

# STUDENT INFORMATION PROJECT

## *Entering Student Questionnaire* 1997-1998 Profile of Participants

*Total Number of Schools :* 80

*Total Number of Students :* 3,993

### Selected Highlights of Your 1997-1998 School Profile

The following statements reflect a sample of some of the important information contained in your school profile. There is more to be gleaned from a careful reading of your tables and those of the **1997-1998 Profile of Participants**.

- > (Table 5) The one statement indicating the number of hours per week your full-time M.Div. students plan to work this year more than any other was: None. Those whose commute was less than 1/2 hour represented: 29.6%. Those whose commute would take between 1/2 and 1 hour was: 15.1%.  
-
- > (Table 6) The percentage of students who had one or two dependents was: 23.3%. The following percentage had three or more: 16.1%.  
-
- > (Table 7) Most students at your school brought the following amount of debt with them to seminary: None. The percentage that had a high debt load of \$15,000 or more was: 11.7%.  
-
- > (Table 9) Students come to seminary with a broad range of undergraduate degrees. In rank order, the most typical undergraduate degree programs for your entering students were: Religion/Theology, Social Sciences and Education.  
-
- > (Table 10) Students are more likely to come to theological programs with advanced degrees than was true in the past. The total percentage of students entering with such degrees was: NA. The most frequently cited degrees were: Total and J.D./L.L.B..  
-
- > (Table 11) From a list of twelve choices, your students indicated in rank order, that they were most likely to have learned about your school from the following sources: Friend, Graduate and Pastor.  
-
- > (Table 12) The first contact with your school was most likely to be: Telephoned school. The one contact rated 'Important' or 'Very Important' by the greatest number of your students was: Telephoned school.  
-
- > (Table 13) The percentage of students who visited your campus prior to beginning their studies was: 72.2%. The percentage that ranked that visit as 'Important' or 'Very Important' was: 83.9%.  
-
- > (Table 14) The percentage of students who ranked your financial aid package as 'significant' or higher was: 47.6%.  
-
- > (Table 15) The most important reasons for attending your school were, in rank order: School's academic reputation, Impressed with quality of faculty and Comfortable with doctrinal position.  
-
- > (Table 16) The most important reasons for choosing your institution were: Academic reputation, Theological perspective, Faculty, Denominational affiliation and Spirituality.  
-
- > (Table 17) Students in the M.Div. program at your school indicated that they were likely to consider seminary anytime from before college until after work experience. The following percentage selected either 'Before college' or 'During college': 55.2%. The following percentage first considered it 'After work experience': 30.2%.  
-
- > (Table 21) There are a variety of reasons involved in every seminarian's personal choice or calling. Among your students, the highest rated sources in rank order were: Experienced call from God, Desire to serve others and Opportunity for study/growth.

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997

All Schools

**TABLE 1**  
**Percent of Enrollment by Degree Program, Marital Status, and Gender**

Degree Program	Single				Married				Total #
	Male		Female		Male		Female		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Pre-theology	21	84.0	1	4.0	3	12.0	0	0.0	25
M.Div.	631	28.1	521	23.2	770	34.3	323	14.4	2245
M.A. Professional/M.R.E./M.C.M.	69	15.3	150	33.2	126	27.9	107	23.7	452
M.A.R./M.T.S./M.A. (academic)	120	25.3	143	30.2	119	25.1	92	19.4	474
D.Min.	3	14.3	9	42.9	8	38.1	1	4.8	21
Ed.D./D.Miss./D.M.A.	1	11.1	5	55.6	1	11.1	2	22.2	9
Th.M./S.T.M.	15	15.3	15	15.3	55	56.1	13	13.3	98
Ph.D./Th.D./S.T.D.	14	16.3	17	19.8	43	50.0	12	14.0	86
Non-degree special	21	17.8	30	25.4	27	22.9	40	33.9	118
Diploma/certificate	19	16.4	29	25.0	46	39.7	22	19.0	116
Other	23	20.4	33	29.2	26	23.0	31	27.4	113
-									
Total	937	24.9	953	25.4	1224	32.6	643	17.1	3757

	Total	
	#	%
Pre-theology	25	0.7
M.Div.	2245	59.8
M.A. Professional/M.R.E./M.C.M.	452	12.0
M.A.R./M.T.S./M.A. (academic)	474	12.6
D.Min.	21	0.6
Ed.D./D.Miss./D.M.A.	9	0.2
Th.M./S.T.M.	98	2.6
Ph.D./Th.D./S.T.D.	86	2.3
Non-degree special	118	3.1
Diploma/certificate	116	3.1
Other	113	3.0
-		
Total	3757	100.0

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997

All Schools

**TABLE 2**  
**Enrollment by Racial/Ethnic Identity and Citizenship**

Degree Program	Asian		Black		Hispan		White		NatAm		NRes		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Pre-theology	3	12.0	2	8.0	3	12.0	16	64.0	0	0.0	1	4.0	25
M.Div.	133	5.8	295	12.9	58	2.5	1785	77.8	14	0.6	10	0.4	2295
M.A. Professional/M.R.E./M.C.M	27	5.9	60	13.0	11	2.4	356	77.2	3	0.7	4	0.9	461
M.A.R./M.T.S./M.A. (academic)	46	9.5	48	9.9	15	3.1	359	74.0	2	0.4	15	3.1	485
D.Min.	2	8.3	3	12.5	1	4.2	15	62.5	0	0.0	3	12.5	24
Ed.D./D.Miss./D.M.A.	2	22.2	2	22.2	0	0.0	5	55.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Th.M./S.T.M.	46	45.5	11	10.9	0	0.0	36	35.6	0	0.0	8	7.9	101
Ph.D./Th.D./S.T.D.	24	28.6	5	6.0	5	6.0	49	58.3	0	0.0	1	1.2	84
Non-degree special	6	5.1	7	5.9	2	1.7	99	83.9	0	0.0	4	3.4	118
Diploma/certificate	12	10.3	7	6.0	2	1.7	89	76.7	2	1.7	4	3.4	116
Other	3	2.6	10	8.5	7	6.0	92	78.6	1	0.9	4	3.4	117
-													
Total	304	7.9	450	11.7	104	2.7	2901	75.6	22	0.6	54	1.4	3835

