



CAMPUS
ASSESSMENT
WORKING GROUP

Beginning Student Survey: Fall 2000
Prepared by the Campus Assessment Working Group
Studies of Entry Subgroup
July 24, 2001

This report summarizes the results of the 2000 Beginning Student Survey (BSS). The survey was administered in late October and early November, 2000. The BSS was developed by the Studies of Entry Subgroup of the Campus Assessment Working Group (CAWG), with input from various campus clients.

The administration was achieved through the assistance of various instructors who provided class time Fall 2000, and other administrators who helped distribute surveys via other methods during that time. Surveys were administered in the following courses: ENGL101, EDCP108O/UNIV101, BSOS188A/188C, EDCP108N, HONR100/HONR100G, and ANSC101. Surveys were also distributed through the Academic Achievement Programs/IED.

Students responded directly on printed forms designed for optical scanning. An instruction sheet was provided for instructors and administrators to read, or to be included in a letter that accompanied the survey. Previous years' administrations indicated 20 minutes were required for the survey to be completed. Copies of the survey and the instruction sheet follow the data tables.

Surveys were visually inspected prior to scanning; stray marks were erased and responses were darkened as needed. Reviews for potential sources of error associated with patterns of missing values revealed no significant concerns.

The survey provided a space for students to write their Student Identification Number. When voluntarily provided, it was used to link with official university records to include demographic information in the analysis.

The survey was potentially distributed to 3,350 students (as determined by course rosters and Academic Achievement Program/IED decision code). In contrast to previous years, students were instructed to take the survey even if they had already completed it in another class. (Multiple surveys for students will be used to study the reliability of the instrument.) A total of 2,898 surveys were returned. Of these, 2,184 were first surveys from first-time, full-time freshmen.

Survey items are included in their entirety in this report. Each survey table represents the valid responses of first-time (non-transfer) full-time freshmen excluding missing and "does not apply" responses. The N noted on each item reflects the number of valid responses for that item.

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Demographic Information

UM Survey Respondents as compared to UM Population of First-Time Full-Time Freshmen

| Gender | UM Respondents | UM Population |
|--------|----------------|---------------|
| | % | % |
| | N = 2184 | N = 3954 |
| Male | 49.2 | 51.9 |
| Female | 50.8 | 48.1 |

| Race | UM Respondents | UM Population |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | % | % |
| | N = 2184 | N = 3954 |
| Native American | <1 | <1 |
| African American / Black | 12.2 | 12.0 |
| Asian American | 14.1 | 14.3 |
| Hispanic American | 5.3 | 4.8 |
| Caucasian American / White | 63.1 | 62.6 |
| Foreign | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Unknown | 3.3 | 4.3 |

| State Residency | UM Respondents | UM Population |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | % | % |
| | N = 2184 | N = 3954 |
| Maryland Residents | 60.7 | 61.6 |
| Non-Residents | 39.4 | 38.4 |

| High School GPA | UM Respondents | UM Population |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | % | % |
| | N = 2147 | N = 3954 |
| Less than 2.5 | .5 | .4 |
| 2.5 - 2.999 | 4.1 | 3.7 |
| 3.0 - 3.499 | 24.3 | 25.4 |
| 3.5 and Higher | 71.0 | 70.4 |

| Residence | UM | UM |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|
| | Respondents | Population |
| | % | % |
| | N = 2184 | N = 3954 |
| Residence Halls | 88.3 | 87.7 |
| Off Campus (Commuters) | 11.7 | 12.3 |

| Credits Attempted | UM | UM |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| | Respondents | Population |
| | % | % |
| | N = 2184 | N = 3954 |
| Extended Load (12 - 14 hours) | 54.3 | 55.2 |
| Catalogue Load (15 - 20 hours) | 45.7 | 44.8 |

2000 Beginning Student Survey

All percentages reported are of valid responses, excluding missing (system and 'does not apply' responses)

