

# Report of the Results of the BGSU First Year Student Questionnaire, 2002

## ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of the Summer 2002 administration of the BGSU First Year Student Questionnaire (BFYSQ) to new main campus first year students. 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 year before they matriculate.

The 2002 BFYSQ was distributed to all new first year students registered for BGSU's Orientation and Registration Program during the month of June and July. A total of 2,456 questionnaires were returned, which represented about 70% of the freshman class.

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?

	1992	2001	2002
None	29%	29%	25%
1	18%	24%	24%
2	23%	25%	25%
Three or More	31%	22%	26%

### How many other colleges besides BGSU admitted you this year?

	1992	2001	2002
None	NA	35%	31%

One	NA	29%	30%
Two	NA	21%	21%
Three or More	NA	15%	19%

**Among colleges to attend, was BGSU your . . .**

	1992	2001	2002
First Choice	76%	82%	77%
Second Choice	19%	16%	20%
Less Than Second Choice	5%	2%	4%

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

	1992	2001	2002
To Prepare for a Professional Career	NA	88%	86%
To Get a Better Job	80%	71%	71%
To Be Able to Make More Money	70%	63%	68%
To Learn More about Things That Interest me	66%	61%	61%
To Gain a General Education	54%	51%	47%
To Make Me a More Cultured Person	32%	29%	32%
I Wanted to Get Away from Home	20%	22%	30%
To Learn More About Other People	NA	24%	27%
My Parents Wanted Me to Go	32%	25%	26%
To Improve My Reading and Study Skills	32%	26%	24%
A Mentor/Role Model Encouraged Me to Go	10%	10%	13%

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

	1992	2001	2002
BGSU graduates get good jobs	37%	50%	48%
My BGSU visit was pleasant and friendly	NA	41%	43%
BGSU's academic reputation	53%	38%	37%
BGSU offers unique educational programs	NA	38%	36%
I wanted to attend a school of BGSU's size	37%	31%	35%
BGSU's graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional school	15%	38%	34%
BGSU has an attractive campus	NA	28%	32%
BGSU is in a small and safe community	NA	35%	32%
BGSU's social reputation	28%	27%	31%
the reputation of BGSU's faculty, staff, and students	NA	29%	29%
BGSU takes student safety seriously	NA	28%	27%
cost of tuition at BGSU	35%	19%	20%

Compared with the freshman in 1992, 2002 freshman were more likely to cite "BGSU graduates get good jobs" and "BGSU's graduates gain admission to top graduate/professional school" as the important reasons to attend BGSU. They were, however, less likely than 1992 freshman to indicate "BGSU's academic reputation" and "the cost of tuition at BGSU" as the important reasons for selecting BGSU.

## DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

### How many miles from BGSU is your permanent home?

	1992	2001	2002
10 miles or Less	3%	5%	3%
11 to 50 miles	22%	24%	20%
51 to 100 miles	18%	18%	22%
101 to 500 miles	54%	52%	51%
Over 500 miles	3%	2%	4%

### What is your best estimate of your parents' income?

	1992	2001	2002
Less than \$30,000	20%	8%	7%
\$30,000-\$49,999	31%	19%	20%
\$50,000-\$74,999	32%	30%	32%
\$75,000-\$99,999	10%	21%	20%
\$100,000 or More	7%	22%	21%

The percentage of students whose estimated parental income was \$75,000 or more doubled from 17% in 1992 to 41% in 2002. The percentage of students whose estimated parental income was \$49,000 or below decreased from 51% in 1992 to 27% in 2002.

### 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)

	1992	2001	2002
Parents	70%	74%	74%
Other College Loan	3%	33%	25%
Savings From Summer Work	12%	22%	23%
Other College Grant/Scholarship	6%	26%	21%
Other Loan	4%	18%	16%
Other Savings	9%	17%	17%
Ford Direct Subsidized Loan	NA	28%	11%
College Work Study	3%	13%	10%
Pell Grant	3%	11%	9%
Other Source	1%	8%	8%
Part-Time Job On Campus	3%	7%	7%
Perkins Loan	1%	6%	6%
Part-Time Job Off Campus	1%	4%	5%
Ohio Instructional Grant	NA	3%	4%
Other Private Grant	2%	2%	3%

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

	1992	2001	2002
Not at All	27%	30%	28%
Somewhat	56%	54%	54%

Very            17%   16%   18%

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

	1992	2001	2002
None	NA	28%	23%
1 to 9	NA	21%	20%
10 to 19	NA	39%	44%
20 to 39	NA	12%	13%
40 or More	NA	0%	1%

The vast majority (98%) of respondents indicated that English is their native language and 72% of them reported that both of their parents are alive and living together.

