

REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE FALL 2012 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 15th administration of the survey in Fall 2012.

The 2012 survey was distributed to students who enrolled in GSW 1100, 1110, and 1120 classes at BGSU main campus in the weeks of September 17 and 24, the fifth and sixth week of the fall semester. Two thousand two hundred and ninety-seven surveys were returned. This represents about 77% of the students who enrolled in the classes (2981*).

Among the 2297 students who have answered the survey, 477 of them didn't provide their BGSU IDs and 1,820 of them did. Among the 1820 respondents who have provided a valid ID, 1764 of them were identified as first-time first-year freshman (FFF), 11 as first-time first-year transfer student (FFT), and 45 as non first-time first-year students (NFFS). FFT and NFFS students have been excluded from this study. The final counts for this study, therefore, is 2241 (2297-11- 45), which represents about 62% of first-time, first-year, freshman at main campus (1764/3622).

* 2981: *This is the total number of students who enrolled in GSW 1100, 1110, and 1120 classes at the beginning of the Fall 2012. This number is provided by the Office of General Studies Writing.*

To examine how representative the survey respondents were of the population, the demographic characteristics of the 1764 FFF were compared to entire main campus Fall 2012 first-time, first-year freshmen class (3622). The survey respondents, in general, mirror the population (see Table below).

	2012 Survey Respondents	2012 First Time First Year Full/Part Time Freshman
Gender:		
Female	57.6%	59.0%
Male	42.4%	41.0%
Race:		
Minorities*	22.0%	21.5%
European-American	75.8%	75.6%
Other/Unknown	2.2%	2.9%
College:		
Arts and Sciences	27.5%	29.3%
Business Administration	11.7%	11.7%
Education and Human Development	22.1%	21.2%
Health and Human Services	11.7%	12.1%
Musical Arts	1.5%	1.8%
Technology	5.2%	5.6%
Academic Enhancement	20.3%	18.2%

* Multi-race has been counted as minorities.

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.

SURVEY RESULTS

1. 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	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Somewhat Disagree	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	0	4
Neutral	12	13	10	17	10	15	16	7	11	9	11	7
Somewhat Agree	37	34	42	37	37	38	37	37	38	36	22	39
Strongly Agree	47	49	44	42	48	43	43	52	49	50	67	50
I have figured out how to study effectively												
Strongly Disagree	3	3	3	7	2	3	3	1	1	6	0	4
Somewhat Disagree	14	15	13	19	12	15	19	11	11	14	4	10
Neutral	37	36	38	39	36	40	38	34	36	33	26	39
Somewhat Agree	38	39	39	28	42	36	34	46	43	40	44	32
Strongly Agree	8	8	8	6	8	6	5	7	10	8	26	15
I am satisfied with my roommate												
Strongly Disagree	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	6	5	3	0	4
Somewhat Disagree	6	7	6	5	7	7	10	3	6	5	4	4
Neutral	18	17	19	17	19	16	16	18	17	24	11	27
Somewhat Agree	19	17	20	18	18	19	18	22	18	15	22	17
Strongly Agree	52	55	51	56	52	54	53	51	55	53	63	48

I am satisfied with my living accommodations												
Strongly Disagree	2	1	2	4	1	2	2	2	1	3	0	2
Somewhat Disagree	7	8	5	9	7	7	9	4	5	10	0	8
Neutral	18	16	19	21	16	17	19	15	17	16	15	22
Somewhat Agree	31	30	31	30	31	33	32	31	31	25	30	28
Strongly Agree	42	44	42	37	45	41	39	48	46	46	56	41
I am making friends easily												
Strongly Disagree	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	0	2
Somewhat Disagree	6	7	4	5	6	5	5	7	5	5	7	10
Neutral	14	14	12	15	13	16	16	9	10	13	7	13
Somewhat Agree	34	33	34	33	34	33	34	35	33	36	26	34
Strongly Agree	45	44	49	46	46	44	43	48	51	44	59	40
I am not concerned about alcohol use among students												
Strongly Disagree	7	7	5	8	6	7	8	4	6	5	15	3
Somewhat Disagree	7	8	7	6	8	9	5	8	8	7	12	7
Neutral	26	29	22	30	25	28	26	18	26	31	23	23
Somewhat Agree	25	26	26	21	27	23	27	30	26	23	27	32
Strongly Agree	35	31	41	35	34	33	35	40	35	35	23	35
I feel lonely, left out, or isolated												
Strongly Disagree	58	56	62	61	57	53	56	66	57	70	62	57
Somewhat Disagree	23	24	20	20	23	24	26	16	24	17	15	21
Neutral	10	11	9	11	10	10	10	10	11	6	15	13
Somewhat Agree	7	8	7	7	8	11	6	6	7	6	8	8
Strongly Agree	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	0	1
I find my classes challenging												
Strongly Disagree	3	4	2	6	2	4	3	4	2	2	4	6
Somewhat Disagree	14	16	12	13	15	13	14	14	15	17	19	10
Neutral	38	38	41	44	38	36	43	43	41	36	30	41
Somewhat Agree	37	36	37	31	38	38	36	34	36	37	41	36
Strongly Agree	7	7	7	6	7	9	5	5	7	8	7	8

