

REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE FALL 2011 NEW STUDENT TRANSITION QUESTIONNAIRE

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BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

The BGSU New Student Transition Questionnaire was developed in Fall 1997 as a means of gathering information about how well first-time first-year students were becoming acclimated to college life within their first a few weeks at BGSU. This report describes the results of the 14th administration of the survey in Fall 2011.

The 2011 survey was distributed to students who enrolled in GSW 1100, 1110, and 1120 classes at BGSU main campus in the week of September 19. Two thousand eight hundred and eight surveys were returned. This represents about 84% of the survey population (3,338*) and 73% of the first-time first-year Fall 2011 main campus freshmen (3864). Of the 2,808 respondents, 1,654 of them provided valid ID numbers, which allows us to identify their gender, ethnicity, the college they are in, and if they are the first-time first-year Fall 2011 main campus freshmen. The survey respondents, in general, mirror the population (see Table 1 on page 2).

The survey results were analyzed by noting the percentages of all participants who provided various responses to each questionnaire item. Percentages may not always sum to 100 due to rounding. In addition, group differences (gender, race, and college) were investigated and significant differences are noted where they occurred.

* 3338: This is the total number of students who enrolled in GSW 1100, 1110, and 1120 classes at the beginning of the Fall 2011. This number is provided by the Office of General Studies Writing.

Table 1. Students Characteristics

	Overall	Gender		Ethnicity			College*							
		Female	Male	Minority*	White	Other	AS	ACE	BA	EDHD	HHS	MUS	TECH	OTHER
Population of First-Time First-Year Fall 2011 Main Campus Freshmen:														
Total Number	3864	2255	1609	845	2878	141	1123	722	389	860	482	97	191	0
Percentage	100%	58%	42%	22%	74%	4%	29%	19%	10%	22%	12%	3%	5%	0%
Survey Respondents:														
Total Number	2808													
Survey Respondents who provided valid ID	1654***	974	680	382	1239	33	475	311	174	365	217	39	61	12
Percentage	100%	59%	41%	23%	75%	2%	29%	19%	11%	22%	13%	2%	4%	1%

* College:

- AS: College of Arts and Sciences
- ACE: Academic Enhancement
- BA: College of Business Administrations
- EDHD: College of Education and Human Development
- HHS: College of Health and Human Services
- MUS: College of Musical Arts
- TECH: College of Technology
- OTHER: None of the above (guest or Firelands students)

** Minority: Multi-race has been counted as minorities.

*** Among the 1654 respondents, 1596 of them are first-time first-year fall 2011 main campus freshmen and 58 of them are not.

SURVEY RESULTS

Table 2. Overall and Differences by Gender, Race, and College

	Overall	Gender		Ethnicity		College						
		Female	Male	Minority	White	AS	ACE	BA	EDHD	HHS	MUS	TECH
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I am finding it easy to adjust to the University												
Strongly Disagree	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0
Somewhat Disagree	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	2	3	5	5	3
Neutral	10	9	9	12	8	8	11	8	9	9	10	7
Somewhat Agree	37	32	43	37	36	41	36	38	33	34	31	40
Strongly Agree	49	53	45	46	51	46	48	51	55	50	54	50
I have figured out how to study effectively												
Strongly Disagree	3	3	2	7	2	3	3	2	2	5	0	2
Somewhat Disagree	12	13	10	18	10	13	13	7	12	15	8	8
Neutral	36	33	39	34	36	37	36	40	34	32	26	34
Somewhat Agree	40	41	39	32	43	38	39	39	41	38	46	49
Strongly Agree	10	10	11	10	11	9	9	13	12	10	21	7
I am satisfied with my roommate												
Strongly Disagree	4	5	3	3	5	4	6	2	4	5	3	5
Somewhat Disagree	6	6	6	7	6	8	7	4	7	5	3	0
Neutral	18	16	17	13	17	18	15	15	16	14	13	19
Somewhat Agree	20	19	22	21	20	22	22	17	18	19	26	24
Strongly Agree	52	54	52	56	52	49	51	62	56	57	55	52
I am satisfied with my living accommodations												
Strongly Disagree	2	2	1	3	1	2	2	2	1	2	0	0
Somewhat Disagree	8	8	8	8	8	7	11	9	6	9	15	9
Neutral	18	15	20	17	17	19	15	22	15	14	18	14
Somewhat Agree	32	30	34	36	30	30	33	30	31	31	36	37
Strongly Agree	40	45	37	37	43	42	39	36	47	44	31	41

