

# **REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE BGSU FIRST-YEAR STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE 2011**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This report describes the results of the Spring/Summer 2011 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. The results of the survey 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 maintained in databases within the Office of Institutional Research and are studied as predictors of outcomes such as retention, GPAs, and graduation rates.

## **BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY**

BGSU has conducted a "freshman survey" for more than thirty years. 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 BGSU First Year Student Questionnaire (BFYSQ) was developed by the Office of Institutional Research in 1997. 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 BFYSQ has been distributed to all new first-year freshmen who registered for BGSU's New Student Orientation Program between April and August, 2011. A total of 3,242 questionnaires were returned, which represented about 84% (3242/3864) of the 2011 main campus new first-year freshman. This rate is significantly higher than the ones in 2010 (27%) and in 2009 (55%).

To examine how representative the survey respondents were of the entire first-year, first-time freshman class, the demographic characteristics of the 2436 survey respondents who provided valid BGSU ID numbers were compared to all entering Fall 2011 first-time first-year freshmen (the database for incoming freshmen's ID was provided by Admissions Office). As indicated by the numbers on the table below, survey respondents, in general, mirror the population.

|                                 | <b>Survey Respondents</b> | <b>2011 First Time First Year Freshman</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Gender:</b>                  |                           |  |
| Female                          | 59.1%                     | 58.4%                                      |
| Male                            | 40.9%                     | 41.6%                                      |
| <b>Race:</b>                    |                           |  |
| Minorities*                     | 19.6%                     | 21.8%                                      |
| European-American               | 78.2%                     | 74.5%                                      |
| Other/Unknown                   | 2.2%                      | 3.6%                                       |
| <b>College**:</b>               |                           |  |
| Arts and Sciences               | 29.1%                     | 29.1%                                      |
| Business Administration         | 9.6%                      | 10.0%                                      |
| Education and Human Development | 22.4%                     | 22.3%                                      |
| Health and Human Services       | 12.9%                     | 12.5%                                      |
| Musical Arts                    | 2.6%                      | 2.5%                                       |
| Technology                      | 5.1%                      | 4.9%                                       |
| Academic Enhancement            | 18.2%                     | 18.6%                                      |
| <b>Residential Status:</b>      |                           |  |
| In State Students               | 85.1%                     | 83.6%                                      |
| Out of State Students           | 14.5%                     | 14.7%                                      |
| International Students          | 0.5%                      | 1.7%                                       |

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 (2001, 2009, and 2010). This report highlights the findings.

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\* *Multi-race has been counted as minorities.*

\*\* *Some students have been counted more than once since their major(s)/minor(s) are in different colleges.*

**ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT-RELATED INFORMATION**

**How many other colleges besides BGSU did you apply for admission this year?**

|               | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| None          | 29%         | 25%         | 23%         | 29%         |
| One           | 24%         | 24%         | 20%         | 23%         |
| Two           | 25%         | 23%         | 24%         | 22%         |
| Three or More | 22%         | 28%         | 33%         | 27%         |

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

|               | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| None          | 35%         | 29%         | 28%         | 32%         |
| One           | 29%         | 29%         | 24%         | 28%         |
| Two           | 21%         | 21%         | 21%         | 19%         |
| Three or More | 15%         | 21%         | 27%         | 21%         |

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

|                         | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| First Choice            | 82%         | 82%         | 73%         | 83%         |
| Second Choice           | 16%         | 16%         | 23%         | 15%         |
| Less Than Second Choice | 2%          | 2%          | 4%          | 2%          |

More than seventy percent of the 2011 survey respondents indicated that they have applied to one or more other college(s) besides BGSU and more than 60% of them reported that they have been admitted by school(s) other than BGSU. Eighty three percent of them claimed that “BGSU was their first choice”.