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

	1992	2001	2002
Athletics	NA	66%	65%
Part-time job	NA	55%	55%
Community service	NA	30%	26%
Band or orchestra	NA	28%	22%
Religious organization	NA	27%	22%
Choir or vocal ensemble	NA	22%	19%
Theatre	NA	21%	16%
Academic honor society	NA	18%	11%
Student council	NA	18%	12%
Yearbook	NA	17%	10%
Class officer	NA	14%	10%
Newspaper	NA	11%	7%
Debate	NA	4%	3%
ROTC	NA	2%	1%

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

	Father	Mother
High school graduate	27%	31%
Some college	17%	17%
College degree	30%	29%
Graduate degree	17%	14%

	1992	2001	2002
Mother and father high school or less:	NA	18%	17%
At least one parent a college graduate:	NA	59%	60%
Both parents college graduates:	NA	29%	30%

**Your Father's Occupation:**

1992   2001   2002

Business	29%	23%	31%
Other	24%	20%	23%
Computer programmer or analyst	NA	8%	8%
Semi-skilled worker	10%	11%	7%

**Your Mother's Occupation:**

	1992	2001	2002
Other	24%	22%	27%
Business	22%	13%	13%
Lawyer (attorney) or judge	0%	9%	10%
Therapist	NA	9%	10%
Farmer or forester	2%	8%	7%

**Your Probable Occupation:**

	1992	2001	2001
Undecided	13%	18%	17%
Business	13%	17%	15%
Other	10%	13%	15%
Therapist	7%	11%	11%
Teacher or administrator	16%	10%	9%

**What is the highest degree you plan to obtain anywhere?**

	1992	2001	2002
Bachelor's	39%	14%	13%
Master's	43%	64%	66%
Doctorate	9%	10%	9%
Professional	6%	12%	10%

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

	1992	2001	2002
Bachelor's	NA	78%	78%
Master's	NA	19%	19%
Doctorate	NA	1%	2%

Although increased number of students would like to obtain a Master's degree anywhere between early 1990's and early 2000's, their most frequent academic goal at BGSU is a Bachelor's degree.

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

	1992	2001	2002
English	NA	6%	14%
Reading	NA	2%	4%
Mathematics	NA	24%	42%
Social Studies	NA	2%	3%
Science	NA	7%	12%

Foreign Language    NA    8%    13%

Compared with 2001 freshman, 2002 freshman were more concerned about their academic preparation for college work, especially in the area of mathematics.

## EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES INFORMATION

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

	1992	2001	2002
get a Bachelor's Degree	77%	78%	74%
find a job in my major after graduation	63%	72%	70%
be satisfied with BGSU	53%	60%	56%
get a job to help pay for college expenses	47%	54%	49%
make at least a "B" average	48%	46%	41%
join a social club, fraternity, or sorority	11%	19%	21%
participate in volunteer or community service work	16%	15%	18%
change your major	17%	18%	17%
play varsity intercollegiate athletics	8%	12%	13%
change your career choice	17%	15%	14%
graduate with honors	12%	11%	9%
join a student professional/government organization	NA	6%	8%
need extra time to complete your degree	15%	5%	6%
work full time while attending college	1%	4%	5%
participate in student protests/demonstrations	7%	4%	5%
transfer to another college before graduation	6%	3%	5%
get married while in college	4%	2%	4%
be elected to an academic honor society	6%	5%	4%
be elected to a student office	1%	2%	2%
fail one or more courses	1%	1%	1%
drop out of college permanently	0%	0%	1%
drop out of college temporarily	1%	0%	0%

Compared with 1992 freshman, 2002 freshman were more likely to join a social club, fraternity, or sorority, but less likely to predict that they will need extra time to complete their degree.

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

	1992	2001	2002
being very well off financially	68%	84%	84%
raising a family	71%	78%	81%
helping others in difficulty	61%	69%	66%
becoming an authority in my field	66%	64%	61%
obtaining recognition from my colleagues for my contributions	54%	56%	56%
influencing social values	39%	49%	47%
becoming successful in a business of my own	34%	48%	46%
having administrative responsibility for the work of others	37%	45%	44%
developing a meaningful philosophy of life	40%	46%	43%
helping to promote racial understanding	39%	36%	33%

keeping up to date with political affairs	39%	33%	34%
becoming a community leader	28%	31%	31%
participating in a community action program	23%	25%	26%
becoming involved in programs to clean up the environment	32%	24%	25%
influencing the political structure	16%	19%	23%
becoming accomplished in the performing arts	11%	22%	23%
creating artistic works	12%	22%	23%
writing original works (poems, novels, etc.)	12%	18%	19%
making a contribution to science	11%	16%	17%

2002 freshman were more likely than 1992 freshman to indicate that it's essential or very important to them to be very well off financially, raise a family, become successful in a business of their own and in the performing arts, create artistic work, and influence social values.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This report continues a thirty 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.

2002 freshmen apply and are admitted to few other institutions. BGSU is their overwhelming first choice. They are very pragmatic about their general reasons for going to college --- the most common reason cited was to prepare for a professional career, followed by to get a better job, to be able to make more money, and to learn more about things that interest them. The perceived career success of our graduates coupled with a pleasant campus visit as well as academic reputation and unique educational programs are the principal reasons that students choose BGSU.

2002 Freshmen are mostly from in-state and from middle class families. Parents are the greatest source of financial support for college. Although the percentage of students who had a family income \$75,000 or more doubled during 1992 and 2002, 72% of the incoming freshman still had some concern about their ability to finance their college education, and a greater portion of them expected to get their financial support from loans, grants/scholarships, savings, and summer work than the students ten years ago.

Most of the 2002 freshman participated in athletics and had a part-time job during their high school years. Three of four of them still wanted to be employed during their college years. Their most frequent academic goal at BGSU is a Bachelor's Degree in "undecided" or "business." Mathematics is the sole area where an increasing percentage of freshmen (24% for 2001 and 42% for 2002) are concerned about their academic preparation for college work.

The 2002 freshman seemed to be very positive about their chances of earning a Bachelor's Degree, finding a job in their field after graduation, and being satisfied with BGSU. The majority of them predict that they will not fail one or more courses or drop out college temporarily or permanently. Being very well off financially and raising a family are among their most important life goals.

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