I am making friends easily												
Strongly Disagree	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	3	0	2
Somewhat Disagree	5	5	4	5	5	7	3	4	3	6	0	7
Neutral	15	15	13	19	12	12	18	14	14	14	15	10
Somewhat Agree	34	32	35	25	36	33	29	37	35	34	13	42
Strongly Agree	45	46	47	48	46	46	48	44	47	43	72	40
I am not concerned about alcohol use among students												
Strongly Disagree	6	6	5	4	6	6	5	8	6	4	8	5
Somewhat Disagree	8	9	7	7	9	9	9	7	6	8	13	10
Neutral	26	26	23	27	24	25	24	21	25	29	23	29
Somewhat Agree	23	23	22	21	23	18	25	22	27	25	18	24
Strongly Agree	37	35	43	41	37	41	38	42	36	35	39	32
I feel lonely, left out, or isolated												
Strongly Disagree	60	60	60	62	60	55	62	68	62	62	56	51
Somewhat Disagree	21	19	24	17	22	23	19	18	21	21	26	33
Neutral	11	10	10	13	9	12	11	8	9	8	15	10
Somewhat Agree	7	8	5	8	7	10	5	4	6	8	3	5
Strongly Agree	2	2	2	1	2	1	4	2	2	1	0	2
I find my classes challenging												
Strongly Disagree	5	4	5	6	4	4	5	4	5	6	0	3
Somewhat Disagree	15	16	15	15	16	17	14	14	15	15	13	20
Neutral	40	38	41	41	39	36	43	39	42	37	33	38
Somewhat Agree	34	35	33	33	35	35	34	36	32	34	41	38
Strongly Agree	6	7	6	6	6	7	5	7	5	8	13	2
I miss home and my friends who are not at BGSU												
Strongly Disagree	7	5	11	7	8	6	9	11	8	7	10	5
Somewhat Disagree	12	9	14	10	11	11	10	14	11	9	21	8
Neutral	24	21	27	22	24	21	21	25	25	25	13	28
Somewhat Agree	34	36	33	33	35	37	33	39	34	35	36	32
Strongly Agree	23	28	16	29	22	26	26	11	23	24	21	27

It is difficult for me to get in touch with teachers or staff outside of class												
Strongly Disagree	28	31	22	33	26	29	27	22	29	27	37	15
Somewhat Disagree	38	40	40	35	41	38	41	34	42	38	37	48
Neutral	26	21	30	23	25	24	26	31	22	25	16	28
Somewhat Agree	7	7	7	8	7	8	5	12	6	9	11	10
Strongly Agree	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	0	0
I am getting actively involved with my classes												
Strongly Disagree	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0
Somewhat Disagree	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	6	7	0	3
Neutral	38	38	37	37	38	33	42	39	38	42	15	41
Somewhat Agree	44	43	45	40	45	45	41	42	45	44	56	44
Strongly Agree	11	12	11	16	10	14	10	14	11	6	28	12
Faculty and staff I encounter have a good attitude toward students												
Strongly Disagree	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Somewhat Disagree	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	4	2	2	0	0
Neutral	9	8	7	10	7	10	9	5	7	5	5	10
Somewhat Agree	44	41	47	36	46	39	46	48	42	47	39	51
Strongly Agree	45	49	43	51	45	49	44	42	48	46	56	39
I can't find things to do on weekends												
Strongly Disagree	52	51	55	51	53	47	57	62	54	49	49	43
Somewhat Disagree	22	24	22	20	24	23	21	21	23	27	31	23
Neutral	13	13	11	15	12	14	10	7	12	13	15	23
Somewhat Agree	9	9	8	10	9	12	7	7	9	9	3	7
Strongly Agree	3	3	4	5	3	4	4	3	2	3	3	3
I am having difficulty deciding on a major or career												
Strongly Disagree	43	49	40	47	45	47	20	37	61	48	76	54
Somewhat Disagree	19	18	20	16	20	21	12	23	15	25	8	28
Neutral	15	13	17	16	14	15	20	21	13	9	8	8
Somewhat Agree	12	9	13	10	11	9	21	14	5	10	8	3
Strongly Agree	11	11	10	11	11	8	27	5	5	9	0	7