| Please indicate how much you agree/disagree with the following. (Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly Agree) | | UM Respondents % | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | SD | D | N | A | SA | N |
| 1. | I've made campus friends. | 1.0 | 2.9 | 5.7 | 31.2 | 59.1 | 2171 |
| 2. | I've been able to get the classes I wanted. | 2.0 | 7.9 | 18.1 | 46.3 | 25.7 | 2172 |
| 3. | I am earning the grades I want. | 8.3 | 23.6 | 27.9 | 33.0 | 7.2 | 2172 |
| 4. | My math course placement is appropriate for my skills. | 9.6 | 16.2 | 16.4 | 34.4 | 23.3 | 1984 |
| 5. | Faculty are usually available outside of class if I have questions. | .7 | 3.7 | 21.1 | 51.2 | 23.3 | 2134 |
| 6. | I've stayed motivated. | 3.3 | 13.9 | 26.1 | 43.5 | 13.2 | 2174 |
| 7. | I've asked a faculty member for help. | 5.4 | 19.2 | 16.3 | 42.7 | 16.3 | 2094 |
| 8. | I've asked a staff member or administrator for help. | 7.6 | 27.7 | 21.0 | 34.1 | 9.7 | 2031 |
| 9. | I've asked another student for help. | 1.4 | 6.2 | 6.9 | 52.0 | 33.5 | 2145 |
| 10. | I've selected a field of study/major. | 9.7 | 12.7 | 11.2 | 28.9 | 37.5 | 2131 |
| 11. | I am usually on time for class. | 1.6 | 6.5 | 9.6 | 40.6 | 41.7 | 2167 |
| 12. | Faculty care about me as an individual. | 5.5 | 16.9 | 45.2 | 26.7 | 5.7 | 2168 |
| 13. | Getting a broad and well-rounded education is important to me. | 1.6 | 3.4 | 9.8 | 37.3 | 47.9 | 2164 |
| 14. | My math course is organized and taught in a way that allows me to learn well. | 12.9 | 17.7 | 18.2 | 32.7 | 18.4 | 1804 |
| 15. | I am familiar with the procedures for course registration. | 3.6 | 18.1 | 23.1 | 42.6 | 12.5 | 2160 |
| 16. | I've identified a career direction or interest. | 5.4 | 9.5 | 13.7 | 38.6 | 32.7 | 2158 |
| 17. | I've been able to maintain physical health and well-being. | 1.8 | 9.2 | 19.0 | 45.3 | 24.7 | 2173 |
| 18. | Faculty provide timely feedback about my progress in my courses. | 5.1 | 21.1 | 34.3 | 34.3 | 5.2 | 2166 |
| 19. | I know how to contact an advisor in my college/department. | 4.5 | 14.9 | 14.8 | 46.8 | 19.0 | 2169 |
| 20. | I understand the purpose of the CORE (general education) program. | 3.6 | 9.2 | 16.8 | 51.3 | 19.1 | 2169 |

| Please indicate how much you agree/disagree with the following. (Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly Agree) | UM Respondents % | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | SD | D | N | A | SA | N |
| 21. Attending summer orientation helped to ease my transition to the University. | 6.7 | 14.1 | 22.9 | 39.5 | 16.7 | 2138 |
| 22. I feel adequately prepared for academic demands here. | 1.6 | 7.2 | 21.8 | 52.4 | 17.0 | 2172 |
| 23. Overall, my courses are intellectually stimulating. | 1.7 | 7.3 | 22.7 | 54.0 | 14.4 | 2175 |
| 24. I am concerned about my ability to finance my college education. | 13.5 | 22.7 | 21.6 | 21.2 | 20.9 | 2129 |
| 25. I'm meeting people different from myself at Maryland. | .7 | 2.0 | 7.2 | 47.6 | 42.5 | 2166 |
| 26. My family encourages me to continue my college education. | .2 | .5 | 1.9 | 19.0 | 78.3 | 2157 |
| 27. There are sufficient campus activities on weekends to meet my interests and needs. | 5.4 | 11.3 | 24.0 | 37.1 | 22.3 | 2070 |
| 28. I'll be able to afford to enroll next semester. | .8 | 2.0 | 10.1 | 43.9 | 43.2 | 2133 |
| 29. My English 101 course is organized and taught in a way that allows me to learn well. | 5.6 | 9.0 | 19.5 | 42.0 | 24.0 | 1523 |
| 30. I can develop a class schedule that fits my needs. | 1.4 | 6.2 | 24.9 | 53.4 | 14.0 | 2158 |
| 31. I know where to get help on campus with reading and study skills. | 3.8 | 15.3 | 21.8 | 45.6 | 13.5 | 2131 |
| 32. I'm adjusting to the social life of college. | 1.4 | 4.4 | 13.5 | 50.7 | 29.9 | 2159 |
| 33. I'm as involved in campus activities as I want to be. | 4.5 | 24.1 | 22.8 | 34.4 | 14.2 | 2155 |
| 34. I'm adjusting to the academic work of college. | 2.0 | 8.3 | 18.3 | 57.9 | 13.6 | 2168 |
| 35. If I run into problems here, I know someone on campus who'll listen to and help me. | 3.0 | 11.2 | 21.8 | 45.3 | 18.8 | 2159 |
| 36. I feel safe on campus. | 3.6 | 10.2 | 24.5 | 46.7 | 15.0 | 2152 |
| 37. There are social/leisure activities on campus that I like. | 1.5 | 5.1 | 19.7 | 54.0 | 19.6 | 2137 |
| 38. I read the Diamondback regularly. | 13.8 | 23.0 | 18.7 | 30.2 | 14.3 | 2158 |

