

**Graduating Senior Survey
Summer and Fall 2007, Spring 2008
George Mason University**

Congratulations on your impending graduation from George Mason University! Your satisfaction and evaluation of your educational and student life experiences at Mason are important to us and will be used in educational planning. To contact the Office of Institutional Assessment: Mason Hall, D111, Phone: 703-993-8834 or E-mail: assessment@gmu.edu. We can be reached by mail at the address below.

Directions: Circle, mark, or write in the most appropriate response and return the completed survey to the Office of Institutional Assessment, George Mason University - MS 3D2, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. If you prefer to complete this survey online go directly to: <http://assessment.gmu.edu/surveys/2007-2008/letter-senior.cfm> or access the survey through our website at: <http://assessment.gmu.edu>. Once there click on "Graduating Student Exit Survey."

I. Enrollment & Employment

1. Which of the following statements best describes your enrollment status at Mason?
 - a. I started college at Mason as a freshman.
 - b. I started college at another institution and transferred to Mason.
If you transferred, how many credit hours were accepted by Mason?
 14 or less 15 – 29 30 – 44 45 – 59 60 or more
2. While at Mason, I was employed for pay:
 - a. During every semester b. During most semesters c. Only for a few semesters d. Not at all

If you selected a, b, or c in Question 2, please answer the following question:

3. If 100 and 200-level courses were offered only during the day (before 4:30 p.m.), would your work schedule have interfered with your taking these courses?
 - a. This question does not apply to me because I took very few of these courses.
 - b. The day schedule would have interfered with my work schedule:
 - i. Most of the time ii. Sometimes iii. Occasionally iv. Not at all

II. Educational Experiences

4. How competent do you feel about your knowledge/abilities in each of the following:	Very competent	Competent	Not very competent	Not at all competent	NA*
Knowledge of important work (e.g. research, literature, works of art, etc.) in my field	4	3	2	1	NA
Ability to analyze work in my field	4	3	2	1	NA
Ability to create original work in my field, such as, poetry, art, software, new products, etc.	4	3	2	1	NA
Ability to conduct original research in my field	4	3	2	1	NA

*Not applicable

5. How often did Mason faculty in your major:	Always	Usually	Seldom	Never
Set high expectations for your learning	4	3	2	1
Encourage you to be actively involved in learning	4	3	2	1
Encourage student-faculty interaction out of class	4	3	2	1
Give prompt feedback on your academic performance	4	3	2	1
Encourage learning through cooperative activities among students	4	3	2	1

6. To what extent did the courses in your major emphasize each of the following:	Very much	Quite a bit	Some	Very little/Never
Breaking down information to identify assumptions and relationships	4	3	2	1
Including alternative points of view	4	3	2	1
Synthesizing information from different sources	4	3	2	1
Applying concepts learned in class to new situations	4	3	2	1
Using criteria to judge the value and quality of ideas	4	3	2	1
Judging the quality and relevance of sources and materials	4	3	2	1
Thoroughly considering limitations of conclusions and methods	4	3	2	1

7. In each of these settings, to what extent have you been exposed to information about the history, culture and/or social issues of racial and ethnic groups other than your own?	Very much	Quite a bit	Some	Very little/Never	NA
In course readings, lectures and discussions	4	3	2	1	NA
In informal interactions and conversations with other students	4	3	2	1	NA
In informal interactions and conversations with faculty and/or staff	4	3	2	1	NA
In activities and programs in the residence halls	4	3	2	1	NA
In other Mason programs and activities	4	3	2	1	NA

III. Synthesis

The synthesis course is the culminating general education course that all students take, usually in the junior or senior year.

8. Have you taken or are you currently taking a synthesis course?
- Yes
 - No (If no, please skip to Section IV)

9. Was/is your synthesis course offered by your major department?
- Yes
 - No

10. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the synthesis course you have taken/are taking:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The course improved my oral presentation skills.	4	3	2	1
The course improved my writing skills.	4	3	2	1
The course linked issues in my major to wider intellectual and community concerns.	4	3	2	1
The course required me to organize ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships.	4	3	2	1
The course required me to think critically.	4	3	2	1
The course was intellectually challenging.	4	3	2	1

IV. Writing Experience in Courses of 300-level or above

(For Questions 11-13, please think of your experiences in courses of 300-level or above, excluding English 302)