I get along well with others on campus												
Strongly Disagree	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Somewhat Disagree	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	2
Neutral	9	9	7	11	7	9	10	5	9	7	8	9
Somewhat Agree	41	37	45	34	42	42	42	37	37	42	39	39
Strongly Agree	48	52	47	53	50	47	47	55	54	49	51	51
I have taken advantage of mentoring or tutoring groups												
Strongly Disagree	22	22	24	22	23	27	18	25	21	24	31	13
Somewhat Disagree	27	26	28	24	28	26	31	25	26	26	18	33
Neutral	34	33	34	30	35	32	36	31	35	31	33	40
Somewhat Agree	11	11	10	13	10	9	9	12	14	12	5	10
Strongly Agree	6	7	4	10	5	6	6	6	4	7	13	3
I am not managing my time well												
Strongly Disagree	19	22	15	16	20	16	17	17	24	20	21	18
Somewhat Disagree	35	35	37	33	36	36	34	36	36	33	39	44
Neutral	26	22	30	27	25	24	27	30	24	26	26	25
Somewhat Agree	16	17	15	18	16	18	18	13	14	17	13	10
Strongly Agree	4	4	3	6	3	6	4	5	2	4	3	3
I am involved with campus activities outside of class												
Strongly Disagree	11	12	8	15	9	7	13	8	11	15	8	8
Somewhat Disagree	17	18	17	17	18	21	18	15	13	21	8	20
Neutral	21	20	22	23	20	18	25	24	18	21	13	30
Somewhat Agree	31	29	34	27	33	32	27	34	36	27	28	30
Strongly Agree	19	21	19	18	21	22	18	19	22	17	44	13
I am having trouble keeping up with my studies												
Strongly Disagree	18	22	15	20	19	17	18	20	22	17	26	18
Somewhat Disagree	40	40	39	37	40	39	38	34	44	45	21	40
Neutral	25	20	30	25	24	25	26	30	22	19	31	23
Somewhat Agree	14	14	14	13	15	16	15	12	11	15	18	17
Strongly Agree	3	4	2	5	3	3	4	3	2	4	5	2

I like the social life at BGSU												
Strongly Disagree	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	2
Somewhat Disagree	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	2	3	3	5	3
Neutral	16	16	13	21	12	17	14	10	13	15	13	16
Somewhat Agree	39	35	43	35	39	40	39	37	36	38	49	38
Strongly Agree	41	45	41	40	44	39	43	49	48	42	33	41
I would recommend BGSU to my friends												
Strongly Disagree	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	3	2
Somewhat Disagree	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	0	2
Neutral	10	11	10	17	8	10	14	11	9	9	10	5
Somewhat Agree	31	26	34	29	29	32	23	28	28	32	33	39
Strongly Agree	56	60	54	51	60	54	61	59	62	56	54	53
The noise level on my floor does not interfere with my ability to sleep or study within my personal room												
Strongly Disagree	10	11	8	8	10	10	10	10	9	10	5	12
Somewhat Disagree	13	15	10	12	13	17	12	5	16	9	16	3
Neutral	19	17	17	14	18	12	20	24	16	17	21	17
Somewhat Agree	23	21	26	23	23	21	25	24	22	23	13	40
Strongly Agree	36	36	40	44	36	40	33	38	37	41	45	28

Group difference:

- Female respondents were more likely to say that “I miss home and my friends who are not at BGSU”. Male respondents, on the other hand, were more likely say that “I am not concerned about alcohol use among students”, and that “the noise level on my floor does not interfere with my ability to sleep or study within my personal room”;
- While minority respondents were more likely to point out that they have taken advantages of mentoring or tutoring groups to improve their academic performance, European-American respondents were more likely to indicate that they have figured out how to study effectively, that they liked the social life at BGSU and have involved with campus activities outside of class. They were also more likely than minority students to recommend BGSU to their friends;
- Among the respondents in the seven colleges, Musical Arts students were most likely to claim that they have actively involved with activities inside class as well as campus activities outside of class; Academic Enhancement students were most likely to report that “I am having difficulty deciding a major or career”.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Most Fall 2011 new freshmen seem to be becoming academically and socially integrated into college life during their first a few weeks at BGSU. Although 57% of the survey respondents indicated that they missed home and friends who are not at BGSU, the majority of them did report that it was easy for them to adjust to the University (86%); they got along well with others on campus (89%) and made new friends easily (79%); they liked the social life at BGSU (80%) and didn't feel lonely, left out, or isolated (81%). More than 70% of them pointed out that they were satisfied with their roommates as well as living accommodations, and more than 80% percent of them said that they would recommend BGSU to their friends.

The majority of the Fall 2011 incoming freshmen feel that the faculty and staff members they have encountered at BGSU had a good attitude toward students and it's easy for them to get in touch with teachers or staff outside of class. Forty percent of them found their classes challenging and yet only 17% of them have taken the advantages of mentoring or tutoring groups. Fifty percent or more of them claimed that they have figured out how to study effectively, and that they have been actively involved with their classes. Some of them, however, still had trouble or difficulty to keep up with their studies (17%), manage time (20%), and declare a major or a career (23%).

The survey results also tend to reveal some substantial differences across student groups. Caution is to be advised in interpreting the results due to the fact that, even though the distribution across groups in the questionnaire sample parallels that of the whole population in terms of gender, race and college, only 1654 respondents provided valid PID numbers which allowed us to identify whether they are the first time first year freshmen as well as to do group comparisons. Feedback concerning how this and other studies and how they can continue to be improved is always welcome.