

## GVSU 2008 Freshman Orientation Survey Results

Following is a report of responses to the 2008 New Student Orientation Survey. This survey was administered to entering freshmen during Orientation sessions in the summer of 2008. Responses that are significantly ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) associated with Fall 2008 grades or earned hours are noted. (Bivariate associations between all questions and GPA and earned hours were tested and all significant associations are reported, so if an association is not described, it is not statistically significant.)

***Please indicate whether GVSU was your first choice or the main reason you didn't choose to attend your first choice college.***

	Total	%
<b>GVSU was my first choice.</b>	1658	87.4%
<b>Would have room and board expenses at my first choice college</b>	27	1.4%
<b>Lack of financial aid available from my first choice college</b>	139	7.3%
<b>Family/personal responsibilities kept me from attending my first choice college</b>	68	3.6%
<b>Present employment kept me from attending my first choice college</b>	4	0.2%

- Students who cited room and board costs as the main factor earned significantly higher fall grades than those who cited family and personal responsibilities (3.21 vs. 2.74).
- Those who cited a job as the main factor earned more fall credits (15.75) than those who cited financial aid (14.15) or family obligations (13.45) or those for whom GVSU was their first choice (14.05).

***To how many colleges other than GVSU did you apply for admission this year?***

	Total	%
<b>None</b>	355	18.4%
<b>1</b>	409	21.2%
<b>2</b>	475	24.6%
<b>3</b>	340	17.6%
<b>4</b>	197	10.2%
<b>5 or more</b>	156	8.1%

***Please indicate which factors contributed to your decision to attend GVSU rather than another institution.***

	N	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
<b>Parent's advice</b>	1953	27.5%	53.3%	19.3%
<b>Guidance counselors' advice</b>	1951	11.2%	35.3%	53.6%
<b>Teachers' advice</b>	1947	12.2%	43.2%	44.6%
<b>Friends' advice</b>	1948	20.0%	54.2%	25.8%

	<b>N</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Not Important</b>
<b>GVSU's academic reputation</b>	1951	63.9%	33.1%	3.1%
<b>GVSU 's reputation for student activities</b>	1948	37.3%	47.9%	14.8%
<b>Financial aid package</b>	1946	31.9%	39.9%	28.3%
<b>Cost of attendance</b>	1948	47.1%	40.0%	12.9%
<b>Location near home</b>	1949	30.5%	42.3%	27.1%
<b>GVSU grads get good jobs</b>	1943	51.0%	37.3%	11.8%
<b>GVSU grads get into top grad schools</b>	1941	38.7%	42.3%	18.9%
<b>Size of university</b>	1947	46.6%	44.8%	8.6%
<b>Excellent faculty</b>	1950	53.3%	38.4%	8.4%
<b>Caring faculty</b>	1949	51.7%	38.0%	10.4%
<b>Small class sizes</b>	1947	57.2%	35.1%	7.8%
<b>Information from website</b>	1946	25.0%	56.5%	18.6%
<b>Visit to campus</b>	1949	60.7%	29.4%	9.9%

- Students who said that small class sizes were very important earned better grades (3.05) and more credits (14.17) than those who said class size was not important (2.79 and 13.35).

*During the last year, how often did you:*

	<b>N</b>	<b>Frequently</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Never</b>
<b>Come to class unprepared</b>	1953	5.3%	32.8%	61.9%
<b>Discuss assignments with a teacher outside of class time</b>	1953	20.6%	72.0%	7.4%
<b>Assess the relevance and/or objectivity of information from different sources</b>	1931	26.1%	65.8%	8.1%
<b>Miss a day of school</b>	1942	4.0%	74.0%	22.0%
<b>Read scholarly writing (online or in print)</b>	1934	27.7%	53.9%	18.4%
<b>Learn for personal enjoyment (rather than for a class)</b>	1939	33.2%	58.9%	7.8%
<b>Contribute to class discussions</b>	1940	58.8%	38.3%	2.9%
<b>Turn in assignments late</b>	1943	1.9%	30.9%	67.3%
<b>Help other students with schoolwork</b>	1945	35.5%	62.0%	2.5%
<b>Work with classmates on group assignments</b>	1936	57.6%	41.8%	0.6%
<b>Prepare two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in</b>	1939	38.2%	50.1%	11.8%
<b>Have serious conversations with students of a different race/ethnicity than your own</b>	1933	37.3%	47.4%	15.3%