11. In how many courses at Mason, 300-level or above, did you have the opportunity to revise your writing after receiving feedback from your instructor on an earlier draft? (This might include essays, projects, lab reports, case studies, reviews, and reports, for example.)
 a. ___ None b. ___ One c. ___ Two d. ___ Three e. ___ Four f. ___ Five or more
12. Did you have **sufficient** opportunities in those courses to revise your writing after receiving feedback from an instructor?
 a. ___ Always b. ___ Frequently c. ___ Occasionally d. ___ Rarely e. ___ Never

13. To what extent did these 300-level or above courses help you in the following areas?

	A great deal	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all
The feedback and revision process in these courses helped me to improve my writing.	4	3	2	1
These courses have improved my confidence as a writer.	4	3	2	1
The writing assignments from these courses have increased my understanding of my field.	4	3	2	1

V. Advising

14. During your time at Mason, when you had a question or needed clarification regarding an academic problem (e.g. what courses to take, graduation requirements, etc.), from which of the following resources were you more likely to seek an answer? (Check all that apply)
- | | |
|--|--|
| a. ___ My official academic advisor in my major | g. ___ My major/department online resources |
| b. ___ A school/college based advisor | h. ___ My major/department staff |
| c. ___ University Academic Advising Center (SUB I) | i. ___ Other students or friends |
| d. ___ Paper version of the University Catalog | j. ___ Family members |
| e. ___ Web-based version of the University Catalog | k. ___ Transfer Center (Prince William campus) |
| f. ___ A faculty member (not my official advisor) | l. ___ Other: _____ |
15. During your senior year, how often were you in touch with an advisor to discuss your course schedule, graduation requirements, application to graduate school, etc.?
 a. ___ Not at all b. ___ Once c. ___ Twice d. ___ Three times or more

16. How satisfied are you with the ability of your **major advisor** to:

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	NA
Provide accurate information about academic requirements and choices	4	3	2	1	NA
Provide help exploring and clarifying educational goals	4	3	2	1	NA
Provide help in finding out about academic support available at Mason (e.g. Learning Center, Writing Center, Support Services, Math Literacy Center, etc.)	4	3	2	1	NA
Provide help assessing your academic strengths	4	3	2	1	NA
Provide help in thinking through your academic choices	4	3	2	1	NA
Have respect and concern for you as an advisee	4	3	2	1	NA
Other:	4	3	2	1	NA



VI. Future Plans

17. Do you plan to pursue additional education within the next year?
- a. ___ Yes, I will enroll full-time in graduate/professional school.
 - b. ___ Yes, I will enroll part-time in graduate/professional school.
 - c. ___ Yes, I will enroll in courses leading to a certificate/professional license.
 - d. ___ Yes, I plan to take courses, but not as part of a degree or certificate program.
 - e. ___ No, I don't plan to be enrolled in course work.

If you answered "Yes" to a or b, please answer the following:

- i. Which school are you most likely to attend? Please spell out the full name of the institution:
___ George Mason University
___ Other: _____
- ii. Which discipline are you most likely to study?

- iii. Which degree are you most likely to pursue?
___ Masters (M.A., M.S., etc) ___ Medical (M.D., D.O., D.D.S., D.V.M.) ___ Divinity (B.D., M.DIV.)
___ Doctoral (Ph.D., Ed.D.) ___ Law (J.D.) ___ Other: _____

VII. Comments/recommendations/observations on your experiences at Mason

18. Please select those areas on which you wish to comment and use the space below to make comments/recommendations/observations about Mason: *(Add additional pages if necessary and attach and return with survey.)*
- a. ___ Academic advising
 - b. ___ Admissions and tuition
 - c. ___ Career services and counseling
 - d. ___ Education in major
 - e. ___ Faculty, general
 - f. ___ Financial aid
 - g. ___ General education
 - h. ___ Resources (lab, Internet, library, bookstore, etc.)
 - i. ___ Staff, general
 - j. ___ Student life and residence halls
 - k. ___ University management (food, gym, parking, etc.)
 - l. ___ Other: _____
-
-
-
-

Please enter your GMU student identification number which begins with the letter "G."

Student identification number: G _____

GMU email address: _____@gmu.edu

Preferred email address after graduation: _____

Your G-number and email address are necessary for us to verify that only graduating seniors have completed the survey. All individual responses are confidential and no report will identify you as an individual. Thank you for your participation!

This survey was prepared and distributed by the Office of Institutional Assessment
Mason Hall, Room D111
Phone: 703-993-8834
E-mail: assessment@gmu.edu
<http://assessment.gmu.edu>

