

# Chapter XI: INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT SURVEY AND GRADUATING STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **Institutional Student Survey**

Who takes it?

Sophomores and juniors (45-75 credit hours). Taking and returning the survey is not mandatory (though this may change in the new Liberal Studies Program).

When is it administered?

Spring of each year.

How long does it take the student to complete the instrument?

20 minutes.

What office administers it?

Assessment and Testing.

Who originates the survey?

The questions typically are determined by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Assessment Committee.

When are results typically available?

The summer following the end of that fiscal year.

What type of information is sought?

The ISS asks about the highest academic degree sought, selection of Truman, future plans for employment and graduate school, knowledge and opinions on assessment, time spent outside of class on course-related work, writing required, and the challenge of courses. Students are also asked how often they dealt with other students in various academic and co-curricular contexts, used the library, attended cultural or co-curricular events, used writing centers and other labs or tutorial services, and applied knowledge and skills from one area in another. Students are asked how many faculty members they know well enough to get a letter of recommendation. Students are then asked how effective their education has been in regard to an extensive list of academic and social skills. The students rate various aspects of their major. Students respond as to how satisfied they are with the faculty and other aspects of the campus including a variety of services, offices, and facilities. Students are asked about Freshman Week, discrimination, and the amount of time spent in various activities in an average week. Any additional student comments may be added.

From whom are the results available?

Assessing and Testing.

Distribution is normally made to?

President, VPAA, Division Heads, Assessment Committee, and selected administration.

Are the results available by division or discipline?

Yes.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?

No.

### **Graduating Student Questionnaire**

Who takes it?

All graduating seniors.

When is it administered?

A short time before graduation.

How long does it take for the student to complete the instrument?

20 minutes.

What office administers it?

It is sent out in a graduation packet by the Registrar's Office.

Who originates the survey?

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and the University Assessment Committee.

When are the results typically available?

For the fiscal year, in late June or July.

What type of information is sought?

The GSQ questions are virtually identical with those of the ISS. The GSQ asks about the highest academic degree sought, selection of Truman, future plans for employment and graduate school, knowledge and opinions on assessment, time spent outside of class on course-related work, writing required, and the challenge of courses. Students are also asked how often they dealt with other students in academic and co-curricular contexts, used the library, attended cultural or co-curricular events, used writing centers and other labs or tutorial services, and applied knowledge and skills from one area in another. Students are asked how many faculty members they know well enough to get a letter of recommendation. Students are asked how effective their education has been in regard to an extensive list of academic and social skills. The students rate various aspects of their major. Students respond as to how satisfied they are with the faculty and other aspects of campus including a variety of services, offices, and facilities. Students are asked about Freshman Week, discrimination, and the amount of time spent in various activities in an average week. Any additional student comments may be added.

From whom are the results available?

Assessment and Testing Office.

To whom are the results regularly distributed?

University, division, and discipline averages are sent to the President, VPAA, Division Heads, Assessment Committee, and selected administrators.

Are the results available by division or discipline?

Yes.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?

No.

Note: The response rate for the ISS in 1999 was about 38%. For the GSQ it is close to 100%. Questions were changed for these surveys several years ago and so some older comparisons are not possible. The complete survey results for FY99 are found in Volume 3.

**The numbers for questions correspond to the overall report found in Volume 3.**

**1. Percentage of Truman students planning doctorate or professional school:**

ISS-FY98	24.6%
ISS-FY99	25.9
GSQ-FY98	27.7
GSQ-FY99	26.7

**2. Truman was first choice:**

ISS-FY98	61.0%
ISS-FY99	64.2
GSQ-FY98	65.2
GSQ-FY99	63.5

**3. Planning to attend graduate school, full or part time:**

ISS-FY98	64.9%
ISS-FY99	62.4
GSQ-FY98	41.4
GSQ-FY99	42.6

**4. Would you choose Truman again?**

	Definitely Yes	Probably Yes
ISS-FY98	34.8%	46.4%
ISS-FY99	30.2	50.4
GSQ-FY98	28.7	48.6
GSQ-FY99	29.6	48.7

