

Report of the Results of the BGSU First Year Student Questionnaire, 2000

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of the Summer 2000 administration of the BGSU First Year Student Questionnaire (BFYSQ) to new main campus freshmen. The BFYSQ is designed to collect enrollment management-related data, demographic data not otherwise collected as a result of BGSU's admission and registration processes, and data on students values and expectations. Its use supports both assessment and enrollment management activities. Results are used in this report to provide a descriptive profile of the freshman class (serving as a companion report to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Freshman Class Profile). BFYSQ data are also maintained in databases within the Office of Institutional Research and are studied as predictors of outcomes such as retention, GPA's and graduation rates. This report includes a summary and conclusions as well as detailed tabular responses.

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

The need for assessment and enrollment management-related information about Bowling Green State University's first year students prompted the development of the BGSU First Year Student Questionnaire (BFYSQ) in 1997. The literature on college student learning, development, and persistence clearly shows that students pre-college characteristics, aspirations, expectations, and values play a crucial role in outcomes such as retention, grades, graduation, and educational and personal gains. Since no single commercially-available questionnaire would provide the data specifically needed by BGSU in a timely and cost effective manner, the BFYSQ was developed by the Office of Institutional Research. The results of the BFYSQ are comparable to those of the ACE/UCLA "Freshman Survey" administered at BGSU between 1973 and 1979 and between 1990 and 1995, and the "BGSU Freshman Survey" administered between 1980 and 1989. The Office of Institutional Research plans to administer the BFYSQ to new freshmen each summer before they matriculate.

The BFYSQ was distributed to all new first year students registered for BGSU's Orientation and Registration Program. A total of 2,824 questionnaires were returned. This represents a 84% response rate from among the 3,372 new first year full-time students enrolled in Fall 2000 at main campus. BFYSQ results were analyzed by noting the percentages of participants who provided various responses to each questionnaire item. Percentages may not always sum to 100 due to rounding. Results were also compared with those of previous similar questionnaires. The following pages highlight these findings.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT-RELATED INFORMATION

How many other colleges besides BGSU did you apply to?

	1990	1999	2000
None	26%	28%	29%
1	24%	26%	25%
2	24%	25%	25%
Three or More	26%	21%	21%

How many other colleges besides BGSU admitted you this year?

	1990	1999	2000
None	NA	32%	34%
One	NA	30%	29%

Two	NA	23%	22%
Three or More	NA	15%	16%

Among colleges to attend, was BGSU your . . .

	1990	1999	2000
First Choice	82%	84%	84%
Second Choice	15%	14%	15%
Less Than Second Choice	3%	2%	2%

How important were each of the following in your decision to attend college in general? (Percent "Very Important")

	1990	1999	2000
To Prepare for a Professional Career	NA	89%	88%
To Get a Better Job	80%	77%	73%
To Be Able to Make More Money	69%	66%	63%
To Learn More about Things That Interest me	66%	63%	62%
To Gain a General Education	55%	52%	51%
To Make Me a More Cultured Person	34%	31%	29%
To Improve My Reading and Study Skills	34%	29%	28%
To Learn More About Other People	NA	25%	25%

How important were each of the following in your decision to attend BGSU? (Percent "Very Important")

	1990	1999	2000
BGSU graduates get good jobs	37%	53%	50%
My BGSU visit was pleasant and friendly	NA	42%	42%
BGSU offers unique educational programs	16%	41%	40%
BGSU's academic reputation	54%	42%	39%

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

How many miles from BGSU is your permanent home?

	1990	1999	2000
10 miles or Less	2%	4%	4%
11 to 50 miles	22%	23%	23%
51 to 100 miles	18%	19%	18%
101 to 500 miles	56%	53%	53%
Over 500 miles	2%	2%	3%

What is your best estimate of your parents' income?

	1990	1999	2000
Less than \$30,000	18%	9%	8%
\$30,000-\$49,999	35%	20%	18%
\$50,000-\$74,999	32%	34%	33%

\$75,000-\$99,999	7%	20%	21%
\$100,000 or More	7%	18%	20%

How much of your first year's educational expenses do you expect to cover from each of the sources listed below? (Percent \$1,500 and Over)

	1990	1999	2000
Parents	68%	75%	73%
Other College Loan	2%	32%	29%
Ford Direct Subsidized Loan	11%	27%	27%
Other College Grant/Scholarship	6%	26%	26%
Savings From Summer Work	12%	21%	23%
Other Savings	8%	16%	17%
Other Loan	3%	15%	15%
College Work Study	1%	5%	11%
Pell Grant	2%	11%	10%
Perkins Loan	1%	7%	9%
Other Source	1%	8%	7%
Part-Time Job On Campus	1%	5%	6%
Part-Time Job Off Campus	0%	4%	4%
Other Private Grant	2%	4%	3%
Ohio Instructional Grant	2%	2%	3%

The percentage of students who have expected to get their financial support from other college loans, the ford direct subsidized loan, other college grants/scholarships, savings, other loans, and college work study increased between 1990 and 2000.

How concerned are you about your ability to finance your college education?

	1990	1999	2000
Not at All	NA	32%	29%
Somewhat	NA	55%	56%
Very	NA	13%	15%

How many hours per week during the school year do you plan to be employed?

