

MEMORANDUM

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From: Becky Beechler, Institutional Analysis

Date: April 6, 2006

Subject: Freshman Survey

Attached is the report of the results of the 2005 administration of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program Freshman Survey. The survey was administered during orientation last summer. The results reported here are for the 3,217 who indicated that they would be full-time FTIACs in the fall.

Following are some areas in which GVSU's freshmen differed from freshmen at similar schools nationwide. I have done some grouping into apparent themes, but please use your own judgment in interpreting the responses. For each item mentioned I have given the page number from the HERI report where you can see the full questionnaire item and responses.

A report showing trends in GVSU freshmen's responses to selected items is also attached.

GVSU freshmen regard GVSU highly...

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
This college was first choice	88.2%	75.0%	11
Applied to 2 or fewer other colleges	68.5%	48.8%	11
Applied to 4 or more colleges	15.8%	34.0%	11
Very good chance they'll be satisfied with this college	58.5%	51.8%	17

GVSU freshmen are less politically involved...

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Discussed politics with family last year	20.8%	28.2%	6
Very good chance they'll participate in student gov't	5.1%	7.0%	17
Consider influencing the political structure very important	13.9%	20.6%	15
Consider keeping up to date with political affairs very important	29.4%	36.5%	15

GVSU freshmen are religious...

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Attended a religious service in the past year	84.2%	79.2%	6
Discussed religion in the past year	38.7%	34.6%	6
Rate self high in Religiousness	37.2%	30.3%	5
Very important objective: integrating spirituality into their life	42.6%	37.7%	15
Spent no time in prayer/meditation during a typical week in their last year of high school	31.1%	38.0%	9

Study habits

During the past year students	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Were bored in class	32.6%	41.0%	6
Tutored another student	51.2%	56.8%	6
Studied with other students	90.9%	86.6%	6
Used the Internet for research or homework	84.4%	79.9%	6
Studied less than 1 hour per week	15.8%	18.2%	7
Studied more than 10 hours per week	8.8%	12.6%	7

GVSU freshmen resist vices...

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Smoked cigarettes frequently in last year	2.7%	5.4%	6
Drank beer in last year	23.7%	44.9%	6
Drank wine or liquor in last year	31.1%	51.4%	6
Partied less than 1 hour per week	54.1%	39.9%	7
Partied 6 to 10 hours per week	7.9%	12.5%	7
Agree with "OK for people to have sex if they haven't known each other for long"	29.5%	44.3%	18
Strongly agree that marijuana should be legalized	26.5%	36.3%	17

Reasons for attending college are utilitarian...

“Very important” reasons to go to college	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Getting a better job	76.2%	70.6%	10
Parents wanted them to go	34.7%	40.5%	10
Become more cultured	35.9%	39.8%	10
Train for a specific career	76.1%	67.9%	10

Consider “essential” or “very important”...

Becoming an authority in field	53.5%	58.5%	15
Becoming successful in own business	33.3%	38.3%	15
Becoming a community leader	27.9%	32.4%	15
Integrating spirituality into life	42.6%	37.7%	15

Some hints as to why they chose GVSU...

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
I wanted to live near home	13.0%	18.0%	11
Graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional schools	23.7%	29.6%	11
Graduates get good jobs	44.6%	49.6%	11
Cost of attending was very important reason to choose this college	33.7%	40.8%	11
Size of school was very important reason to choose this college	42.2%	37.0%	11
A visit to campus was a very important reason to choose this college	49.2%	41.9%	11
Rankings in national magazines	6.0%	16.9%	11
Admitted into Early Action or Early Decision program	3.5%	10.2%	11

How they will finance college...

Expect family resources to cover \$10,000 + of first year's educational expenses	17.7%	24.4%	16
Expect none of their own resources to cover first year's educational expense	30.4%	48.5%	16
Expects no aid which need <u>not</u> be repaid (grants, scholarships, etc.)	23.3%	38.5%	16
Expects no aid that <u>must</u> be repaid (loan, etc.)	44.7%	61.2%	16
Confident in ability to finance education	28.9%	42.8%	16
Some concern about ability to finance education	60.9%	48.0%	16
Very good chance they'll get a job to help pay for college	65.0%	42.9%	17

Miscellaneous

	GVSU percentage	National Norm	Page
Ethnic Background: Caucasian	87.6%	80.6%	1
Parents' income > \$150K	8.7%	16.0%	2
Attended public school (not charter/magnet)	85.2%	82.2%	4
Rate self high in Cooperativeness	79.3%	73.9%	5
Expects bachelors degree to be highest degree	37.7%	24.4%	10
Plan to live with family fall term	12.9%	19.3%	15
Feel they will need special tutoring in Mathematics	12.6%	19.3%	9
Very good chance they'll play varsity/intercollegiate athletics	10.6%	15.6%	17
Very good chance they'll participate in student clubs/groups	34.1%	42.6%	17
Characterize self as "middle of the road" politically	47.8%	44.8%	17
Characterize self as "Conservative" politically	27.8%	25.1%	17
Agree with "Abortion should be legal"	41.7%	55.3%	17
Agree with "The death penalty should be abolished"	35.3%	31.2%	17
Agree with "Individuals can do little to cause change in society"	20.2%	27.1%	18
Agree with "Same-sex couples should have right to legal marital status"	51.5%	58.3%	18
Agree with "Federal military spending should be increased"	32.4%	39.5%	18
Agree colleges should prohibit racist/sexist speech on campus	63.6%	59.4%	18
Spent 20+ hours per week socializing w/ friends	13.9%	19.0%	7
Did not read for pleasure last year	18.8%	23.0%	9
Did not work (for pay) last year	21.9%	28.8%	8
Worked more than 20 hours per week	11.1%	15.5%	8