

Title: PROFILE OF PNU FRESHMEN: SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009
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Abstract

This profiling was undertaken by the Center for Research and Development in Education (CREDE) this school year to provide an initial description of the new batch of PNU college freshmen, just like in the previous profiles.

The following are some of the questions that the present profile attempted to answer: 1) Is there an improvement in the kind of students that PNU admitted this school year as compared with that of last school year and the years before? 2) Which of the variables in the profile are correlated with PNUAT performance? 3) What implications do the findings of the present profile have on the university admission policies and its overall performance?

Data were gathered from the Interview Sheets provided by the Office of Admissions. Out of the 1400 successful freshman-applicants, 1264 were enrolled in first year for the school year 2008-2009. For this school year's profile, the following variables were analyzed: 1) gender; 2) age; 3) civil status; 4) type of high school graduated from; 5) number of children in the family; 6) birth order in the family; 7) dialects spoken at home; 8) present address; 9) provincial address; 10) parents' highest educational attainment; 11) parents' monthly income; 12) combined family income; 13.1) father's occupation; 13.2) mother's occupation; 14) PNUAT score; 15) reasons for applying at PNU; 16) plan/s after graduation; 17) course preference; 18) oral language proficiency in English and Filipino.

Correlational analyses with PNUAT score as dependent variable are an added feature in this present profile.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions

The profile of the first year students this school year 2008-2009 is not much different from those in the previous years in all the variables included in the study. If ever, last year's profile was even better than the present one because last year only those who got at least 85 in the PNUAT were interviewed and enrolled. This year, even those who got 80-84, and even 79, were interviewed and enrolled.

The PNU first year students this school year are mostly female, 15 to 17 years old at the start of the school year, single, graduates of public high schools, belong to medium-sized families with two to four children, middle children, Tagalog and English speakers and residents of the National Capital Region and of Region 4-A or CALABARZON. They have parents who are

either college or high school graduates, with monthly income of less than Php 15,000 or no income at all. Their fathers are mostly employed as drivers and construction workers. Some are vendors, and self-employed. Their mothers are mostly teachers, self-employed or vendors, office workers or employees or just plain housewives.

In terms of PNUAT scores, majority of the respondents got low passing grades, getting scores of lower than 100, just like in the past years. But this school year is worse because the cut-off score was lowered to 79. This could have an adverse effect on the quality of the students' performance in the Licensure Examination for Teachers three years from now.

The credibility of PNU as the best teacher training institution is still very much felt outside the institution as shown by the fact that this is the reason of many of the students for choosing PNU for their college education.. People outside still believe that PNU can provide the students with quality education, especially for those who want to be teachers. More students want to teach in high school, rather than in the elementary level, and they want to teach English or Mathematics subjects. The students are more proficient in their native tongue, Filipino, than in English.

None of the variables included in the study was found to be correlated with PNUAT score.