| Please indicate how important the following college goals/outcomes are to you. | | UM Respondents % | | | | | N |
|--|--|------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|------|
| | | Very Important | Important | Undecided | Not Too Important | Not At All Important | |
| 39. | Learning to communicate effectively in writing | 46.1 | 41.7 | 6.3 | 4.9 | .9 | 2142 |
| 40. | Learning to communicate effectively orally | 56.0 | 36.9 | 3.8 | 2.7 | .6 | 2142 |
| 41. | Acquiring technology skills for work and life | 46.5 | 42.2 | 7.8 | 2.9 | .5 | 2140 |
| 42. | Learning to think and reason | 62.7 | 32.2 | 3.3 | 1.4 | .4 | 2141 |
| 43. | Acquiring knowledge and skills in my academic interest area | 75.7 | 21.5 | 1.5 | .7 | .5 | 2140 |
| 44. | Acquiring knowledge in areas that complement / enhance my academic interest area | 55.9 | 38.7 | 4.0 | 1.0 | .5 | 2141 |
| 45. | Gaining appreciation of attitudes/cultures different than mine | 31.9 | 41.8 | 15.4 | 8.2 | 2.8 | 2141 |
| 46. | Developing leadership skills | 44.6 | 38.6 | 11.4 | 4.4 | 1.0 | 2139 |
| 47. | Participating in community service | 19.9 | 38.5 | 24.5 | 12.6 | 4.5 | 2140 |

| At present, how do you think you compare with other freshmen at UM in the following areas? | | UM Respondents % | | | | |
|--|---|------------------|---------------|---------|---------------|------|
| | | Highest 10% | Above Average | Average | Below Average | N |
| 48. | Oral communication skills | 14.2 | 37.7 | 42.3 | 5.8 | 2180 |
| 49. | Math skills | 15.6 | 37.3 | 37.7 | 9.4 | 2182 |
| 50. | Note taking | 8.1 | 33.6 | 50.1 | 8.2 | 2177 |
| 51. | Listening | 14.4 | 41.7 | 40.3 | 3.6 | 2178 |
| 52. | Managing time | 9.9 | 26.7 | 45.9 | 17.4 | 2181 |
| 53. | Understanding what you read | 12.0 | 36.8 | 44.7 | 6.5 | 2183 |
| 54. | Reading speed | 9.6 | 26.2 | 46.8 | 17.4 | 2182 |
| 55. | Writing-organization | 11.3 | 38.5 | 41.1 | 9.1 | 2182 |
| 56. | Writing-grammar | 12.7 | 32.2 | 42.5 | 12.6 | 2182 |
| 57. | Managing stress | 15.6 | 30.9 | 42.2 | 11.3 | 2181 |
| 58. | Memory | 13.9 | 36.4 | 41.4 | 8.3 | 2181 |
| 59. | Finding library resources | 5.9 | 25.5 | 54.2 | 14.3 | 2178 |
| 60. | Preparing for exams | 6.5 | 29.2 | 54.0 | 10.3 | 2177 |
| 61. | Taking exams | 9.0 | 32.2 | 48.0 | 10.7 | 2179 |
| 62. | Clarity of career goals | 20.3 | 28.4 | 35.8 | 15.5 | 2174 |
| 63. | Word-processing on a computer | 25.4 | 40.8 | 30.5 | 3.3 | 2175 |
| 64. | Browsing the Internet for specific information (research) | 23.8 | 40.1 | 33.0 | 3.1 | 2176 |
| 65. | Creating Web pages | 8.2 | 11.4 | 23.0 | 57.4 | 2175 |
| 66. | Interacting with others via e-mail | 31.3 | 38.0 | 27.8 | 2.9 | 2175 |