I miss home and my friends who are not at BGSU												
Strongly Disagree	5	4	6	5	5	4	5	7	5	4	4	5
Somewhat Disagree	10	8	12	11	10	13	7	13	9	8	19	5
Neutral	25	22	30	25	25	27	26	26	19	29	19	24
Somewhat Agree	35	35	34	28	37	30	34	35	40	34	39	46
Strongly Agree	26	31	18	31	24	26	28	19	27	25	19	21
It is difficult for me to get in touch with teachers or staff outside of class												
Strongly Disagree	27	30	22	35	24	23	28	22	30	34	31	17
Somewhat Disagree	38	39	37	32	40	39	41	38	38	34	39	37
Neutral	25	22	31	25	26	26	24	27	23	26	27	34
Somewhat Agree	9	8	10	7	9	11	6	10	9	5	4	10
Strongly Agree	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	2
I am getting actively involved with my classes												
Strongly Disagree	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
Somewhat Disagree	8	7	9	7	8	7	11	10	5	9	0	7
Neutral	40	40	37	41	39	38	43	32	39	43	22	39
Somewhat Agree	41	43	43	38	44	45	38	48	44	41	52	39
Strongly Agree	10	10	10	13	9	10	9	11	11	5	26	13
Faculty and staff I encounter have a good attitude toward students												
Strongly Disagree	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	1
Somewhat Disagree	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	0	1
Neutral	9	9	7	9	8	8	11	8	7	8	4	8
Somewhat Agree	46	44	48	41	47	46	45	46	47	43	35	50
Strongly Agree	43	45	43	47	43	44	43	43	44	47	62	41
I can't find things to do on weekends												
Strongly Disagree	48	46	50	44	49	44	50	54	47	51	50	44
Somewhat Disagree	25	24	25	25	25	24	24	23	26	27	23	22
Neutral	15	16	15	19	14	17	15	12	14	15	15	19
Somewhat Agree	9	10	7	8	9	11	8	9	10	3	12	11
Strongly Agree	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	0	4

I am having difficulty deciding on a major or career												
Strongly Disagree	44	49	41	44	45	46	21	31	65	53	62	63
Somewhat Disagree	19	18	22	20	19	22	11	30	17	23	23	12
Neutral	14	11	16	17	12	13	18	20	6	11	12	20
Somewhat Agree	12	12	13	11	13	11	26	12	8	7	4	3
Strongly Agree	10	10	9	8	10	8	25	7	4	6	0	1
I get along well with others on campus												
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Somewhat Disagree	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Neutral	9	10	7	11	8	10	9	6	8	8	0	12
Somewhat Agree	43	39	46	40	43	42	42	42	40	46	35	43
Strongly Agree	47	50	46	49	48	46	48	51	52	45	65	44
I have taken advantage of mentoring or tutoring groups												
Strongly Disagree	20	16	24	20	19	23	18	20	16	16	15	23
Somewhat Disagree	25	25	25	24	26	26	28	20	27	20	22	28
Neutral	33	33	33	28	34	30	34	27	38	33	44	32
Somewhat Agree	14	16	12	16	14	14	14	19	11	20	15	9
Strongly Agree	9	11	6	12	8	7	6	14	8	12	4	8
I am not managing my time well												
Strongly Disagree	18	21	15	18	18	14	15	17	22	24	23	22
Somewhat Disagree	36	38	35	27	39	34	34	43	41	35	39	28
Neutral	28	26	29	30	26	31	31	25	20	26	27	29
Somewhat Agree	15	12	18	19	14	16	17	13	13	11	12	16
Strongly Agree	4	4	3	6	3	5	3	2	3	4	0	6
I am involved with campus activities outside of class												
Strongly Disagree	11	9	11	13	9	9	14	7	6	11	4	16
Somewhat Disagree	17	16	17	18	16	16	20	16	14	17	19	13
Neutral	22	21	23	19	23	22	22	24	19	25	11	24
Somewhat Agree	30	33	29	30	32	32	28	32	36	29	30	26
Strongly Agree	20	20	21	19	21	21	15	22	25	18	37	21