Degree Program	Total			Citizenship	
	#	%		#	%
Pre-theology	25	0.7	U.S.	3541	89.6
M.Div.	2295	59.8	Canadian	32	0.8
M.A. Professional/M.R.E./M.C.M.	461	12.0	Other	379	9.6
M.A.R./M.T.S./M.A. (academic)	485	12.6	-		
D.Min.	24	0.6	Total	3952	100.0
Ed.D./D.Miss./D.M.A.	9	0.2			
Th.M./S.T.M.	101	2.6			
Ph.D./Th.D./S.T.D.	84	2.2			
Non-degree special	118	3.1			
Diploma/certificate	116	3.0			
Other	117	3.1			
-					
Total	3835	100.0			



U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997

All Schools

**TABLE 3**  
**Year of Birth, Marital Status, and Gender**

M.Div. Year of Birth	Single				Married				Total	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
	Before 1941	7	15.2	13	28.3	17	37.0	9		
1941-1950	41	13.2	86	27.7	99	31.8	85	27.3	311	14.6
1951-1960	64	13.3	98	20.4	193	40.1	126	26.2	481	22.6
1961-1970	191	30.6	110	17.6	273	43.8	50	8.0	624	29.4
1971-1980	299	45.9	173	26.5	146	22.4	34	5.2	652	30.7
After 1980	4	40.0	2	20.0	4	40.0	0	0.0	10	0.5
-										
Total	606	28.5	482	22.7	732	34.5	304	14.3	2124	100.0

Professional M.A. Year of Birth	Single				Married				Total	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
	Before 1941	0	0.0	4	36.4	4	36.4	3		
1941-1950	3	5.3	19	33.3	11	19.3	24	42.1	57	13.5
1951-1960	8	8.2	22	22.7	34	35.1	33	34.0	97	23.0
1961-1970	22	17.3	31	24.4	50	39.4	24	18.9	127	30.2
1971-1980	32	25.2	66	52.0	18	14.2	11	8.7	127	30.2
After 1980	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	50.0	1	50.0	2	0.5
-										
Total	65	15.4	142	33.7	118	28.0	96	22.8	421	100.0

All Others Year of Birth	Single				Married				Total	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
	Before 1941	8	21.6	16	43.2	11	29.7	2		
1941-1950	12	8.0	37	24.7	42	28.0	59	39.3	150	15.5
1951-1960	26	10.6	50	20.3	103	41.9	67	27.2	246	25.4
1961-1970	80	26.1	58	19.0	118	38.6	50	16.3	306	31.5
1971-1980	90	39.5	92	40.4	30	13.2	16	7.0	228	23.5
After 1980	1	33.3	0	0.0	2	66.7	0	0.0	3	0.3
-										
Total	217	22.4	253	26.1	306	31.5	194	20.0	970	100.0

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997  
All Schools

**TABLE 4**  
**Year of Birth and Racial Identity**

Year of Birth	Asian		Black		Hispn		White		NatAm		NRes		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Before 1941	2	0.1	8	0.4	0	0.0	38	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	48
1941-1950	9	0.4	46	2.2	3	0.1	253	11.8	2	0.1	1	0.0	314
1951-1960	18	0.8	76	3.6	12	0.6	369	17.3	6	0.3	2	0.1	483
1961-1970	52	2.4	85	4.0	20	0.9	462	21.6	2	0.1	4	0.2	625
1971-1980	41	1.9	47	2.2	17	0.8	547	25.6	3	0.1	2	0.1	657
After 1980	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	10	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	11
-													
Total	122	5.7	263	12.3	52	2.4	1679	78.5	13	0.6	9	0.4	2138

	Total	
	#	%
Before 1941	48	2.2
1941-1950	314	14.7
1951-1960	483	22.6
1961-1970	625	29.2
1971-1980	657	30.7
After 1980	11	0.5
-		
Total	2138	100.0

**TABLE 5**  
**Enrollment Status by Length of Commute and Planned Hours of Work per Week**

<b>FULL-TIME STUDENT</b>												
<b>M.Div.</b>	Planned Hours of Work per Week											
	None		1-10		10-15		15-20		More than 20		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
No Commute	241	27.0	178	19.9	266	29.8	142	15.9	67	7.5	894	45.7
Less than 1/2 hour	136	23.5	69	11.9	103	17.8	125	21.6	145	25.1	578	29.6
1/2 to 1 hour	63	21.4	33	11.2	51	17.3	74	25.1	74	25.1	295	15.1
More than 1 hour	25	13.3	27	14.4	20	10.6	38	20.2	78	41.5	188	9.6
-												
Total	465	23.8	307	15.7	440	22.5	379	19.4	364	18.6	1955	100.0

  

