



CAMPUS
ASSESSMENT
WORKING GROUP

Beginning Student Survey: Fall 1999
Prepared by the Campus Assessment Working Group
Studies of Entry Subgroup

This report summarizes the results of the 1999 Beginning Student Survey (BSS). The survey was administered in late October and early November, 1999. The BSS was developed by the Studies of Entry Subgroup of the Campus Assessment Working Group (CAWG), with input from various campus clients.

The administration was achieved through the assistance of various instructors who provided class time Fall 1999, and other administrators who helped distribute surveys via other methods during that time. Surveys were administered in the following courses: ENGL101, EDCP108O/UNIV101, BSOS188A/188C, EDCP108N, HONR100/HONR100G, and ANSC101. Surveys were also distributed through the Academic Achievement Programs/IED.

Students responded directly on printed forms designed for optical scanning. An instruction sheet was provided for instructors and administrators to read, or to be included in a letter that accompanied the survey. Previous years' administrations indicated 20 minutes were required for the survey to be completed. Copies of the survey and the instruction sheet follow the data tables.

Surveys were visually inspected prior to scanning; stray marks were erased and responses were darkened as needed. Reviews for potential sources of error associated with patterns of missing values revealed no significant concerns.

The survey provided a space for students to write their Student Identification Number. When voluntarily provided, it was used to link with official university records to include demographic information in the analysis.

The survey was potentially distributed to 3640 students (as determined by course rosters and Academic Achievement Program/IED decision code). We have no way of knowing how many students were absent from classes, or how many received the survey but didn't return it. Of those, 2628 surveys were returned, representing a 72% response rate. Of those returned, 2253 (86%) included a voluntarily provided Student Identification Number and were thus matched with institutional data. Of those matched with institutional data, 2078 were first-time full-time freshmen, representing 57% of the original sample.

Survey items are included in their entirety in this report. Each survey table represents the valid responses of first-time (non-transfer) full-time freshmen excluding missing and "does not apply" responses. The N noted on each item reflects the number of valid responses for that item.

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Demographic Information

UM Survey Respondents as compared to UM Population of First-Time Full-Time Freshmen

Gender	UM Respondents	UM Population
	%	%
	N = 2078	N = 3906
Male	50.0	53.8
Female	50.0	46.2

Race	UM Respondents	UM Population
	%	%
	N = 2078	N = 3906
Native American	0.3	0.4
African American / Black	15.1	13.5
Asian American	12.1	12.8
Hispanic American	5.1	5.3
Caucasian American / White	62.8	63.3
Foreign	1.1	0.9
Unknown	3.7	3.9

State Residency	UM Respondents	UM Population
	%	%
	N = 2078	N = 3906
Maryland Residents	59.0	65.7
Non-Residents	41.0	34.3

High School GPA	UM Respondents	UM Population
	%	%
	N = 2058	N = 3858
Less than 2.5	0.5	0.6
2.5 - 2.999	6.0	5.8
3.0 - 3.499	32.4	31.6
3.5 and Higher	61.1	62.0

Residence	UM	UM
	Respondents	Population
	%	%
	N = 2078	N = 3906
Residence Halls	87.6	87.4
Off Campus (Commuters)	12.4	12.6

Credits Attempted	UM	UM
	Respondents	Population
	%	%
	N = 2078	N = 3906
Extended Load (12 - 14 hours)	53.3	53.3
Catalogue Load (15 - 20 hours)	46.7	46.7

1999 Beginning Student Survey

All percentages reported are of valid responses, excluding missing (system and 'does not apply' responses)

Please indicate how much you agree/disagree with the following. (Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly Agree)		UM Respondents %					
		SD	D	N	A	SA	N
1.	I've made campus friends.	1	2	6	31	60	2064
2.	I've been able to get the classes I wanted.	2	9	16	46	27	2054
3.	I am earning the grades I want.	9	27	30	27	7	2066
4.	My math course placement is appropriate for my skills.	12	16	15	32	25	1891
5.	Faculty are usually available outside of class if I have questions.	1	4	19	51	24	2024
6.	I've stayed motivated.	4	15	27	42	12	2058
7.	I've asked a faculty member for help.	4	15	16	47	18	2000
8.	I've asked a staff member or administrator for help.	8	22	22	36	12	1919
9.	I've asked another student for help.	2	4	8	49	38	2033
10.	I've selected a field of study/major.	11	12	14	28	35	2026
11.	I am usually on time for class.	2	5	10	40	42	2060
12.	Faculty care about me as an individual.	6	18	43	28	5	2060
13.	Getting a broad and well-rounded education is important to me.	2	4	10	35	50	2043
14.	My math course is organized and taught in a way that allows me to learn well.	14	15	18	32	21	1749
15.	I am familiar with the procedures for course registration.	4	15	24	43	14	2055
16.	I've identified a career direction or interest.	5	10	16	35	34	2050
17.	I've been able to maintain physical health and well-being.	3	11	18	45	24	2056
18.	Faculty provide timely feedback about my progress in my courses.	5	22	33	33	6	2039
19.	I know how to contact an advisor in my college/department.	5	11	13	45	25	2048
20.	I understand the purpose of the CORE (general education) program.	4	8	16	50	22	2052