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

|   | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| To Prepare for a Professional Career                  | 88%         | 91%         | 86%         | 91%         |
| To Be Able to Get a Better Job                        | 71%         | 73%         | 74%         | 76%         |
| To Learn More about Things That Interest me           | 61%         | 71%         | 69%         | 71%         |
| To Be Able to Make More Money                         | 63%         | 68%         | 65%         | 70%         |
| To Gain a General Education and Appreciation of Ideas | 51%         | 56%         | 56%         | 57%         |
| My Parents Wanted Me to Go                            | 25%         | 35%         | 36%         | 34%         |
| To Improve My Reading and Study Skills                | 26%         | 31%         | 31%         | 34%         |
| To Make Me a More Cultured Person                     | 29%         | 34%         | 36%         | 33%         |
| I Wanted to Get Away from Home                        | 22%         | 24%         | 29%         | 26%         |
| To Learn More About Other People                      | 24%         | 26%         | 29%         | 24%         |
| A Mentor/Role Model Encouraged Me to Go               | 10%         | 14%         | 19%         | 16%         |

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

|   | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| BGSU graduates get good jobs                                  | 50%         | 60%         | 57%         | 61%         |
| My BGSU visit was pleasant and friendly                       | 41%         | 56%         | 59%         | 58%         |
| BGSU's academic reputation                                    | 38%         | 48%         | 51%         | 51%         |
| BGSU offers unique educational programs                       | 38%         | 49%         | 48%         | 50%         |
| BGSU's graduates gain admission to top graduate/prof. schools | 38%         | 47%         | 45%         | 49%         |
| BGSU is in a small and safe community                         | 35%         | 43%         | 45%         | 46%         |
| BGSU has an attractive campus                                 | 28%         | 37%         | 42%         | 43%         |
| I wanted to attend a school of BGSU's size                    | 31%         | 38%         | 42%         | 41%         |
| BGSU takes student safety seriously                           | 28%         | 38%         | 43%         | 40%         |
| the reputation of BGSU's faculty, staff, and students         | 29%         | 37%         | 41%         | 39%         |
| BGSU's social reputation                                      | 27%         | 32%         | 34%         | 35%         |
| cost of tuition at BGSU                                       | 19%         | 35%         | 38%         | 33%         |
| I was offered financial assistance                            | 15%         | 34%         | 36%         | 30%         |
| BGSU's rankings in national magazines                         | 16%         | 19%         | 30%         | 27%         |
| I wanted to live near home                                    | 14%         | 15%         | 16%         | 14%         |
| A friend suggested attending                                  | 9%          | 11%         | 12%         | 12%         |
| My relatives wanted me to come here                           | 6%          | 8%          | 11%         | 9%          |
| A teacher advised me  | 6%          | 7%          | 9%          | 6%          |

“To prepare for a professional career”, “to be able to get a better Job”, “to learn more about things that interest me”, and “to be able to make more money” are the very important reasons for most incoming freshmen to attend a college, and "BGSU graduates get good jobs" and "my BGSU visit was pleasant and friendly" are the most important reasons for them to choose BGSU.

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

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

|                  | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 10 miles or Less | 5%          | 4%          | 4%          | 4%          |
| 11 to 50 miles   | 24%         | 26%         | 19%         | 23%         |
| 51 to 100 miles  | 18%         | 21%         | 21%         | 22%         |
| 101 to 500 miles | 52%         | 47%         | 50%         | 48%         |
| Over 500 miles   | 2%          | 3%          | 6%          | 4%          |

**Is English your native language?**

|     | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Yes | 99%         | 99%         | 99%         | 99%         |
| No  | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          |

**Are your parents**

|                                       | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| both alive and living with each other | 74%         | 68%         | 67%         | 62%         |
| both alive, divorced or living apart  | 24%         | 29%         | 30%         | 34%         |
| one or both deceased                  | 3%          | 4%          | 4%          | 5%          |

The 2011 freshmen were more likely to say that their parents were divorced or living apart and one or both deceased than were the freshmen in 2010, 2009 and 2001.

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

|                    | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Less than \$30,000 | 8%          | 11%         | 14%         | 15%         |
| \$30,000-\$49,999  | 19%         | 16%         | 20%         | 17%         |
| \$50,000-\$74,999  | 30%         | 26%         | 31%         | 22%         |
| \$75,000-\$99,999  | 21%         | 22%         | 17%         | 19%         |
| \$100,000 or More  | 22%         | 26%         | 18%         | 27%         |

More than 30% of the 2010 and 2011 freshmen reported that their estimated family income is \$49,999 or less. This number is higher than the ones in 2009 and 2001.