<b>Professional M.A.</b>												
	Planned Hours of Work per Week											
	None		1-10		10-15		15-20		More than 20		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
No Commute	31	31.0	15	15.0	19	19.0	22	22.0	13	13.0	100	31.4
Less than 1/2 hour	28	22.2	22	17.5	18	14.3	21	16.7	37	29.4	126	39.6
1/2 to 1 hour	12	21.1	7	12.3	7	12.3	8	14.0	23	40.4	57	17.9
More than 1 hour	10	28.6	4	11.4	4	11.4	5	14.3	12	34.3	35	11.0
-												
Total	81	25.5	48	15.1	48	15.1	56	17.6	85	26.7	318	100.0

  

<b>PART-TIME STUDENT</b>												
<b>M.Div.</b>	Planned Hours of Work per Week											
	None		1-10		10-15		15-20		More than 20		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
No Commute	4	19.0	2	9.5	1	4.8	1	4.8	13	61.9	21	6.1
Less than 1/2 hour	7	8.2	0	0.0	2	2.4	7	8.2	69	81.2	85	24.5
1/2 to 1 hour	11	7.5	2	1.4	4	2.7	10	6.8	120	81.6	147	42.4
More than 1 hour	8	8.5	3	3.2	3	3.2	8	8.5	72	76.6	94	27.1
-												
Total	30	8.6	7	2.0	10	2.9	26	7.5	274	79.0	347	100.0

  

<b>Professional M.A.</b>												
	Planned Hours of Work per Week											
	None		1-10		10-15		15-20		More than 20		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
No Commute	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	80.0	5	3.5
Less than 1/2 hour	1	2.2	0	0.0	2	4.3	4	8.7	39	84.8	46	32.2
1/2 to 1 hour	5	7.9	2	3.2	2	3.2	3	4.8	51	81.0	63	44.1
More than 1 hour	3	10.3	1	3.4	1	3.4	3	10.3	21	72.4	29	20.3
-												
Total	10	7.0	3	2.1	5	3.5	10	7.0	115	80.4	143	100.0

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997  
All Schools

**TABLE 6**  
**Number of Dependents by Gender and Marital Status**

No. of Dependents	Single				Married				Total	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
None	885	38.6	820	35.7	319	13.9	270	11.8	2294	60.6
One	37	8.1	77	16.8	237	51.6	108	23.5	459	12.1
Two	15	3.5	47	11.1	228	53.8	134	31.6	424	11.2
Three	4	1.2	13	3.8	238	70.4	83	24.6	338	8.9
Four or more	6	2.2	4	1.5	209	76.8	53	19.5	272	7.2
-										
Total	947	25.0	961	25.4	1231	32.5	648	17.1	3787	100.0

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997  
All Schools

**TABLE 7**  
**Educational Debt by Degree Program and Gender**

Educational Debt	MDiv				Prof MA				All Others				Total	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
None	841	60.3	527	62.3	119	61.0	164	64.3	363	65.4	339	68.8	2353	62.9
Less than \$5,000	122	8.7	67	7.9	22	11.3	20	7.8	51	9.2	26	5.3	308	8.2
\$5,000 to \$10,000	132	9.5	89	10.5	15	7.7	16	6.3	40	7.2	44	8.9	336	9.0
\$10,000 to \$15,000	131	9.4	70	8.3	18	9.2	25	9.8	32	5.8	29	5.9	305	8.2
\$15,000 to \$25,000	122	8.7	59	7.0	18	9.2	23	9.0	36	6.5	29	5.9	287	7.7
More than \$25,000	47	3.4	34	4.0	3	1.5	7	2.7	33	5.9	26	5.3	150	4.0
-														
Total	1395	37.3	846	22.6	195	5.2	255	6.8	555	14.8	493	13.2	3739	100.0

**TABLE 8**  
**Highest Level of Education of Parents or Guardians**

Highest Level of Education	Father/Guardian		Mother/Guardian		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Grade School	314	8.4	252	6.7	566	7.5
Some High School	294	7.9	283	7.5	577	7.7
Diploma/Equivalent	781	20.9	974	25.9	1755	23.4
Business/trade school	175	4.7	218	5.8	393	5.2
Some college	392	10.5	478	12.7	870	11.6
Associate/2-year degree	123	3.3	270	7.2	393	5.2
Bachelor's/4-year degree	592	15.8	609	16.2	1201	16.0
Some grad/prof school	177	4.7	195	5.2	372	5.0
Grad/professional degree	897	24.0	487	12.9	1384	18.4
-						
Total	3745	49.9	3766	50.1	7511	100.0

**TABLE 9**  
**Area of Undergraduate Degree and Type of Institution**

Area of Degree	Public		Priv. Non Rel		Priv. Rel		* Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Art/Art history	51	49.5	24	23.3	28	27.2	103	2.2
Business	188	55.0	55	16.1	99	28.9	342	7.2
Classics	8	25.8	6	19.4	17	54.8	31	0.7
Communications	114	61.6	20	10.8	51	27.6	185	3.9
Economics	32	41.6	22	28.6	23	29.9	77	1.6
Education	194	56.6	26	7.6	123	35.9	343	7.2
Engineering	87	69.6	29	23.2	9	7.2	125	2.6
English	127	41.8	61	20.1	116	38.2	304	6.4
Health Professions	88	64.2	18	13.1	31	22.6	137	2.9
History	127	47.7	48	18.0	91	34.2	266	5.6
Languages	45	34.1	27	20.5	60	45.5	132	2.8
Life Sciences	77	57.5	27	20.1	30	22.4	134	2.8
Music	71	40.3	28	15.9	77	43.8	176	3.7
Philosophy	64	30.9	32	15.5	111	53.6	207	4.3
Physical Sciences, Math	72	47.7	28	18.5	51	33.8	151	3.2
Religion/Theology	114	12.3	94	10.2	717	77.5	925	19.4
Social Sciences	274	51.4	80	15.0	179	33.6	533	11.2
Sociology	69	44.8	23	14.9	62	40.3	154	3.2
Visual and Performing Arts	29	39.7	22	30.1	22	30.1	73	1.5
Other	182	50.1	62	17.1	119	32.8	363	7.6
-								
Total	2013	42.3	732	15.4	2016	42.3	4761	100.0

