

# 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 2000 was 40.9%. 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 FY00 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-FY99	25.9%
ISS-FY00	27.6
GSQ-FY99	26.7
GSQ-FY00	26.2

**2. Truman was first choice:**

ISS-FY99	64.2%
ISS-FY00	66.2
GSQ-FY99	63.5
GSQ-FY00	65.2

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

ISS-FY99	62.4%
ISS-FY00	68.1
GSQ-FY99	42.6
GSQ-FY00	43.8

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

	Definitely Yes	Probably Yes
ISS-FY99	30.2%	50.4%
ISS-FY00	32.0	47.2
GSQ-FY99	29.6	48.7
GSQ-FY00	29.3	46.1

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

ISS-FY99	Cost 39.1%	Acad. Reputation 23.4%
ISS-FY00	Cost 33.0	Acad. Reputation 27.2
GSQ-FY99	Cost 41.6	Cost 22.1
GSQ-FY00	Cost 39.1	Acad. Reputation 22.9

**6. Assessment Program**

ISS99	I know and understand it	58.5%
ISS00	I know and understand it	54.8
GSQ99	I know and understand it	71.1
GSQ00	I know and understand it	67.8

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

	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-
ISS99	3.1	19.4	24.2	22.2	16.3	9.4	5.3
ISS00	3.6	16.0	25.5	22.7	14.7	10.8	6.7
GSQ99	5.7	21.2	22.4	21.0	15.2	8.9	5.6
GSQ00	6.5	23.3	25.1	22.0	11.9	6.4	4.9

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

ISS99	3.435
ISS00	3.41
GSQ99	3.374
GSQ00	3.38

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

ISS99	2.913
ISS00	2.95
GSQ99	2.742
GSQ00	2.79

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 FY99	2.559
ISS FY00	2.66
GSQ FY99	2.642
GSQ FY00	2.71

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

Mean

ISS FY99	2.911
ISS FY00	2.91
GSQ FY99	3.119
GSQ FY00	3.08

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

Mean

ISS FY99	2.751
ISS FY00	2.74
GSQ FY99	2.611
GSQ FY00	2.61

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

Mean

ISS FY99	3.052
ISS FY00	3.06
GSQ FY99	3.027
GSQ FY00	3.02

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

Mean

ISS FY99	2.912
ISS FY00	2.94
GSQ FY99	3.020
GSQ FY00	2.97

**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 FY99	3.041
ISS FY00	3.12
GSQ FY99	3.259
GSQ FY00	3.23

**14b. Speaking Effectively**

Mean

ISS FY99	3.028
ISS FY00	2.97
GSQ FY99	3.156
GSQ FY00	3.14

**14d. Using computers**

Mean

ISS FY99	2.965
ISS FY00	3.08
GSQ FY99	3.113
GSQ FY00	3.17

**14k. Understanding and applying mathematics**

Mean

ISS FY99	2.762
ISS FY00	2.78
GSQ FY99	2.746
GSQ FY00	2.70

**14q. Understanding statistical information**

Mean

ISS FY99	2.762
ISS FY00	2.74
GSQ FY99	2.896
GSQ FY00	2.89

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

Mean

ISS FY99	3.307
ISS FY00	3.28
GSQ FY99	3.258
GSQ FY00	3.23

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

Mean

ISS FY99	3.059
ISS FY00	3.02
GSQ FY99	2.922
GSQ FY00	2.90

**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 FY99	3.191
ISS FY00	3.23
GSQ FY99	3.366
GSQ FY00	3.34

**15b. Subject Matter**

Mean

ISS FY99	3.360
ISS FY00	3.42
GSQ FY99	3.477
GSQ FY00	3.46

**15c. Thinking critically**

Mean

ISS FY99	3.382
ISS FY00	3.17
GSQ FY99	3.513
GSQ FY00	3.53

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

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

Mean

ISS FY99	2.847
ISS FY00	2.78
GSQ FY99	2.778
GSQ FY00	2.73



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

Mean

ISS FY99	3.455
ISS FY00	3.38
GSQ FY99	3.428
GSQ FY00	3.42

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

Mean

ISS FY99	2.876
ISS FY00	2.78
GSQ FY99	2.855
GSQ FY00	2.85

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

Mean

ISS FY99	3.309
ISS FY00	3.28
GSQ FY99	3.312
GSQ FY00	3.28

**17o. Academic Advising**

Mean

ISS FY99	2.781
ISS FY00	2.65
GSQ FY99	2.662
GSQ FY00	2.60

**17am/an. Library services**

Mean

ISS FY99	3.203
ISS FY00	3.18
GSQ FY99	3.150
GSQ FY00	3.06

**17be/bf. Computer facilities**

Mean

ISS FY99	2.686
ISS FY00	2.68
GSQ FY99	2.469
GSQ FY00	2.46

**18. Overall satisfaction with freshman week**

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

Mean

ISS FY99	3.049
ISS FY00	3.12
GSQ FY99	not asked
GSQ FY00	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+
ISS99	27.0	44.2	21.0	5.2	0.7	1.9
ISS00	25.6	43.9	19.9	7.9	1.7	0.9
GSQ99	20.8	42.8	23.2	8.8	2.6	2.0
GSQ00	25.2	39.9	23.0	8.4	2.2	1.3

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

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

Mean

ISS FY99	3.194
ISS FY00	3.16
GSQ FY99	3.219
GSQ FY00	3.20

Comments:

The ISS will no longer be administered. It will be replaced by the College Student Experiences Questionnaire (CSEQ) which will be administered to every student in each Junior Interdisciplinary Seminar (JINS) Course starting in the Spring 2001 semester.

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.