting on campus and the limited effectiveness of Career Services. I had a 3.95/4.00 in Accounting, and was involved, and I am finding difficulty in my employment searches. (274)
- Eastern's job fair was terrible for financial majors. All that was offered was sales jobs. (358)
- It's been extremely discouraging to be unable to find employment. I had approached the Career Placement office on campus, but I found that avenue not very satisfying and was told that all the steps I was employing in seeking a job were on track! To no avail, it has not been successful and thinks EIU can and should greatly improve in this area. (386, Career and Organizational Studies major)
- Job fair, job searching. (390, Management major)
- Thinking now that I picked the wrong major. I couldn't find a job in my field of study and final 10 months after graduation I got a job that has nothing to do with my degree. I thought I would be able to find a job quickly and related to my degree but was wrong. (403, Sociology major)
- When I was looking for a job during my last semester, I felt like there was no place to go to get my search jumpstarted in my major area. After graduating, I felt as if I wasted my time going to college because all hospitality management positions required at least 2 yrs of experience. No one cared that I did have a degree. I feel as if I could have been better prepared to find a job after graduating. (432, Family & Consumer Sciences major)
- Not getting any help placing me in my career. My internship was ok, but not really sure I got what I wanted out of it. (485, Health Studies major)
- I suppose the biggest disappointment is the actual preparation for the job market and what fits your needs. (534, Management major)
- I don't feel like EIU helps students get jobs after graduating or with the interview process. I did not have a clue how to start job hunting. EIU should do more with internships too. Internships can really help you get experience or your foot in the door and EIU did nothing for me. (566, Speech Communication major)
- No internship opportunities. (591, Marketing major)
- The shape of the economy when I graduated. (635, Management major)
- Better guidance for life after graduation (choices) job ideas, where and how to look. (706, Art major)
- I felt that the professors and the advisors were not helpful with finding a job after graduation. They did not give many suggestions when it came to professions I would actually be qualified for within my major (family services). (726, Family & Consumer Sciences)
- Nothing really had a negative impact on me, the fact that for me, it was hard making a decision on what to major in. Although I love my major, and the opportunities I had, the job I have now is extremely beneficial and has nothing to do with my major. (727, Family & Consumer Sciences major)
- Nothing while attending EIU, but now not being able to find a job makes me second guess my major. (738, Health Studies major)
- Cannot find teaching job as a History teacher. (759)
- I was told EIU had 100% job placement when I was deciding to go here. Walking out of EIU doors without a job and still looking for the right job with the right pay is frustrating and disheartening. (768, Art major)
- Placement department helped, but needed to be stronger. (802, Psychology major)
- I don't feel like I was given much help in choosing a career path; I was never sure what my options were (outside academia) with a degree in communication; I'm still not really sure. (836)

## **Financial Aid/Tuition & Fees/Economy/Jobs**

### **Positive Impact**

- Cost, Reasonable price compared to other schools. (206)
- Affordability. (365)
- Book rental was good on the pocketbook. (802)

### **Negative Impact**

- Overloaded by having to keep 2 jobs while going to school. (7)
- The fee increases all the time! (71)
- Tuition. (79)
- Paying monthly instead of bi-weekly for student jobs. (102)
- The lack of grants, scholarships, and other financial aid leaves me paying off loans for the next 20 years. (162)
- Poverty. (184)
- The financial aspect at Eastern. I felt I was always struggling financially because I did not get as much assistance as needed. (189)
- The economy of Charleston – difficult to find work. (229)
- Constantly having to fight the financial aid office for scholarships and grants that I was supposed to receive 8 out of 10 semesters. (292)
- Negative attitudes of particular individual employees of the University (i.e., employees of financial aid). (301)
- The most negative impact was working 20 hours a week and taking 15-18 hours credit hours. It was a lot of pressure when I had really hard classes, however, my financial situation would not allow any other option. (356)
- Financial Aid. As an older student, I was not familiar with how financial aid works. Consequently, I now owe EIU over \$2000, which has put a hold on my transcripts and diploma. With that type of hold, I cannot apply anywhere including EIU for Grad. school. (370)
- Having to work 35 hours a week at a job in order to pay for the 18 credit hours I was taking. (423)
- Lack of assistance with financial issues i.e. technical questions. (453)
- Costs rose each year and some years Financial Aid helped more than others. (470)
- Well, sadly enough there are many to choose from that all deal with administration and other personnel that work in the Financial Aid building as well as Old Main. Through these adverse circumstances, I felt that the University did not care about me as a student or an individual, but rather as a warm body that provided a fraction of its income. (472)
- I also disliked the potential for getting scholarships while at Eastern. I never heard about scholarships until after the deadline. (496)
- Working in the dish room at Taylor Dining to support myself. (505)
- Not a lot of jobs on campus. (519)
- I worked a lot of overtime and sometimes it had an impact on my ability to complete assignments. (524)
- Lack of money. (550)
- I think student teachers should not have to pay for things on campus that I was not able to use because I lived too far away while student teaching. I think we should have the option of a discontinued tuition. (553)
- Not receiving any financial aid. (577)
- Too much money in pharmacy. (590)
- Financial aid. (595)
- Budget cuts. (600)

- Financially hard. Also, my last year was stressful because funding was cut because I was a 5<sup>th</sup> year student and had to find private loans to get me through! (645)
- Financial burdens. (697)
- Paying for school was hard at first. (729)
- Cost of education is high, would like to obtain my Master's, but need to pay off other student loan first. (771)
- Student fees are excessive. I believe they were nearly \$800 this semester. (776)
- Financial stress. (839)
- The financial aid department! (847)
- The use of EIU's funds. Using funding to provide for sports teams that do not contribute to the academic climate of the university. (156)