Please indicate how much you agree/disagree with the following. (Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly Agree)	UM Respondents %					
	SD	D	N	A	SA	N
21. Attending summer orientation helped to ease my transition to the University.	7	12	23	38	21	2014
22. I feel adequately prepared for academic demands here.	2	9	22	52	16	2064
23. Overall, my courses are intellectually stimulating.	2	7	24	53	13	2052
24. I am concerned about my ability to finance my college education.	14	22	19	21	24	1991
25. I'm meeting people different from myself at Maryland.	1	3	7	41	49	2051
26. My family encourages me to continue my college education.	0	0	2	17	80	2044
27. There are sufficient campus activities on weekends to meet my interests and needs.	6	12	23	36	24	1959
28. I'll be able to afford to enroll next semester.	1	2	11	41	44	2005
29. My English 101 course is organized and taught in a way that allows me to learn well.	7	10	19	39	25	1516
30. I can develop a class schedule that fits my needs.	3	7	24	51	15	2036
31. I know where to get help on campus with reading and study skills.	4	18	20	44	14	2021
32. I'm adjusting to the social life of college.	1	5	12	50	32	2040
33. I'm as involved in campus activities as I want to be.	5	23	25	33	14	2043
34. I'm adjusting to the academic work of college.	2	11	19	54	14	2061
35. If I run into problems here, I know someone on campus who'll listen to and help me.	3	11	21	43	22	2049
36. I feel safe on campus.	1	5	16	52	25	2044
37. There are social/leisure activities on campus that I like.	1	4	18	54	22	2035
38. I read the Diamondback regularly.	12	18	21	32	18	2033

Please indicate how important the following college goals/outcomes are to you.		UM Respondents %					N
		Very Important	Important	Undecided	Not Too Important	Not At All Important	
39.	Learning to communicate effectively in writing	48	42	5	4	1	2035
40.	Learning to communicate effectively in speech	58	34	5	3	1	2032
41.	Acquiring technology skills for work and life	50	37	9	4	1	2030
42.	Learning to think and reason	64	31	2	1	0	2030
43.	Acquiring knowledge and skills in my academic interest area	79	18	2	1	0	2030
44.	Acquiring knowledge in areas that complement / enhance my academic interest area	60	35	3	1	1	2031
45.	Gaining appreciation of attitudes/cultures different than mine	33	43	15	8	2	2027
46.	Developing leadership skills	45	38	10	5	1	2020
47.	Participating in community service	20	37	23	15	5	2004

At present, how do you think you compare with other freshmen at UM in the following areas?		UM Respondents %				N
		Highest 10%	Above Average	Average	Below Average	
48.	Oral communication skills	14	40	40	5	2076
49.	Math skills	14	36	39	11	2071
50.	Note taking	8	34	49	9	2073
51.	Listening	13	44	40	4	2072
52.	Managing time	9	26	43	22	2073
53.	Understanding what you read	11	36	47	6	2075
54.	Reading speed	9	26	48	17	2073
55.	Writing-organization	11	36	44	9	2068
56.	Writing-grammar	12	33	44	12	2074
57.	Managing stress	15	32	40	13	2071
58.	Memory	15	38	40	7	2072
59.	Finding library resources	6	24	53	16	2072
60.	Preparing for exams	5	28	55	12	2064
61.	Taking exams	8	30	51	11	2068
62.	Clarity of career goals	19	29	35	16	2068
63.	Word-processing on a computer	27	39	30	4	2065
64.	Browsing the Internet for specific information (research)	25	37	34	4	2065
65.	Creating Web pages	7	10	22	60	2065
66.	Interacting with others via e-mail	33	37	26	4	2067

At present, how often do you do the following?		UM Respondents %					N
		Always	Most of the Time	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
67.	Review/revise/update class notes	7	16	41	26	10	2050
68.	Prepare for class by reading ahead	5	18	37	28	12	2049
69.	Put off studying	11	25	45	15	3	2047
70.	Have trouble deciding what to study	5	13	43	31	9	2048
71.	Speak up in class	9	25	37	23	6	2038
72.	Study with other students	5	19	41	56	10	2046
73.	Attend classes	54	39	5	1	0	2049