**5. Reasons--for attending Truman: First Second**

ISS-FY98	Cost 36.3%	Acad. Reputation 22.0%
ISS-FY99	Cost 39.1	Acad. Reputation 23.4
GSQ-FY98	Cost 40.0	Cost 23.1
GSQ-FY99	Cost 41.6	Cost 22.1

**6. Assessment Program**

ISS98	I know and understand it	53.1%
ISS99	I know and understand it	58.5
GSQ98	I know and understand it	75.0
GSQ99	I know and understand it	71.1

**8. Class Hours Per Week Spent on Course-Related Work:**

0-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 26-30 31-

ISS98	5.0	18.5	24.0	24.1	15.4	9.1	3.9
ISS99	3.1	19.4	24.2	22.2	16.3	9.4	5.3
GSQ98	6.7	20.3	23.0	20.6	15.6	7.8	6.0
GSQ99	5.7	21.2	22.4	21.0	15.2	8.9	5.6

**10. Major Courses Challenging--MEAN (1=never, 4=very often)?**

ISS98	3.391
ISS99	3.435
GSQ98	3.360
GSQ99	3.374

**11. Core Courses Challenging--MEAN (1=never, 4=very often)?**

ISS98	2.876
ISS99	2.913
GSQ98	2.738
GSQ99	2.742

Number of times you were involved in the following activities during the school year where:  
 1 = never, 2 = seldom, 3 = often, and 4 = very often, and n/a = not applicable

**12a. Interacted with people from other cultures:**

Mean

ISS FY98	2.570
ISS FY99	2.559
GSQ FY98	2.611
GSQ FY99	2.642

**12d. Communicated with a faculty member out of class:**

Mean

ISS FY98	2.824
ISS FY99	2.911
GSQ FY98	3.110
GSQ FY99	3.119

**12e. Attended a cultural event (e.g. art exhibit, play, concert, campus lectures):**

Mean

ISS FY98	2.679
ISS FY99	2.751
GSQ FY98	2.648
GSQ FY99	2.611

**12f. Applied the knowledge and skills gained in one discipline to learning in other disciplines:**

Mean

ISS FY98	3.016
ISS FY99	3.052
GSQ FY98	3.042
GSQ FY99	3.027

**12g. Discussed issues of social, cultural, or academic significance with others outside of class:**

Mean

ISS FY98	2.977
ISS FY99	2.912
GSQ FY98	3.050
GSQ FY99	3.020

**14. Adequateness of your education and experiences at NMSU/TRUMAN in each of the following where:**

1 = Very inadequate, 2 = Inadequate, 3 = Adequate, and 4 = Very adequate

**14a. Writing effectively.**

Mean

ISS FY98	3.030
ISS FY99	3.041
GSQ FY98	3.224
GSQ FY99	3.259

**14b. Speaking Effectively**

Mean

ISS FY98	3.031
ISS FY99	3.028
GSQ FY98	3.100
GSQ FY99	3.156

**14d. Using computers**

Mean

ISS FY98	2.982
ISS FY99	2.965
GSQ FY98	2.977
GSQ FY99	3.113

**14k. Understanding and applying mathematics**

Mean

ISS FY98	2.790
ISS FY99	2.762
GSQ FY98	2.714
GSQ FY99	2.746

**14q. Understanding statistical information**

Mean

ISS FY98	2.750
ISS FY99	2.762
GSQ FY98	2.860
GSQ FY99	2.896

**14s. Gaining a well-rounded liberal arts and sciences education**

Mean

ISS FY98	3.310
ISS FY99	3.307
GSQ FY98	3.253
GSQ FY99	3.258

**14u. Understanding and appreciating the arts**

Mean

ISS FY98	3.032
ISS FY99	3.059
GSQ FY98	2.980
GSQ FY99	2.922

**15. Adequateness of major** in preparation in the following:  
 1=Very Adequate,2=Inadequate,3=Adequate, 4=Very Inadequate