| At present, how often do you do the following? | | UM Respondents % | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|--------|-------|------|
| | | Always | Most of the Time | Sometimes | Rarely | Never | N |
| 67. | Review/revise/update class notes | 5.7 | 18.6 | 42.4 | 25.0 | 8.2 | 2151 |
| 68. | Prepare for class by reading ahead | 4.8 | 20.0 | 37.0 | 27.7 | 10.5 | 2150 |
| 69. | Put off studying | 10.0 | 26.5 | 45.6 | 14.8 | 3.1 | 2148 |
| 70. | Have trouble deciding what to study | 4.3 | 12.0 | 42.7 | 31.6 | 9.5 | 2147 |
| 71. | Speak up in class | 9.3 | 21.1 | 39.6 | 24.6 | 5.4 | 2149 |
| 72. | Study with other students | 3.6 | 16.4 | 40.3 | 27.4 | 12.3 | 2150 |
| 73. | Attend classes | 55.7 | 38.7 | 4.4 | .9 | .3 | 2148 |

| During your 1 st semester, what grade/average do you think you will earn? | | UM Respondents % | | | | |
|--|---------|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|------|
| | | Grade of A | Grade of B | Grade of C | Grade Below C | N |
| 74. | English | 19.3 | 57.5 | 20.5 | 2.8 | 1600 |
| 75. | Math | 41.3 | 37.0 | 18.0 | 3.7 | 1709 |
| 76. | Overall | 26.6 | 59.9 | 12.4 | 1.0 | 2114 |

| Please indicate how many hours per week you typically do each of the following. | | UM Respondents % | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-----|------|
| | | 0 (no) hours | 1-10 hours | 11-20 hours | 21-30 hours | More than 30 hours | N | |
| 77. | Work at an off-campus job | | 85.9 | 6.9 | 5.5 | 1.2 | .4 | 2170 |
| 78. | Work at an on-campus job | | 91.4 | 5.9 | 2.4 | .2 | .1 | 2168 |
| 79. | Study outside the classroom | | 1.4 | 45.9 | 37.4 | 12.7 | 2.6 | 2160 |
| 80. | Participate in organized student activities | | 30.9 | 56.2 | 8.5 | 3.0 | 1.4 | 2166 |

| 81. In the near future, you plan to work: | | UM Respondents % |
|---|--|------------------|
| | | N = 2153 |
| about the same number of hours as you're working now. | | 15.9 |
| more hours after adjusting to college-level work. | | 64.1 |
| fewer hours after adjusting to college-level work. | | 4.0 |
| do not plan to work. | | 16.0 |

| Please indicate the importance of reasons you plan to work while in college: | | UM Respondents % | | | |
|--|--|------------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| | | Major Reason | Minor Reason | Not A Reason | N |
| 82. | Help pay for your college education (tuition, books, etc.) | 34.3 | 27.0 | 38.7 | 2046 |
| 83. | Take care of personal or family obligations | 16.1 | 24.8 | 59.0 | 2041 |
| 84. | Earn extra spending money (clothes, snacks, gas, etc.) | 62.3 | 24.8 | 12.9 | 2052 |
| 85. | Gain general job experience | 39.4 | 39.1 | 21.6 | 2043 |
| 86. | Gain job experience related to your anticipated major | 47.6 | 28.8 | 23.6 | 2051 |
| 87. | Career exploration | 31.4 | 35.1 | 33.4 | 2045 |
| 88. | Career networking | 29.2 | 36.5 | 34.4 | 2040 |

| Have you used the following? | UM Respondents % | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------|------|
| | Yes | No | N |
| 89. Testudo | 97.8 | 2.2 | 2165 |
| 90. MARS | 53.9 | 46.1 | 2146 |
| 91. VICTOR | 72.2 | 27.8 | 2144 |
| 92. Venus | 45.6 | 54.4 | 2133 |
| 93. WAM lab | 57.9 | 42.1 | 2152 |

| 94. Your plan for enrollment next semester is to: | UM Respondents % |
|---|------------------|
| | N = 2128 |
| enroll full time at the University of Maryland. | 98.5 |
| enroll part time at the University of Maryland. | .2 |
| enroll elsewhere (transfer). | 1.2 |
| not enroll in higher education. | .0 |

| 95. I plan to complete my bachelor's degree at: | UM Respondents % |
|--|------------------|
| | N = 2153 |
| the University of Maryland. | 83.4 |
| another school at which I'll feel more comfortable and be happier. | 2.6 |
| another school that offers a degree not offered at the University of Maryland. | .7 |
| another school that has a more "prestigious" academic reputation than UM. | 1.7 |
| don't know/not sure where. | 11.6 |

| 96. I expect to receive my bachelor's degree: | UM Respondents % |
|---|------------------|
| | N = 2167 |
| in fewer than 4 years. | 5.6 |
| in 4 years. | 78.2 |
| in 5 years. | 14.7 |
| in more than 5 years. | 1.0 |
| I may not finish. | .6 |