\* Total number of responses

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997  
All Schools

**TABLE 10**  
**Highest Degree Beyond Bachelor's**

Beyond Bachelor's	M.Div.		Prof. M.A.		All Others		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
None	1785	78.1	368	80.5	609	58.1	2762	72.9
Ed.D.	4	0.2	11	2.4	134	12.8	149	3.9
J.D./L.L.B.	290	12.7	51	11.2	209	19.9	550	14.5
Master's	43	1.9	5	1.1	7	0.7	55	1.5
M.B.A.	51	2.2	0	0.0	11	1.0	62	1.6
M.D.	1	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.3	4	0.1
M.Div.	9	0.4	1	0.2	1	0.1	11	0.3
M.S.W.	38	1.7	3	0.7	27	2.6	68	1.8
Ph.D.	5	0.2	3	0.7	4	0.4	12	0.3
Other Degree	14	0.6	1	0.2	5	0.5	20	0.5
Other Doctorate	7	0.3	0	0.0	4	0.4	11	0.3
Other Professional	17	0.7	6	1.3	15	1.4	38	1.0
-								
Total	2286	100.0	457	100.0	1048	100.0	3791	100.0



**TABLE 11**  
**How Student Learned About School**

Source	MDiv				Prof MA				All Others				* Total	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		N = 3644	
	N = 1368		N = 822		N = 190		N = 247		N = 542		N = 475			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Graduate	548	38.3	341	23.8	77	5.4	81	5.7	200	14.0	185	12.9	1432	16.2
Relative	173	39.9	86	19.8	30	6.9	33	7.6	45	10.4	67	15.4	434	4.9
Friend	589	38.3	339	22.0	84	5.5	89	5.8	220	14.3	217	14.1	1538	17.4
Mailings	271	38.8	172	24.6	37	5.3	47	6.7	89	12.7	83	11.9	699	7.9
Theological school publ.	300	39.9	167	22.2	25	3.3	31	4.1	145	19.3	84	11.2	752	8.5
Current student	235	41.3	142	25.0	25	4.4	29	5.1	73	12.8	65	11.4	569	6.4
Newspaper/magazine ad	68	34.3	30	15.2	11	5.6	17	8.6	40	20.2	32	16.2	198	2.2
College advisor/contact	211	35.0	104	17.2	40	6.6	46	7.6	107	17.7	95	15.8	603	6.8
Pastor	631	45.6	370	26.7	51	3.7	52	3.8	143	10.3	138	10.0	1385	15.6
Religious superior	215	50.8	90	21.3	14	3.3	16	3.8	55	13.0	33	7.8	423	4.8
Knowing faculty member(s)	124	29.8	95	22.8	29	7.0	31	7.5	71	17.1	66	15.9	416	4.7
Conference or church event	150	37.2	122	30.3	14	3.5	25	6.2	40	9.9	52	12.9	403	4.6
Total													8852	100.0

\* Total number of responses

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997  
All Schools

**TABLE 12**  
**First Contact and Importance of Visit to Theological School**

M.Div. First Contact	Level of Importance									
	Not Imp		Not VImp		Import		VImport		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Wrote to school requesting information	26	6.4	55	13.5	126	30.9	201	49.3	408	22.2
Telephoned school	58	7.3	80	10.1	257	32.3	400	50.3	795	43.3
Visited school	16	4.2	43	11.3	150	39.6	170	44.9	379	20.6
Returned postal card	5	6.5	8	10.4	26	33.8	38	49.4	77	4.2
Recruiter visited my college/church	6	5.9	15	14.7	36	35.3	45	44.1	102	5.6
School initiated contact	10	13.2	9	11.8	25	32.9	32	42.1	76	4.1
-										
Total	121	6.6	210	11.4	620	33.8	886	48.2	1837	100.0

Professional M.A. First Contact	Level of Importance									
	Not Imp		Not VImp		Import		VImport		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Wrote to school requesting information	7	12.7	6	10.9	19	34.5	23	41.8	55	16.5
Telephoned school	13	7.9	28	17.1	61	37.2	62	37.8	164	49.2
Visited school	2	2.7	16	21.9	32	43.8	23	31.5	73	21.9
Returned postal card	0	0.0	1	7.7	7	53.8	5	38.5	13	3.9
Recruiter visited my college/church	3	17.6	0	0.0	7	41.2	7	41.2	17	5.1
School initiated contact	1	9.1	0	0.0	3	27.3	7	63.6	11	3.3
-										
Total	26	7.8	51	15.3	129	38.7	127	38.1	333	100.0

All Others First Contact	Level of Importance									
	Not Imp		Not VImp		Import		VImport		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Wrote to school requesting information	21	12.7	26	15.7	54	32.5	65	39.2	166	23.4
Telephoned school	24	7.9	44	14.5	116	38.2	120	39.5	304	42.8
Visited school	8	4.3	23	12.4	72	38.7	83	44.6	186	26.2
Returned postal card	1	5.6	5	27.8	7	38.9	5	27.8	18	2.5
Recruiter visited my college/church	4	23.5	2	11.8	3	17.6	8	47.1	17	2.4
School initiated contact	2	10.5	2	10.5	7	36.8	8	42.1	19	2.7
-										
Total	60	8.5	102	14.4	259	36.5	289	40.7	710	100.0