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

|                                 | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Other College Grant/Scholarship | 26%         | 64%         | 58%         | 58%         |
| Parents, relatives, friends     | 74%         | 61%         | 60%         | 57%         |
| Other College Loan              | 33%         | 45%         | 34%         | 49%         |
| Pell Grant                      | 11%         | 26%         | 24%         | 39%         |
| Ford Direct Subsidized Loan     | 28%         | 44%         | 38%         | 36%         |
| Other Loan                      | 18%         | 24%         | 21%         | 25%         |
| Other Savings                   | 17%         | 15%         | 14%         | 16%         |
| Savings From Summer Work        | 22%         | 15%         | 15%         | 15%         |
| Perkins Loan                    | 6%          | 9%          | 9%          | 14%         |
| Other Source                    | 8%          | 12%         | 8%          | 11%         |
| Part-Time Job On Campus         | 7%          | 10%         | 5%          | 10%         |
| Part-Time Job Off Campus        | 4%          | 5%          | 4%          | 8%          |
| Other Private Grant             | 2%          | 9%          | 9%          | 6%          |
| College Work Study              | 13%         | 12%         | 6%          | 6%          |
| Ohio Instructional Grant        | 3%          | 9%          | 6%          | 4%          |

Grants/scholarships, family, and loans are the greatest source of financial support for 2011 freshmen. Compared with the freshmen in 2001, the 2011 freshmen were less likely to cite “parents, relatives, friends” as an important financial source but more likely to cite “other college grant/scholarship”, “other college loan”, and “Pell Grant” as the sources where they could receive \$1,500 or more for their college expenses.

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

|            | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| None       | 28%         | 23%         | 34%         | 21%         |
| 1 to 9     | 21%         | 18%         | 21%         | 15%         |
| 10 to 19   | 39%         | 44%         | 38%         | 43%         |
| 20 to 39   | 12%         | 15%         | 6%          | 20%         |
| 40 or More | 0%          | 1%          | 0%          | 1%          |

Compared with the freshmen in 2010 and before, 2011 freshmen were more likely to indicate that they'd like to work 20 hours or more per week.

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

|            | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Not at All | 30%         | 20%         | 23%         | 18%         |
| Somewhat   | 54%         | 61%         | 55%         | 60%         |
| Very       | 16%         | 19%         | 22%         | 22%         |

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

|                         | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Athletics               | 66%         | 63%         | 55%         | 62%         |
| Part-time job           | 55%         | 53%         | 46%         | 47%         |
| Community service       | 30%         | 33%         | 39%         | 38%         |
| Band or orchestra       | 28%         | 27%         | 25%         | 26%         |
| Theatre                 | 21%         | 21%         | 24%         | 21%         |
| Religious organization  | 27%         | 19%         | 23%         | 22%         |
| Choir or vocal ensemble | 22%         | 21%         | 25%         | 20%         |
| Academic honor society  | 18%         | 16%         | 19%         | 19%         |
| Student council         | 18%         | 12%         | 13%         | 14%         |
| Yearbook                | 17%         | 12%         | 13%         | 12%         |
| Class officer           | 14%         | 12%         | 12%         | 12%         |
| Newspaper               | 11%         | 8%          | 9%          | 8%          |
| Debate                  | 4%          | 3%          | 6%          | 4%          |
| ROTC                    | 2%          | 1%          | 4%          | 2%          |

BGSU freshmen were more likely to be involved with athletics, part-time work, and community service than with other activities that were listed on the survey while they were in high school.

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

|                                   | <u>2001</u> |        | <u>2009</u> |        | <u>2010</u> |        | <u>2011</u> |        |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|
|                                   | Father      | Mother | Father      | Mother | Father      | Mother | Father      | Mother |
| Some high school or less          | 2%          | 2%     | 3%          | 2%     | 4%          | 3%     | 4%          | 3%     |
| High school graduate              | 30%         | 32%    | 30%         | 25%    | 29%         | 23%    | 31%         | 24%    |
| Post sec. sch. other than college | 4%          | 5%     | 3%          | 4%     | 4%          | 5%     | 4%          | 4%     |
| Some college                      | 17%         | 17%    | 16%         | 19%    | 15%         | 20%    | 18%         | 21%    |
| College degree                    | 29%         | 29%    | 31%         | 34%    | 29%         | 34%    | 28%         | 33%    |
| Some graduate school              | 2%          | 3%     | 2%          | 3%     | 1%          | 2%     | 2%          | 2%     |
| Graduate degree                   | 15%         | 13%    | 14%         | 13%    | 18%         | 14%    | 14%         | 13%    |