| 97. When you entered this institution, it was your: | UM Respondents % |
|---|------------------|
| | N = 2168 |
| 1 st choice. | 60.7 |
| 2 nd choice. | 23.7 |
| 3 rd choice or lower. | 15.6 |

| 98. At present, your general attitude toward University of Maryland is: | UM Respondents % |
|---|------------------|
| | N = 2173 |
| very positive. | 31.9 |
| positive. | 48.2 |
| neutral. | 16.1 |
| negative. | 2.7 |
| very negative. | 1.1 |

| 99. All in all, if you had it to do over again, you would enroll here: | UM Respondents % |
|--|------------------|
| | N = 2173 |
| Yes. | 61.1 |
| Probably | 23.3 |
| I'm not sure. | 10.4 |
| Probably not. | 3.2 |
| No. | 2.0 |

| At present, how would you rate your abilities in the following areas: | | UM Respondents % | | | | | N |
|---|---|------------------|------|-----------|--------|-------------|------|
| | | Very weak | Weak | Ade-quate | Strong | Very strong | |
| 100. | Seeing relationships, similarities and differences among ideas. | .8 | 1.4 | 29.8 | 47.1 | 20.9 | 2168 |
| 101. | Revising your thinking based on new information. | .5 | 2.0 | 34.1 | 49.5 | 13.9 | 2167 |
| 102. | Listening effectively. | .4 | 3.1 | 29.0 | 49.2 | 18.3 | 2165 |
| 103. | Writing effectively. | 1.1 | 9.1 | 37.2 | 38.7 | 13.9 | 2169 |
| 104. | Speaking effectively. | 1.2 | 7.4 | 37.8 | 37.6 | 16.0 | 2168 |
| 105. | Presenting a persuasive argument. | 1.1 | 6.2 | 36.5 | 40.2 | 16.1 | 2170 |
| 106. | Acquiring information technology skills. | .8 | 8.6 | 40.2 | 36.4 | 13.9 | 2165 |
| 107. | Leading others effectively. | 1.4 | 8.6 | 38.4 | 37.3 | 14.2 | 2165 |
| 108. | Evaluating the reliability of information. | .4 | 4.4 | 44.5 | 42.7 | 8.1 | 2164 |
| 109. | Applying what you learn to other situations. | .4 | 2.3 | 29.4 | 50.6 | 17.4 | 2165 |
| 110. | Understanding diverse cultural, political, and intellectual views. | 1.0 | 5.6 | 34.7 | 38.9 | 19.9 | 2157 |
| 111. | Clarifying your values. | .4 | 2.7 | 30.0 | 47.0 | 19.8 | 2152 |
| 112. | Identifying careers that reflect your values, interests, and abilities. | 1.9 | 7.1 | 32.8 | 37.1 | 21.1 | 2155 |

| 113. | You currently live: | UM Respondents % |
|------|--|------------------|
| | | N = 2168 |
| | off-campus (commuting). | 12.9 |
| | in Resident Life (contracted) housing. | 87.1 |

| 114. | To what degree are you satisfied with your current living situation? | UM Respondents % |
|------|--|------------------|
| | | N = 2161 |
| | Very satisfied | 31.0 |
| | Somewhat satisfied | 40.9 |
| | Neutral | 12.2 |
| | Somewhat dissatisfied | 11.2 |
| | Very dissatisfied | 4.8 |

Off Campus/Commuters

| 115. Which type of off-campus living situation best describes yours? | UM Respondents % |
|--|------------------|
| | N = 345 |
| Alone | 2.6 |
| Parents/guardians | 74.8 |
| Roommates or housemates | 21.7 |
| Spouse/partner and/or children | .9 |

| 116. About how many minutes is your typical commute? (minutes per one-way trip) | UM Respondents % |
|---|------------------|
| | N = 330 |
| 1-15 minutes | 28.5 |
| 16-30 minutes | 35.5 |
| 31-45 minutes | 19.4 |
| 46-60 minutes | 10.0 |
| More than one hour | 6.7 |

Residence Hall Students

| 117. Which type of residence hall living situation best describes yours? | UM Respondents % |
|--|------------------|
| | N = 1856 |
| Single in a traditional hall | 1.3 |
| Double in a traditional hall | 77.4 |
| Triple in a traditional hall | 14.3 |
| Quad in a traditional hall | 1.0 |
| Apartment or suite | 6.1 |