**TABLE 13**  
**Questions on the Importance of Campus Visit and Student Housing**

Frequency of Response to	Yes		No	
	#	%	#	%
Visited campus	2823	72.2	1088	27.8
Applied elsewhere	1194	30.5	2723	69.5
Comparable/better financial package	534	18.8	2306	81.2
-				
Total	4551	42.7	6117	57.3

Level of Importance of Campus Visit	#	%
Not important at all	99	3.5
Not very important	353	12.5
Important	1024	36.4
Very Important	1337	47.5
-		
Total	2813	100.0

Live In Student Housing	#	%
Yes	1466	37.3
No	2463	62.7
-		
Total	3929	100.0

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997  
All Schools

**TABLE 14**  
**Significance of Financial Aid Package on Choice of School**

Level of Significance	Single				Married				Total #
	Male		Female		Male		Female		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
No significance	206	24.6	150	17.9	310	37.0	172	20.5	838
Some significance	133	23.5	143	25.3	201	35.5	89	15.7	566
Significant	176	27.5	182	28.5	197	30.8	84	13.1	639
Great significance	199	25.8	250	32.5	221	28.7	100	13.0	770
Greatest significance	89	25.1	110	31.1	108	30.5	47	13.3	354
Did not apply for aid	125	23.3	109	20.3	161	30.0	141	26.3	536
-									
Total	928	25.1	944	25.5	1198	32.4	633	17.1	3703

Level of Significance	Total	
	#	%
No significance	838	22.6
Some significance	566	15.3
Significant	639	17.3
Great significance	770	20.8
Greatest significance	354	9.6
Did not apply for aid	536	14.5
-		
Total	3703	100.0

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997

All Schools

**TABLE 15**  
**Importance of Factors in Decision to Attend Institution**

Source of Influence	Male		Female	
	N = 2118		N = 1582	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
My denomination encouraged attendance	2.4	1.6	2.2	1.5
Impressed with quality of faculty	3.8	1.2	3.8	1.2
Pastor encouraged me	2.5	1.5	2.3	1.4
School's academic reputation	3.9	1.2	4.0	1.1
Graduate recommended it highly	3.0	1.6	3.1	1.6
Faculty member encouraged me	2.0	1.4	1.8	1.4
Wanted school close to home/work	2.3	1.6	2.7	1.7
Comfortable with doctrinal position	3.4	1.3	3.4	1.3
I was sent there by a religious supervisor	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.0
Impressed with admissions staff	2.7	1.4	3.0	1.4
Relative went there	2.2	1.5	2.2	1.6
Only theological school in area	1.6	1.1	1.7	1.3
Offered good financial aid package	2.2	1.5	2.3	1.5

1 - Of no importance	3 - Somewhat important	5 - Very important
----------------------	------------------------	--------------------

**TABLE 16**  
**Top Five Reasons for Choosing a Particular Institution**

Top Reasons for Choice	Male		Female		* Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Close to home	622	6.0	552	7.2	1174	6.5
Denominational affiliation	947	9.2	643	8.4	1590	8.9
Theological perspective	1233	12.0	711	9.3	1944	10.8
Academic reputation	1267	12.3	869	11.4	2136	11.9
Curriculum	736	7.1	556	7.3	1292	7.2
Sense of community	553	5.4	527	6.9	1080	6.0
Financial aid package	528	5.1	363	4.8	891	5.0
Faculty	998	9.7	594	7.8	1592	8.9
Ecumenical setting	278	2.7	262	3.4	540	3.0
Spirituality	763	7.4	554	7.3	1317	7.3
Location	627	6.1	441	5.8	1068	6.0
University setting	222	2.2	159	2.1	381	2.1
Family/spouse	243	2.4	186	2.4	429	2.4
Interdisciplinary/joint degree program	120	1.2	145	1.9	265	1.5
Flexible class schedule	326	3.2	282	3.7	608	3.4
Special academic program	262	2.5	248	3.3	510	2.8
Access to other theological schools	165	1.6	168	2.2	333	1.9
Multi-ethnic student body	178	1.7	211	2.8	389	2.2
Friend on campus	125	1.2	68	0.9	193	1.1
Availability of housing	124	1.2	76	1.0	200	1.1
-						
Total	10317	100.0	7615	100.0	17932	100.0

\* Total number of responses

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997  
All Schools

TABLE 17

Time When First Considered Theological School and Personal Theological Position

M.Div.												
First Considered	Very Conserv		Conserv		Middle		Liberal		Very Lib		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Before college	41	7.0	186	32.0	208	35.7	111	19.1	36	6.2	582	25.6
During college	32	4.8	261	39.0	217	32.4	129	19.3	31	4.6	670	29.5
After graduating college	11	5.2	79	37.4	76	36.0	35	16.6	10	4.7	211	9.3
After graduate work	4	5.0	26	32.5	19	23.8	25	31.3	6	7.5	80	3.5
After work experience	48	7.0	216	31.5	229	33.4	157	22.9	36	5.2	686	30.2
Cannot remember	2	4.9	15	36.6	14	34.1	10	24.4	0	0.0	41	1.8
-												
Total	138	6.1	783	34.5	763	33.6	467	20.6	119	5.2	2270	100.0

  