|   | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mother and father high school or less:  | 18%         | 16%         | 16%         | 16%         |
| At least one parent a college graduate: | 59%         | 65%         | 65%         | 63%         |
| Both parents college graduates:         | 29%         | 32%         | 33%         | 30%         |

**Your Father's Occupation (top four in 2011 survey):**

|                                    | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Business                           | 23%         | 26%         | 22%         | 25%         |
| Other                              | 20%         | 21%         | 30%         | 22%         |
| Skilled trades laborer (unskilled) | 3%          | 10%         | 7%          | 11%         |
|                                    | 2%          | 7%          | 4%          | 8%          |

**Your Mother's Occupation (top four in 2011 survey):**

|                          | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Other                    | 22%         | 24%         | 32%         | 26%         |
| Business                 | 13%         | 23%         | 11%         | 22%         |
| Teacher or administrator | 6%          | 12%         | 12%         | 11%         |
| Unemployed               | 5%          | 9%          | 11%         | 10%         |

**Your Probable Occupation (top four in 2011 survey):**

|                          | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Teacher or administrator | 10%         | 20%         | 21%         | 18%         |
| Undecided                | 18%         | 16%         | 12%         | 16%         |
| Other                    | 13%         | 14%         | 17%         | 16%         |
| Business                 | 17%         | 10%         | 10%         | 10%         |

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

|              | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bachelor's   | 14%         | 8%          | 10%         | 11%         |
| Master's     | 64%         | 62%         | 63%         | 62%         |
| Doctorate    | 10%         | 16%         | 17%         | 15%         |
| Professional | 12%         | 13%         | 10%         | 12%         |
| Other        | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          |

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

|              | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bachelor's   | 78%         | 76%         | 77%         | 79%         |
| Master's     | 19%         | 21%         | 20%         | 17%         |
| Doctorate    | 1%          | 2%          | 2%          | 2%          |
| Professional | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          |
| Other        | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          | 0%          |

The most likely academic goal of entering freshmen is a Bachelor's degree at BGSU and a Master's degree anywhere.

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

|                  | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mathematics      | 24%         | 36%         | 34%         | 34%         |
| Science          | 7%          | 14%         | 15%         | 14%         |
| Foreign Language | 8%          | 10%         | 10%         | 11%         |
| English          | 6%          | 13%         | 16%         | 9%          |
| Reading          | 2%          | 6%          | 4%          | 4%          |
| Social Studies   | 2%          | 4%          | 2%          | 4%          |

Mathematics remains the subject in which sizeable numbers of freshmen feel that they may need tutoring or remedial work. Compared with the 2001 freshmen, incoming freshmen were also more likely to look for help in other subjects as well.

**EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES INFORMATION**

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

|   | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| get a Bachelor's Degree                             | 78%         | 85%         | 79%         | 86%         |
| find a job in my major after graduation             | 72%         | 74%         | 66%         | 71%         |
| be satisfied with BGSU                              | 60%         | 70%         | 63%         | 71%         |
| get a job to help pay for college expenses          | 54%         | 58%         | 47%         | 57%         |
| make at least a "B" average                         | 46%         | 55%         | 58%         | 56%         |
| participate in volunteer or community service work  | 15%         | 26%         | 35%         | 27%         |
| join a social club, fraternity, or sorority         | 19%         | 24%         | 25%         | 21%         |
| graduate with honors                                | 11%         | 14%         | 18%         | 14%         |
| change your major                                   | 18%         | 12%         | 14%         | 13%         |
| play varsity intercollegiate athletics              | 12%         | 13%         | 13%         | 12%         |
| change your career choice                           | 15%         | 11%         | 12%         | 12%         |
| join a student professional/government organization | 6%          | 10%         | 12%         | 9%          |
| work full time while attending college              | 4%          | 4%          | 5%          | 7%          |
| be elected to an academic honor society             | 5%          | 6%          | 9%          | 6%          |
| participate in student protests/demonstrations      | 4%          | 6%          | 9%          | 6%          |
| need extra time to complete your degree             | 5%          | 4%          | 9%          | 4%          |

