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Campus Assessment Working Group

Snapshots of the First-Year Experience at UM

Beginnings Subgroup
May 2009 Forum

Beginnings Subgroup Members



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Joann Prosser*	Resident Life
Corbin Campbell	IRPA
Barbara Goldberg	Counseling Center
Beverly Greenfeig	Counseling Center
Erin Iverson	Resident Life
Sharon La Voy	IRPA
Jen Meyers	IRPA
Jessica Mislevy	IRPA
Mike Passarella George	IRPA
Britt Reynolds	Admissions
Hilary Sazama	Extended Studies
Laila Shisheneh	Orientation
Dian Squire	Orientation
Tom Steen	Undergraduate Studies

* Subgroup Chair

Today's Presenters



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- Joann Prosser
- Corbin Campbell
- Hilary Sazama

University of Maryland Beginnings Student Survey (BSS)



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- Annual survey since 1996, administered within the 8-10th week of the fall semester in typical freshmen courses
- Gathers data on first-year undergraduates' experiences at and perceptions of UM
- 1,988 survey respondents (out of about 3,100)
 - 1,074 FTFT respondents used in main analysis
 - 183 FC respondents used in separate analysis

BSS 2007



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- Topic areas
 - Special Undergraduate Experiences
 - Admissions
 - Diversity
 - Student Involvement
 - Learning Outcomes
 - Weekly Activities
 - Finances
 - Adjustment
 - Academics
 - Responsibility

Report available at www.umd.edu/cawg

Limitations



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- BSS cannot be generalized
 - Convenience sample
- Data are self reported
 - Ex. Learning Outcomes could measure self confidence

Forum Agenda



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- A Week in The Life of A First-Year Student
 - Involvement
 - Academics
 - Working

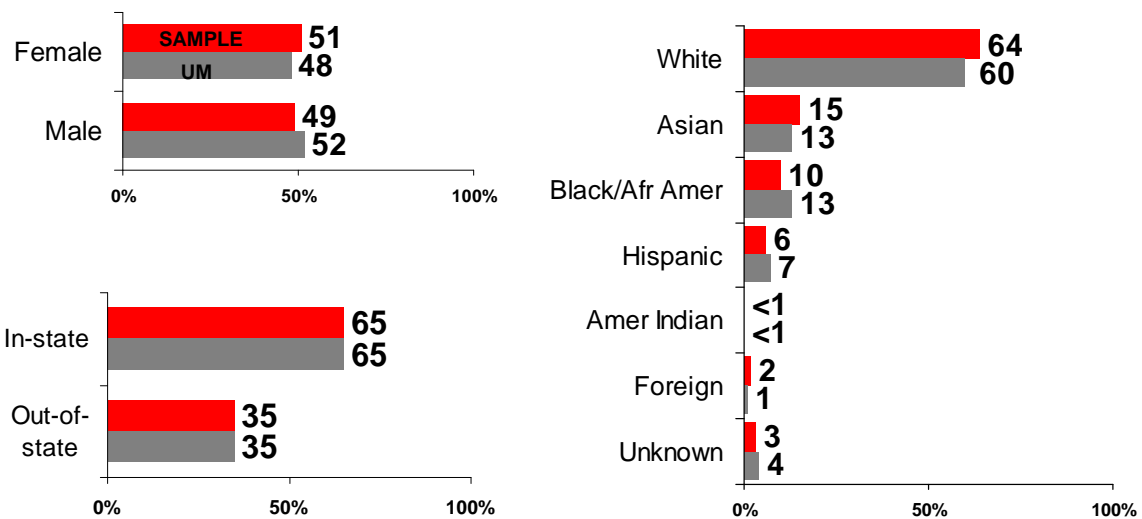
- Ten Years Later...

About Our Sample



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Percents



Freshmen Connection Program



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- A fall semester extension program administered by the Office of Extended Studies
- Open to freshmen who confirm spring admission
- Fall classes are scheduled late afternoon and into the evening to earn up to 16 credits
- Get on track to graduate in four years
- All Freshmen Connection students live off-campus

***A Week in The Life
of A UM
First-Year Student***



Pop Quiz - Involvement

What percent of respondents said they are satisfied with their level of involvement?

- 41%

- 57% report they were less involved than they would like—why?
 - 33% plan to get involved later
 - 21% have not found a good fit
 - 20% have to study



Involvement

- 79% participate in at least 1 hour of organized student activities per week

- Respondents participate at least “sometimes” in...
 - 59%: residence hall activities
 - 45%: movie/theater/music performance
 - 35%: intramural sports team or club
 - 34%: events that promote diversity
 - 34%: fraternity or sorority events



Involvement

- Respondents participate at least “sometimes” in...
 - 32%: cultural organizations or activities
 - 28%: community service activities
 - 27%: religious services or activities
 - 13%: organized discussion on race/ethnicity
 - 59%: other student group activities (*not listed above*)



In the future...