Professional M.A.												
First Considered	Very Conserv		Conserv		Middle		Liberal		Very Lib		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Before college	8	15.7	20	39.2	15	29.4	7	13.7	1	2.0	51	11.2
During college	14	9.7	76	52.8	23	16.0	23	16.0	8	5.6	144	31.6
After graduating college	3	4.3	31	44.9	23	33.3	9	13.0	3	4.3	69	15.1
After graduate work	1	5.9	5	29.4	8	47.1	1	5.9	2	11.8	17	3.7
After work experience	9	5.7	83	52.2	39	24.5	24	15.1	4	2.5	159	34.9
Cannot remember	3	18.8	10	62.5	2	12.5	1	6.3	0	0.0	16	3.5
-												
Total	38	8.3	225	49.3	110	24.1	65	14.3	18	3.9	456	100.0

  

All Others												
First Considered	Very Conserv		Conserv		Middle		Liberal		Very Lib		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Before college	17	8.2	56	27.1	73	35.3	36	17.4	25	12.1	207	19.6
During college	15	5.4	93	33.7	95	34.4	49	17.8	24	8.7	276	26.2
After graduating college	8	5.1	63	39.9	37	23.4	42	26.6	8	5.1	158	15.0
After graduate work	2	4.4	18	40.0	11	24.4	11	24.4	3	6.7	45	4.3
After work experience	32	9.9	91	28.1	96	29.6	82	25.3	23	7.1	324	30.7
Cannot remember	2	4.4	13	28.9	13	28.9	8	17.8	9	20.0	45	4.3
-												
Total	76	7.2	334	31.7	325	30.8	228	21.6	92	8.7	1055	100.0

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997

All Schools

**TABLE 18**  
**Description of Institution & Personal Theological Position**

**M.Div.**

Institution	Very Cons		Conserv		Middle		Liberal		Very Lib		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very Conservative	51	49.0	38	36.5	11	10.6	4	3.8	0	0.0	104	4.6
Conservative	47	8.4	379	67.4	95	16.9	33	5.9	8	1.4	562	24.9
Middle-of-the-road	14	2.4	160	27.0	294	49.7	105	17.7	19	3.2	592	26.2
Liberal	12	2.4	97	19.8	176	35.9	170	34.7	35	7.1	490	21.7
Very Liberal	6	5.0	32	26.4	31	25.6	38	31.4	14	11.6	121	5.4
Theologically diverse	6	1.5	73	18.8	154	39.6	115	29.6	41	10.5	389	17.2
-												
Total	136	6.0	779	34.5	761	33.7	465	20.6	117	5.2	2258	100.0

**Professional M.A.**

Institution	Very Cons		Conserv		Middle		Liberal		Very Lib		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very Conservative	16	38.1	20	47.6	5	11.9	1	2.4	0	0.0	42	9.4
Conservative	18	9.4	136	70.8	26	13.5	10	5.2	2	1.0	192	43.0
Middle-of-the-road	1	1.1	32	36.0	39	43.8	10	11.2	7	7.9	89	20.0
Liberal	0	0.0	16	23.5	19	27.9	28	41.2	5	7.4	68	15.2
Very Liberal	0	0.0	7	58.3	2	16.7	2	16.7	1	8.3	12	2.7
Theologically diverse	1	2.3	12	27.9	14	32.6	13	30.2	3	7.0	43	9.6
-												
Total	36	8.1	223	50.0	105	23.5	64	14.3	18	4.0	446	100.0

**All Others**

Institution	Very Cons		Conserv		Middle		Liberal		Very Lib		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Very Conservative	29	46.0	25	39.7	8	12.7	0	0.0	1	1.6	63	6.0
Conservative	27	9.8	174	63.0	53	19.2	16	5.8	6	2.2	276	26.2
Middle-of-the-road	6	2.6	46	20.0	107	46.5	54	23.5	17	7.4	230	21.9
Liberal	9	3.9	35	15.1	63	27.2	93	40.1	32	13.8	232	22.1
Very Liberal	2	3.1	15	23.4	22	34.4	14	21.9	11	17.2	64	6.1
Theologically diverse	2	1.1	38	20.3	67	35.8	53	28.3	27	14.4	187	17.8
-												
Total	75	7.1	333	31.7	320	30.4	230	21.9	94	8.9	1052	100.0



**TABLE 19**  
**Religious Tradition of Upbringing and Current Denomination**

Religious Traditions	Denomination of Upbringing		Current Denomination	
	#	%	#	%
Adventist, Seventh-day	7	0.2	5	0.1
Anglican Church of Canada	8	0.2	5	0.1
American Baptist Churches	51	1.4	63	1.6
Baptist General Conference	25	0.7	13	0.3
Conservative Baptist Assoc.	22	0.6	22	0.6
Independent Baptist	45	1.2	36	0.9
National Baptist Convention	74	2.0	55	1.4
North American Baptist Conference	5	0.1	4	0.1
Southern Baptist Convention	257	6.9	199	5.1
Baptist Other	128	3.5	86	2.2
Church of the Brethren	25	0.7	31	0.8
Christian Churches and Churches of Christ	59	1.6	69	1.8
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	60	1.6	85	2.2
Christian and Missionary Alliance	16	0.4	29	0.8
Churches of Christ	38	1.0	34	0.9
Church of God (Anderson, Indiana)	20	0.5	34	0.9
Church of the Nazarene	61	1.6	66	1.7
Episcopal	162	4.4	245	6.3
Evangelical Free Church of America	25	0.7	52	1.3
Friends, Religious Society of	9	0.2	19	0.5
Interdenominational/Multidenominational	19	0.5	39	1.0
Jewish	17	0.5	16	0.4
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	150	4.1	164	4.2
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	84	2.3	58	1.5
Lutheran Church-Canada	1	0.0	0	0.0
Lutheran, Other	42	1.1	20	0.5
Mennonite	35	0.9	42	1.1
African Methodist Episcopal	47	1.3	59	1.5
United Methodist Church	483	13.1	535	13.8
Methodist, Other	81	2.2	55	1.4
Nondenominational	46	1.2	83	2.1
Orthodox Churches	13	0.4	6	0.2
Assemblies of God	87	2.4	126	3.3
Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee)	30	0.8	21	0.5
Presbyterian Church in America	41	1.1	71	1.8
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	269	7.3	349	9.0
Presbyterian, Other	112	3.0	95	2.5
Christian Reformed Church	29	0.8	19	0.5
Reformed Church in America	25	0.7	34	0.9
Roman Catholic Church	568	15.3	363	9.4
Unitarian Universalist	12	0.3	30	0.8
United Church of Canada	1	0.0	0	0.0
United Church of Christ	92	2.5	136	3.5
Other denomination	123	3.3	185	4.8
Unaffiliated/No denomination	197	5.3	207	5.4
-				
Total	3701	100.0	3865	100.0