During your 1 st semester, what grade/average do you think you will earn?		UM Respondents %				N
		Grade of A	Grade of B	Grade of C	Grade Below C	
74.	English	15	55	26	4	1595
75.	Math	40	39	17	5	1675
76.	Overall	20	62	16	2	2019

Please indicate how many hours per week you typically do each of the following.		UM Respondents %					N
		0 (no) hours	1-10 hours	11-20 hours	21-30 hours	More than 30 hours	
77.	Work at an off-campus job	85	7	5	2	1	2061
78.	Work at an on-campus job	90	7	2	0	0	2066
79.	Study outside the classroom	1	44	37	14	4	2060
80.	Participate in organized student activities	31	58	8	3	1	2064

81. In the near future, you plan to work:		UM Respondents %
		N = 2007
about the same number of hours as you're working now.		17
more hours after adjusting to college-level work.		62
fewer hours after adjusting to college-level work.		5
do not plan to work.		17

Please indicate the importance of reasons you plan to work while in college:		UM Respondents %			N
		Major Reason	Minor Reason	Not A Reason	
82.	Help pay for your college education (tuition, books, etc.)	33	27	40	1919
83.	Take care of personal or family obligations	17	25	58	1902
84.	Earn extra spending money (clothes, snacks, gas, etc.)	61	27	13	1922
85.	Gain general job experience	36	39	25	1907
86.	Gain job experience related to your anticipated major	46	25	29	1915
87.	Career exploration	31	33	37	1909
88.	Career networking	30	33	37	1909

Have you used the following?	UM Respondents %		
	Yes	No	N
89. Testudo	98	2	2061
90. MARS	75	25	2039
91. VICTOR	78	22	2036
92. Venus	57	43	2008
93. WAM lab	63	37	2037

94. Your plan for enrollment next semester is to:	UM Respondents %
	N = 1921
enroll full time at the University of Maryland.	98
enroll part time at the University of Maryland.	0
enroll elsewhere (transfer).	2
not enroll in higher education.	0

95. I plan to complete my bachelor's degree at:	UM Respondents %
	N = 2012
the University of Maryland.	85
another school at which I'll feel more comfortable and be happier.	3
another school that offers a degree not offered at the University of Maryland.	1
another school that has a more "prestigious" academic reputation than UM.	1
don't know/not sure where.	10

96. I expect to receive my bachelor's degree:	UM Respondents %
	N = 2068
in fewer than 4 years.	4
in 4 years.	77
in 5 years.	18
in more than 5 years.	1
I may not finish.	0

97. When you entered this institution, it was your:	UM Respondents %
	N = 2061
1 st choice.	60
2 nd choice.	25
3 rd choice or lower.	15

98. At present, your general attitude toward University of Maryland is:	UM Respondents %
	N = 2074
very positive.	34
positive.	48
neutral.	13
negative.	4
very negative.	1

99. All in all, if you had it to do over again, you would enroll here:	UM Respondents %
	N = 2070
Yes.	63
Probably	22
I'm not sure.	9
Probably not.	3
No.	3

100. You currently live:	UM Respondents %
	N = 1839
off-campus (commuting).	12
in Resident Life (contracted) housing.	88

Off Campus/Commuters

101. Which type of off-campus living situation best describes yours?	UM Respondents %
	N = 365
Alone	3
Parents/guardians	73
Roommates or housemates	24
Spouse/partner and/or children	0

102. About how many minutes is your typical commute? (minutes per one-way trip)	UM Respondents %
	N = 332
1-15 minutes	36
16-30 minutes	29
31-45 minutes	20
46-60 minutes	11
More than one hour	4

Residence Hall Students

103. Which type of residence hall living situation best describes yours?	UM Respondents %
	N = 1817
Single in a traditional hall	1
Double in a traditional hall	75
Triple in a traditional hall	16
Quad in a traditional hall	1
Apartment or suite	7

104. Which type of specialty housing best describes yours?	UM Respondents %
	N = 1221
Gemstone	11
Honors (other than Gemstone)	23
College Park Scholars	32
Smoke/alcohol free	28
International House	3
St. Mary's Language House	0
CIVICUS	3
None	0

Commuters & Residents

105. To what degree are you satisfied with your current living situation?	Residents %	Commuters %
	N = 1614	N = 220
Very satisfied	31	25
Satisfied	40	38
Neutral	11	16
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	12
Very dissatisfied	6	8