	<b>N</b>	<b>Frequently</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Never</b>
<b>Discuss ideas from your schoolwork with others outside of class</b>	1924	36.7%	57.1%	6.2%
<b>Talk with a counselor, teacher, or other staff member about college or career plans</b>	1944	35.6%	57.9%	6.5%

- Students who said they frequently missed days in high school earned lower grades and fewer credits (2.68 & 13.05) than those who responded “sometimes” (3.00 & 14.0) or “never” (3.07 & 14.4).
- Students who said they frequently turned in high school assignments late earned lower grades (2.66) and fewer credits (13.1) than those who said they never did so (3.08 & 14.2).
- Students who said they helped other student frequently in high school got better grades than those who never did (3.05 vs. 2.72).
- Students who said they worked with classmates on group assignments had better average grades than those who said they never did so (“frequently” – 2.98; “sometimes” – 3.05; “never” – 2.41).

***Did you participate in non-required athletic programs during high school?***

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	1532	79.5%
<b>No</b>	394	20.5%

***Please describe your level of interest in involvement in athletics at GVSU.***

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>I am not interested in participating in athletics of any kind at GVSU</b>	545	29.9%
<b>I would be interested in playing a varsity sport at GVSU.</b>	307	16.8%
<b>I would be interested in playing intramural sports.</b>	945	51.8%
<b>I would like to participate in a sport that is not currently offered by GVSU.</b>	27	1.5%

- Those who indicated interest in IM sports got better grades (3.07) than those who expressed interest in a sport that’s not offered at GVSU (2.78).

***How likely do you think it is that you would do the following during your time at GVSU?***

	<b>N</b>	<b>Very likely</b>	<b>Likely</b>	<b>Unlikely</b>	<b>No Chance</b>
<b>Change your major field</b>	1946	11%	32%	50%	7%
<b>Change your career choice</b>	1941	11%	37%	46%	6%
<b>Participate in student government</b>	1942	2%	18%	58%	22%

	<b>N</b>	<b>Very likely</b>	<b>Likely</b>	<b>Unlikely</b>	<b>No Chance</b>
<b>Work full-time (other than summer)</b>	1943	4%	26%	59%	11%
<b>Keep your GPA at 3.0 or better</b>	1945	59%	40%	1%	0%
<b>Take an active role in campus political events</b>	1934	5%	29%	54%	12%
<b>Transfer to another college</b>	1935	2%	11%	67%	21%
<b>Participate in volunteer or community service work</b>	1943	16%	59%	24%	1%
<b>Meet with professors outside of class</b>	1941	27%	63%	10%	0%
<b>Socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group</b>	1939	58%	40%	1%	0%
<b>Participate in student organizations</b>	1933	29%	54%	16%	1%
<b>Seek personal counseling</b>	1937	8%	34%	54%	4%
<b>Study abroad</b>	1923	18%	33%	41%	8%
<b>Be satisfied with GVSU</b>	1932	57%	43%	0%	0%
<b>Graduate within 4 years</b>	1934	52%	39%	8%	1%

- Students who said it was very likely that they would transfer out earned fewer credits than other respondents (“very likely” – 13.2; “likely” – 13.9; “Unlikely” – 14.1; “no chance” – 14.1).
- Students who said they were “unlikely” to participate in volunteer or community service work earned lower grades (2.87) than those who responded “very likely” (3.16).
- Although over 90% of entering freshmen say they are likely or very likely to graduate within 4 years, only one in four will actually do so. A separate recent survey of 151 GVSU undergrads indicates that the expectation of a 4-year completion may decay very quickly. When asked early in the winter term, barely 50% of students said they would finish in 4 years. That percentage dropped only slightly with each successive year.
  - In winter of first year ...51.4%
  - In winter of second year ... 47.1%
  - In winter of third year ... 46.7%
  - In winter of fourth year ... 45.9%
(Thanks to Becky Beechler for this data.)