I am having trouble keeping up with my studies												
Strongly Disagree	17	19	12	19	15	14	17	14	18	19	31	14
Somewhat Disagree	38	40	39	31	42	36	37	43	44	37	42	41
Neutral	28	24	29	29	26	29	30	25	22	25	19	24
Somewhat Agree	16	14	18	17	15	18	14	18	14	16	8	18
Strongly Agree	3	3	2	4	2	4	2	1	2	3	0	3
I like the social life at BGSU												
Strongly Disagree	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2
Somewhat Disagree	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	2	2	4	4
Neutral	17	18	15	21	16	20	17	16	15	11	22	21
Somewhat Agree	35	33	36	34	34	32	39	34	32	36	26	33
Strongly Agree	44	45	46	41	46	44	40	46	50	50	48	40
I would recommend BGSU to my friends												
Strongly Disagree	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	3
Somewhat Disagree	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	0	1
Neutral	11	12	9	16	9	13	13	10	8	9	4	7
Somewhat Agree	30	27	32	28	29	28	30	32	26	28	33	37
Strongly Agree	56	59	57	52	60	56	55	57	64	61	63	52
The noise level on my floor does not interfere with my ability to sleep or study within my personal room												
Strongly Disagree	10	11	7	8	10	9	10	8	10	10	4	11
Somewhat Disagree	15	18	10	9	17	15	15	14	15	15	12	11
Neutral	19	18	22	17	20	18	20	22	16	23	27	24
Somewhat Agree	24	23	26	24	24	24	25	24	25	24	15	25
Strongly Agree	32	30	35	42	29	34	31	31	33	28	42	29

2. Difference within Groups:

- Female respondents were more likely to report that “I miss home and my friends who are not at BGSU” and “I have taken advantage of mentoring or tutoring groups”. Male respondents, on the other hand, were more likely say that “I am not concerned about alcohol use among students”, “I am making friends easily”, “I am not managing my time well”, and “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 “I have taken advantage of mentoring or tutoring groups”, “I am not managing my time well”, and “the noise level on my floor does not interfere with my ability to sleep or study within my personal room”, European-American respondents were more likely to indicate that their classes are challenging, but they have figured out how to study effectively. European-American students were also more likely than their counterpart to claim that it was easy for them to adjust to the University, they liked the social life at BGSU and were satisfied with their living accommodations, and they would recommend BGSU to their friends;
- Among the respondents in the seven colleges, Musical Arts students were most likely to report that they have figured out how to study effectively and that they have actively involved with activities inside as well as outside of class; Academic Enhancement students were most likely to say that “I am having difficulty deciding a major or career”. Compared with the respondents in the other colleges, students in the College of Business Administration and the College of Health & Human Services were more likely to take advantage of mentoring or tutoring groups to improve their study; students in Academic Enhancement, College of Education and Human Development, and College of Technology were more like to feel that they have missed home and friends who are not at BGSU.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Most Fall 2012 new freshmen seem to be becoming academically and socially integrated into college life during their first a few weeks at BGSU. Although 61% 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 (84%), they got along well with others on campus (90%) and made new friends easily (79%), and they liked the social life at BGSU (79%) 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 2012 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-four percent of them found their classes challenging and yet only 23% of them have taken the advantages of mentoring or tutoring groups. Less than half of the survey respondents claimed that they have figured out how to study effectively and minority students even less likely say so than did European-American students. Some of the students still had trouble or difficulty to keep up with their studies (17%), manage time (20%), and declare a major or a career (23%). Working with students in coping with their first year study at the University might become an important issue in helping them succeed at college.

Caution is to be advised in interpreting the results due to the fact that (1) the response rate is only 62%; (2) we included 477 students who didn't provide their BGSU IDs in this study and we don't know if all of them are the first time first year freshmen.

Feedback concerning how this and other studies and how they can continue to be improved is always welcome.