**TABLE 20**  
**Current Denomination and Plans for Ordination for M.Div. Students**

Religious Traditions	Current Denomination		Plans for Ordination							
	#	%	Yes		No		Undec		Ordained	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Adventist, Seventh-day	3	0.1	1	33.3	1	33.3	1	33.3	0	0.0
Anglican Church of Canada	1	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
American Baptist Churches	46	2.0	38	82.6	0	0.0	6	13.0	2	4.3
Baptist General Conference	6	0.3	3	50.0	1	16.7	2	33.3	0	0.0
Conservative Baptist Assoc.	8	0.3	6	75.0	1	12.5	1	12.5	0	0.0
Independent Baptist	14	0.6	8	57.1	1	7.1	4	28.6	1	7.1
National Baptist Convention	35	1.5	22	62.9	0	0.0	2	5.7	11	31.4
North American Baptist Conference	1	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Southern Baptist Convention	125	5.5	65	52.0	6	4.8	27	21.6	27	21.6
Baptist Other	50	2.2	34	68.0	2	4.0	7	14.0	7	14.0
Church of the Brethren	19	0.8	11	57.9	2	10.5	5	26.3	1	5.3
Christian Churches and Churches of Christ	30	1.3	14	48.3	2	6.9	6	20.7	7	24.1
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	71	3.1	60	87.0	0	0.0	6	8.7	3	4.3
Christian and Missionary Alliance	8	0.3	7	87.5	0	0.0	1	12.5	0	0.0
Churches of Christ	23	1.0	11	52.4	5	23.8	2	9.5	3	14.3
Church of God (Anderson, Indiana)	19	0.8	13	72.2	0	0.0	3	16.7	2	11.1
Church of the Nazarene	40	1.7	31	77.5	1	2.5	5	12.5	3	7.5
Episcopal	145	6.3	118	83.1	10	7.0	11	7.7	3	2.1
Evangelical Free Church of America	26	1.1	13	52.0	3	12.0	9	36.0	0	0.0
Friends, Religious Society of	13	0.6	0	0.0	9	69.2	3	23.1	1	7.7
Interdenominational/Multidenominational	23	1.0	10	47.6	3	14.3	7	33.3	1	4.8
Jewish	3	0.1	2	66.7	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	126	5.5	109	87.2	1	0.8	15	12.0	0	0.0
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	30	1.3	30	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lutheran Church-Canada	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lutheran, Other	5	0.2	4	80.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mennonite	13	0.6	4	30.8	1	7.7	7	53.8	1	7.7
African Methodist Episcopal	54	2.4	38	71.7	0	0.0	2	3.8	13	24.5
United Methodist Church	407	17.8	359	88.6	6	1.5	39	9.6	1	0.2
Methodist, Other	30	1.3	15	50.0	1	3.3	3	10.0	11	36.7
Nondenominational	37	1.6	25	69.4	3	8.3	5	13.9	3	8.3
Orthodox Churches	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0
Assemblies of God	50	2.2	32	64.0	3	6.0	11	22.0	4	8.0
Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee)	8	0.3	4	50.0	0	0.0	2	25.0	2	25.0
Presbyterian Church in America	42	1.8	33	78.6	4	9.5	5	11.9	0	0.0
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	264	11.5	219	84.9	9	3.5	28	10.9	2	0.8
Presbyterian, Other	36	1.6	28	77.8	3	8.3	5	13.9	0	0.0
Christian Reformed Church	8	0.3	3	42.9	1	14.3	3	42.9	0	0.0
Reformed Church in America	31	1.4	23	79.3	0	0.0	6	20.7	0	0.0
Roman Catholic Church	149	6.5	115	77.7	15	10.1	18	12.2	0	0.0
Unitarian Universalist	20	0.9	15	75.0	1	5.0	3	15.0	1	5.0
United Church of Canada	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
United Church of Christ	99	4.3	92	92.9	1	1.0	6	6.1	0	0.0
Other denomination	89	3.9	55	62.5	6	6.8	14	15.9	13	14.8
Unaffiliated/No denomination	80	3.5	36	45.6	12	15.2	27	34.2	4	5.1
-										
Total	2288	100.0	1708	75.6	116	5.1	308	13.6	127	5.6