**15a. Knowledge of modes of inquiry or processes**

Mean

ISS FY98	3.142
ISS FY99	3.191
GSQ FY98	3.380
GSQ FY99	3.366

**15b. Subject Matter**

Mean

ISS FY98	3.374
ISS FY99	3.360
GSQ FY98	3.435
GSQ FY99	3.477

**15c. Thinking critically**

Mean

ISS FY98	3.383
ISS FY99	3.382
GSQ FY98	3.532
GSQ FY99	3.513

**17h. Faculty enthusiasm for core classes**

1=Very Dissatisfied, 2= Dissatisfied, 3=Satisfied,  
 4=Very Satisfied

Mean

ISS FY98	2.785
ISS FY99	2.847
GSQ FY98	2.768
GSQ FY99	2.778



**17i. Faculty enthusiasm for major courses**

Mean

ISS FY98	3.374
ISS FY99	3.455
GSQ FY98	3.410
GSQ FY99	3.428

**17j. Overall impression of LAS courses**

Mean

ISS FY98	2.920
ISS FY99	2.876
GSQ FY98	2.874
GSQ FY99	2.855

**17k. Overall impressions of major courses**

Mean

ISS FY98	3.325
ISS FY99	3.309
GSQ FY98	3.300
GSQ FY99	3.312

**17o. Academic Advising**

Mean

ISS FY98	2.743
ISS FY99	2.781
GSQ FY98	2.636
GSQ FY99	2.662

**17am/an. Library services**

Mean

ISS FY98	3.198
ISS FY99	3.203
GSQ FY98	3.149
GSQ FY99	3.150

**17be/bf. Computer facilities**

Mean

ISS FY98	2.454
ISS FY99	2.686
GSQ FY98	2.264
GSQ FY99	2.469

**18. Overall satisfaction with freshman week**

1=Very dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, 3=satisfied, 4=very satisfied

Mean

ISS FY98	3.019
ISS FY99	3.049
GSQ FY98	not asked
GSQ FY99	not asked

**19, 20. Reading beyond course assignments (e.g., for personal interest and growth)—Percent**

Hours/Week	0	1-2	3-5	6-10	11-15	16+
ISS98	28.5	43.7	19.7	6.2	0.7	1.5
ISS99	27.0	44.2	21.0	5.2	0.7	1.9
GSQ98	21.5	42.3	21.5	9.4	2.9	2.3
GSQ99	20.8	42.8	23.2	8.8	2.6	2.0

**24-25. Satisfaction with first major**

1=Very dissatisfied, 2=dissatisfied, 3=satisfied, 4=very satisfied

Mean

ISS FY98	3.217
ISS FY99	3.194
GSQ FY98	3.177
GSQ FY99	3.219

Comments:

The attractiveness of ISS data is that it gives immediate feedback. The problem with it is the return rate of roughly 40% is not high. This should be solved under the new Liberal Studies Program, since the survey is to be embedded in the junior interdisciplinary seminar.

The attractiveness of GSQ data is that it gives nearly a 100% response rate and the students have more experience at the university. Possibly, their cynicism also grows. GSQ takes much longer to show changes at the university.

1. Differences in the mean for core and major courses continues to be significant. Perhaps, that is to be expected but should still be a concern for a liberal arts and sciences institution. Courses in the core are not considered to be particularly challenging.
2. Newer students under the ISS seem to show more interest in attending graduate school. The present good job market, however, may lessen the likelihood for recently graduating students to attend graduate school.
3. Cost and academic reputation are significant factors in attracting students to enroll at Truman.
4. The increased amount of money going to computer facilities seems well justified, given general student dissatisfaction in this area.
5. Academic advising is still not where it should be.  
See Volume 3 for data in different areas.