- First-year students want to participate in...
 - 87%: internships
 - 73%: international experiences ¹
 - 55%: leadership opportunities *
 - 53%: research *
 - 38%: service-learning experiences *

* Differences by race or gender

¹ Significance tests could not be conducted on variable



Pop Quiz: Working

What percent of first-year students do not work?

- > 90% do not work on or off campus in an average week
- For those who do work, why?
 - Earn spending money (88%)
 - Pay for personal expenses (85%)
 - Gain general work experience (77%)
 - Gain work experience related to my future career (67%)
 - Pay for my college education (66%)



Pop Quiz: Academics

What percent of respondents spend at least 11 hours per week studying?

- 64%
- 50% spend at least 1 hour per week in study groups/
tutoring



Academics

- Most respondents...
 - are adjusting to the academic work of college (77%)
 - know how to contact an academic advisor (76%)
 - have identified a career direction or interest (71%)
 - are satisfied with their current major (72%)²

- About half of respondents...
 - have met with an instructor outside of class (47%)

² LTSC were excluded in this analysis



Pop Quiz: Attitudes about UM

- What percent of respondents would still enroll at UM if they had to do it all over again?
- 76%

- Most respondents...
 - Like being a student at UM (88%)
 - Are proud to be a student at UM (86%)
 - Would recommend UM to family and friends (82%)



Freshmen Connection

Where did they respond similarly to FTFT?

➤ Attitudes about UM

- Proud to be a student at UM (86 vs 86%)
- Like being a student here (86 vs 88%)
- Would recommend UM to family and friends (82 vs 82%)
- Would still enroll at UM if had to do it again (75 vs 76%)

FC vs FTFT



Freshmen Connection

Where did they respond similarly to FTFT?

➤ Working on campus (10 vs 7%)

➤ Academics

- Are adjusting to the academic work of college (75 vs 77%)
- Have identified a career direction (67 vs 71%)
- Have met with an instructor outside of class (53 vs 47%)
- Spend at least 1 hour per week in study groups (48 vs 50%)

FC vs FTFT



Freshmen Connection

Where did they respond differently than FTFT?

➤ Involvement

- Fewer FC are satisfied with level of involvement (30 vs 41%)
- Fewer FC spend at least 1 hour per week in organized student activities (66 vs 79%)
- Fewer FC participate in each type of activity with 3 exceptions

➤ Working off campus

- More FC work off campus (26 vs 8%)

FC vs FTFT



Freshmen Connection

Where did they respond differently than FTFT?

➤ Academics

- Fewer FC spend at least 11 hours per week studying (55 vs 64%)
- Fewer FC know how to contact an academic advisor (49 vs 76%)
- Fewer FC are satisfied with their current major (42 vs 62%)

FC vs FTFT

Ten Years Later...

Perceptions then (1997) and now (2007)

Profiles

³ Includes first time, both full and part time freshmen

⁴ Includes first time, full time freshmen

	1997	2007
SAT: 25 th /75 th percentile ³	1120/1290	1210/1360
High School GPA ³	3.48	3.90
Gender: % Female ⁴	47	48
Race: % ⁴		
American Indian	<1	<1
Asian American	13	13
Black/African American	15	13
Foreign	1	1
Hispanic American	5	7
Unknown	4	4
White American	62	60

Most things haven't changed much...



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	1997	2007
	%	%
UM was 1 st choice	55	55
Have made campus friends	91	91
Concerned about financing college	42	40
Do not work on campus	89	93
Can afford to enroll next semester	88	83

A few changed a bit more...



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	1997	2007
	%	%
Do not work off campus	82	92
Never participate in organized student activities	31	20

Conclusions - Involvement



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- Almost 80% of BSS respondents participated in at least 1 hour of organized student activities a week
- Most popular activities included residence hall and student group activities
- 57% were less involved than they would like
- There is strong interest in opportunities that fall under the President's Promise (e.g., internships)

Conclusions - Working



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- Their first semester, the vast majority of first-year BSS respondents did not work (> 90%)
- Ten year longitudinal BSS data suggests that while the percentage of first-year students working on campus remains the same, even fewer first-year students report working off-campus their first semester

Conclusions - Academics



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- The majority of first semester students spend at least 11 hrs/wk studying, and participating in study groups or tutoring sessions
- Approximately three-quarters report having adjusted to academic work, identified a career direction, know how to contact an academic advisor, and are satisfied with their current major (when LTSC are removed)

Conclusions - Longitudinal



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- Although the academic profile of UM students has changed, their perceptions and attitudes haven't changed much

Discussion



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- Thoughts?
- Comments?
- Impressions?



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The Beginning Student Survey 2007
report is available at

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