**Which of the following activities will you do to assure timely graduation? (Mark all that apply)**

	<b>% indicating yes</b>
<b>Complete 30 credit hours per year</b>	79.7%
<b>Meet regularly with my academic advisor</b>	65.4%
<b>Explore a major in my first semester</b>	62.7%
<b>Declare a major no later than the end of my fourth semester</b>	72.5%
<b>Use tutoring-related and other instructional support services throughout my college career</b>	54.8%
<b>Develop and follow my educational plan</b>	75.4%
<b>Revisit my educational plan with my advisor every semester before registration</b>	50.9%
<b>Seek help early when I need it to ensure my success</b>	82.0%

- Students who said they planned to complete 30 hours earned more credits (14.1) than those who didn't (13.8).

- Those who said they'd meet regularly with an advisor earned better grades than others (3.06 vs. 2.90).
- Those who planned to explore a major in the first year had a higher GPA (3.06) than those who didn't (2.95).
- Grades were better among students who said they'd declare a major in the first 2 years than among others (3.03 vs. 2.94).
- Students who said they'd develop and follow an educational plan earned better grades than those who didn't (3.03 vs. 2.95).
- Those who planned to go over their plan with an advisor every term had higher grades (3.06 vs. 2.95).

***May need tutoring and/or remedial instruction in ...***

	<b>% indicating yes</b>
<b>Foreign Language</b>	22.5%
<b>Library Skills / Information Literacy</b>	2.9%
<b>Mathematics</b>	37.2%
<b>Reading</b>	5.6%
<b>Science</b>	25.9%
<b>Social Studies</b>	6.0%
<b>Study Skills</b>	10.8%
<b>Writing</b>	21.1%

- Students who indicated a need in math earned lower grades than those who did not (2.93 vs. 3.05).
- Students who said they might need help in reading earned fewer credits (13.5) than others (14.1).
- Students who said they might need help with study skills earned lower grades (2.80) than other respondents (3.03).

***Is English your native language?***

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	1891	97.6%
<b>No</b>	46	2.4%

***Concerning phone calls from GVSU during your college search, who contacted you?***

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>I did not receive a call.</b>	662	36.6%
<b>Student</b>	222	12.3%
<b>Faculty member</b>	83	4.6%
<b>Admission/financial aid staff member</b>	211	11.7%
<b>I received a call, but don't remember from whom.</b>	631	34.9%

***Please rate how helpful the call was in your decision to attend GVSU.***

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>I did not receive a call.</b>	625	32.5%
<b>Very helpful</b>	206	10.7%
<b>Somewhat helpful</b>	587	30.5%
<b>Had no impact</b>	508	26.4%

***Compared to other aid packages you received, GVSU's financial aid package was:***

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>I did not apply for financial aid at GVSU.</b>	374	19.9%
<b>I applied, but was not offered financial aid.</b>	191	10.2%
<b>Better than most other financial aid packages.</b>	326	17.3%
<b>Equal to other financial aid packages.</b>	432	23.0%
<b>Worse than most other financial aid packages.</b>	130	6.9%
<b>I was offered financial aid at GVSU, but did not apply for aid elsewhere.</b>	427	22.7%

***The admissions information on the GVSU website is:***

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Very helpful</b>	1008	52.6%
<b>Somewhat helpful</b>	827	43.2%
<b>Not helpful</b>	25	1.3%
<b>Did not visit the GVSU website</b>	56	2.9%

***Did you receive a campus tour from the Admissions Office prior to attending orientation?***

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	1222	64.0%
<b>No</b>	686	36.0%

***Was the campus tour helpful in your decision to attend GVSU?***

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>I did not go on a campus tour.</b>	645	33.7%
<b>Very helpful in my decision to attend GVSU.</b>	802	41.9%
<b>Somewhat helpful in my decision to attend GVSU.</b>	397	20.8%
<b>Had no impact in my decision to attend GVSU.</b>	69	3.6%

- Students who indicated “no impact” earned fewer credits (13.6) than those who said “very” or “somewhat” helpful (14.2 & 14.2).

***Did the availability of on-campus housing by academic interest (i.e. Honors program and allied health professions) influence your decision to live in university owned housing?***

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	499	26.2%
<b>No</b>	1042	54.6%
<b>I was unaware that theme housing existed.</b>	146	7.7%
<b>I will not live on campus.</b>	220	11.5%

Office of Institutional Analysis  
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