	1990	1999	2000
None	NA	30%	29%
1 to 9	NA	23%	20%
10 to 19	NA	37%	40%
20 to 39	NA	10%	11%
40 or More	NA	0%	0%

For each of the following items, please indicate your level of involvement while in 9th-12th grade (Percent "Highly Involved"):

	1990	1999	2000
Athletics	NA	NA	64%
Part-time job	NA	NA	54%

Community service	NA	NA	30%
Band or orchestra	NA	NA	27%
Religious organization	NA	NA	26%
Choir or vocal ensemble	NA	NA	22%
Theatre	NA	NA	22%
Academic honor society	NA	NA	18%
Student council	NA	NA	17%
Yearbook	NA	NA	16%
Class officer	NA	NA	15%
Newspaper	NA	NA	12%
Debate	NA	NA	4%
ROTC	NA	NA	1%

What is the highest level of formal education obtained by your parents?

	Father	Mother
High school graduate	29%	31%
Some college	19%	18%
College degree	29%	28%
Graduate degree	15%	12%

Mother and father high school or less: 19%
 At least one parent a college graduate: 59%
 Both parents college graduates: 29%

Your Father's Occupation (10% or More Than 10% of Respondents):

	1990	1999	2000
Business	30%	32%	33%
Other	23%	17%	18%
Skilled Trades	10%	12%	12%

Your Mother's Occupation(10% or More Than 10% of Respondents):

	1990	1999	2000
Business	21%	26%	25%
Other	23%	20%	20%
Teacher	15%	14%	17%
Nurse	9%	9%	10%

Your Probable Occupation (10% or More Than 10% of Respondents):

	1990	1999	2000
Teacher or administrator	18%	21%	23%
Undecided	11%	20%	19%
Business	14%	14%	15%
Other	10%	11%	11%

What is the highest degree you plan to obtain anywhere?

	1990	1999	2000
Bachelor's	31%	11%	13%
Master's	47%	69%	62%
Doctorate	12%	9%	12%
Professional	7%	11%	12%

What is the highest degree you plan to obtain at BGSU?

	1990	1999	2000
Bachelor's	73%	77%	75%
Master's	19%	21%	22%
Doctorate	2%	1%	2%

The vast majority of respondents reported that English is their native language and that both of their parents are alive and living together.

Do you feel that you will need any special tutoring or remedial work in any of the following subjects?

	1990	1999	2000
English	NA	5%	6%
Reading	NA	2%	2%
Mathematics	NA	24%	21%
Social Studies	NA	2%	1%
Science	NA	6%	6%
Foreign Language	NA	7%	7%

As in 1999, mathematics is the only subject where a sizeable percentage of freshmen are concerned about their academic preparation for college work.

EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES INFORMATION

What is your estimate of the chance that you will . . . (Percent "Very Good")

	1990	1999	2000
get a Bachelor's Degree	81%	75%	77%
find a job in my major after graduation	71%	69%	71%
be satisfied with BGSU	52%	58%	60%
get a job to help pay for college	46%	51%	51%
make at least a B average	44%	46%	48%

What is your estimate of the chance that you will . . . (Percent "None")

	1990	1999	2000
drop out of college permanently	NA	87%	89%
drop out of college temporarily	NA	73%	78%
get married while in college	NA	48%	52%

fail one or more courses	NA	41%	47%
work full-time while attending	NA	38%	40%
transfer to another college before graduation	NA	32%	39%

The percentage of freshmen who estimated the chances as none that they will drop out of college, get married while in college, fail one or more courses, and transfer to another college before graduation increased between 1999 and 2000.

How important are each of the following to you? (Percent "Essential" or "Very Important")

	1990	1999	2000
being very well off financially	64%	81%	83%
raising a family	73%	79%	78%
helping others in difficulty	61%	69%	69%
becoming an authority in my field	63%	65%	64%
obtaining recognition from my colleagues for my contributions	NA	57%	53%
influencing social values	41%	53%	48%
Becoming successful in a business of my own	30%	45%	48%

How important are each of the following to you? (Percent "Not Important")

	1990	1999	2000
becoming accomplished in the arts	NA	56%	56%
writing original works (poems, novels, etc.)	NA	53%	54%
creating artistic works	NA	52%	54%
making a contribution to science	NA	42%	45%
influencing the political structure	NA	30%	36%

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This report continues a more than twenty-five year history of "freshman survey" results at BGSU. It serves as one component of a comprehensive program of assessment and enrollment management research activities carried out by the Office of Institutional Research.

The results of 2000 study are similar to those of prior "freshman survey" administrations. BGSU students continue to be pragmatic and vocationally oriented. Freshmen apply and are admitted to few other institutions. BGSU is their overwhelming first choice. Their reasons for attending college are vocational and educational. The perceived career success of our graduates coupled with unique educational programs, academic reputation, and a pleasant and friendly campus visit are the principal reasons students choose BGSU. Freshmen are mostly in-state and middle class. Most of them participated in athletics, religious organizations, band or orchestra, and community service during their high school years. Their most frequent academic goal at BGSU is a Bachelor's Degree in education, "undecided", or business. Parents are still the greatest source of financial support for college, but increased number of students have expected to get their financial support from loans, grants/scholarships, savings, and college work study between the early 1990's and now. Most of the respondents are very positive about their chances of earning a Bachelor's Degree, finding a job in their major after graduation, and being satisfied with BGSU. Mathematics is the sole area where a sizeable percentage of freshmen (21%) are concerned about their academic preparation for college work. Being very well off financially and raising a family are among their most important goals.

The Office of Institutional Research welcomes feedback concerning this and other studies and how they can continue to be improved.