|   |    |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|----|
| transfer to another college before graduation | 3% | 3% | 5% | 3% |
| be elected to a student office                | 2% | 2% | 4% | 3% |
| get married while in college                  | 2% | 2% | 4% | 2% |
| fail one or more courses                      | 1% | 0% | 1% | 1% |
| drop out of college permanently               | 0% | 0% | 1% | 0% |
| drop out of college temporarily               | 0% | 0% | 1% | 0% |

Compared with the freshmen in 2001, 2011 freshmen were less likely to say that they will change their major, but more likely to report that they will participate in volunteer or community service work, make at least a “B” average, get a Bachelor’s degree, and be satisfied with BGSU.

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

|   | <u>2001</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| being very well off financially                               | 84%         | 85%         | 81%         | 88%         |
| raising a family  | 78%         | 78%         | 79%         | 75%         |
| helping others who are in difficulty                          | 68%         | 73%         | 75%         | 74%         |
| becoming an authority in my field                             | 63%         | 60%         | 58%         | 60%         |
| obtaining recognition from my colleagues for my contributions | 56%         | 56%         | 58%         | 56%         |
| influencing social values                                     | 49%         | 51%         | 52%         | 49%         |
| developing a meaningful philosophy of life                    | 45%         | 50%         | 53%         | 47%         |
| becoming successful in a business of my own                   | 47%         | 42%         | 42%         | 44%         |
| having administrative responsibility for the work of others   | 45%         | 42%         | 42%         | 42%         |
| helping to promote racial understanding                       | 35%         | 36%         | 41%         | 33%         |
| becoming a community leader                                   | 31%         | 32%         | 36%         | 33%         |
| participating in a community action program                   | 25%         | 33%         | 41%         | 32%         |
| becoming involved in programs to clean up the environment     | 25%         | 34%         | 40%         | 32%         |
| keeping up to date with political affairs                     | 34%         | 35%         | 33%         | 31%         |
| making a contribution to science                              | 16%         | 19%         | 22%         | 22%         |
| creating artistic works                                       | 22%         | 22%         | 26%         | 20%         |
| becoming accomplished in the performing arts                  | 21%         | 22%         | 24%         | 20%         |
| influencing the political structure                           | 19%         | 20%         | 22%         | 19%         |
| writing original works (poems, novels, etc.)                  | 18%         | 19%         | 23%         | 17%         |

Being very well off financially, raising a family, and helping others who are in difficulty continue to be the most important life goals for the majority of incoming freshmen.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A majority of the 2011 freshmen applied and were admitted to one or more institutions other than BGSU. BGSU was their overwhelming first choice. They are very pragmatic about their college education --- preparing for a professional career, getting a better job, being able to make more money, and learning more about things that interest them were very important reasons for most of incoming freshmen to attend college. A pleasant campus visit coupled with the perceived career success of our graduates and BGSU's academic reputation were the principal reasons for them to choose BGSU.

The 2011 freshmen are mostly from in-state, middle class families. Grants, scholarships, family, and loans have been listed as the important sources for their first year expenses. Compared with the freshmen 10 years ago, the 2011 freshmen were less likely to depend on family, but more likely to rely grants/scholarships/loans to support their education. Eighty-two percent of the incoming freshmen expressed some level of concerns about their ability to finance college education and 79% of them are planning to be employed during the school year. Being very well off financially, raising a family, and helping others who are in difficulty are among their most important life goals.

More than 60% of the entering freshman indicated that they were highly involved with athletics while they were in high school. Most of them are very optimistic about their chances of making at least a "B" average for their classes, getting a Bachelor's Degree, finding a job in their major after graduation, and being satisfied with BGSU. The mass majority of them predict that it is unlikely for them to fail one or more courses, take extra time to complete a degree, transfer to another college before graduation, and drop out college temporarily or permanently. Mathematics, however, remains the area where sizeable freshmen are concerned about their academic preparation for college work.

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