**TABLE 21**  
**Importance of Influence in Personal Choice or Calling**

Source of Influence	Male N = 2139		Female N = 1599	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
Family/spouse	3.1	1.4	2.8	1.4
Friend(s)	2.6	1.3	2.6	1.3
Encouragement of clergy	3.4	1.3	3.2	1.4
Pastoral Counseling/Spiritual Direction	3.0	1.4	3.1	1.5
Experienced call from God	4.4	1.0	4.5	1.0
Interest in religious/theological questions	3.8	1.2	4.0	1.1
Promise of spiritual fulfillment	3.5	1.2	3.7	1.2
Opportunity for study/growth	3.9	1.1	4.3	0.9
Search for meaning in life	3.0	1.4	3.2	1.4
Major life event	1.9	1.3	2.0	1.4
Desire to serve others	4.1	1.0	4.2	1.0
To celebrate sacraments	2.7	1.4	2.8	1.4
Contribute to social justice	3.0	1.4	3.4	1.3
Desire to preserve tradition	2.7	1.3	2.6	1.3
Desire to make a difference	3.9	1.2	3.9	1.2
Experience in campus organization	2.2	1.3	2.1	1.3
Experience in church life	3.4	1.3	3.5	1.3

1 - Of no importance      3 - Somewhat important      5 - Very important

**TABLE 22**  
**Recent Participation in Worshipping Community and Activity as Member**

**M.Div.**

Participation	Activity as Member									
	Very Active		Moderately		Not Very		Inactive		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
As Pastor	52	91.2	4	7.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	57	2.9
As member	1388	73.1	434	22.9	69	3.6	7	0.4	1898	97.1
-										
Total	1440	73.7	438	22.4	70	3.6	7	0.4	1955	100.0

**Professional M.A.**

Participation	Activity as Member									
	Very Active		Moderately		Not Very		Inactive		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
As Pastor	10	90.9	1	9.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	3.0
As member	225	62.5	101	28.1	32	8.9	2	0.6	360	97.0
-										
Total	235	63.3	102	27.5	32	8.6	2	0.5	371	100.0

**All Others**

Participation	Activity as Member									
	Very Active		Moderately		Not Very		Inactive		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
As Pastor	31	83.8	4	10.8	2	5.4	0	0.0	37	4.4
As member	492	61.4	236	29.5	68	8.5	5	0.6	801	95.6
-										
Total	523	62.4	240	28.6	70	8.4	5	0.6	838	100.0

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997

All Schools

**TABLE 23**  
**Elected or Appointed Service in Leadership Within Past Five Years, Kind and Church Size**

Service in Leadership	M.Div.		Prof.M.A.		All Others		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Local church	703	54.2	141	44.3	291	41.9	1135	49.2
Other church body/organization	95	7.3	18	5.7	50	7.2	163	7.1
School/college organization	118	9.1	33	10.4	69	9.9	220	9.5
Civic/fraternal organization	30	2.3	4	1.3	8	1.2	42	1.8
Other leadership position	84	6.5	20	6.3	44	6.3	148	6.4
No recent position	266	20.5	102	32.1	232	33.4	600	26.0
-								
Total	1296	100.0	318	100.0	694	100.0	2308	100.0

Kind of Church	Membership											
	Under 100		100-250		250-500		500-1000		1000 or more		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Rural	118	42.3	95	34.1	32	11.5	21	7.5	13	4.7	279	8.8
Small town	145	20.4	229	32.2	192	27.0	99	13.9	46	6.5	711	22.5
Suburban	89	8.2	210	19.3	287	26.4	212	19.5	291	26.7	1089	34.5
Urban	137	12.7	219	20.2	221	20.4	172	15.9	333	30.8	1082	34.2
-												
Total	489	15.5	753	23.8	732	23.2	504	15.9	683	21.6	3161	100.0

U.S. ENTERING STUDENTS 1997  
All Schools

**TABLE 24**  
**Expectation for Full-time Position After Graduation**

Expectation	Single				Married				Total	
	Male		Female		Male		Female		#	%
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Parish ministry	291	36.1	167	22.1	405	40.3	131	25.6	994	32.3
Campus ministry	13	1.6	12	1.6	15	1.5	6	1.2	46	1.5
Inner-city ministry	14	1.7	16	2.1	16	1.6	4	0.8	50	1.6
Pastoral counseling	14	1.7	42	5.5	33	3.3	39	7.6	128	4.2
Hospital or other chaplaincy	16	2.0	28	3.7	19	1.9	28	5.5	91	3.0
Secondary/prep school teaching	8	1.0	6	0.8	3	0.3	2	0.4	19	0.6
College/university teaching	77	9.6	68	9.0	73	7.3	23	4.5	241	7.8
Seminary teaching	25	3.1	5	0.7	40	4.0	5	1.0	75	2.4
Social work/services	9	1.1	31	4.1	12	1.2	13	2.5	65	2.1
Foreign missions	36	4.5	34	4.5	58	5.8	14	2.7	142	4.6
Home missions	4	0.5	2	0.3	3	0.3	1	0.2	10	0.3
Church planting/evangelism	14	1.7	10	1.3	19	1.9	4	0.8	47	1.5
Youth ministry	31	3.8	24	3.2	31	3.1	7	1.4	93	3.0
Church musician	2	0.2	5	0.7	5	0.5	8	1.6	20	0.6
Christian education	9	1.1	35	4.6	17	1.7	23	4.5	84	2.7
Spiritual direction	2	0.2	7	0.9	6	0.6	8	1.6	23	0.7
Social justice ministry	5	0.6	15	2.0	5	0.5	7	1.4	32	1.0
Further graduate study	64	7.9	45	5.9	42	4.2	7	1.4	158	5.1
Professional lay ministry	12	1.5	2	0.3	7	0.7	13	2.5	34	1.1
Undecided	138	17.1	169	22.3	151	15.0	145	28.3	603	19.6
Other	22	2.7	34	4.5	46	4.6	24	4.7	126	4.1
-										
Total	806	100.0	757	100.0	1006	100.0	512	100.0	3081	100.0