

**Graduating Senior Survey
Summer and Fall 2005, Spring 2006
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 on line go directly to the survey at: <http://assessment.gmu.edu/surveys/2005-2006/letter-senior.cfm>.**

I. Educational Experience

1. Which of the following statements best described 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.

2. What year did you first enroll in George Mason University?

___ 2004	___ 2003	___ 2002	___ 2001
___ 2000	___ 1999	___ 1998	___ 1997 or earlier

3. If it took you more than **FOUR** years to complete your baccalaureate degree, please indicate **why** by selecting ALL of the applicable reasons listed below.

Academic Reasons	a. ___ It took me a long time to choose a major. b. ___ I have changed my major or I have selected a second major. c. ___ Besides my major, I also enrolled in a certificate program or a minor. d. ___ I wanted to enroll in additional courses in which I have some interest. e. ___ I had some academic difficulty. f. ___ I was on academic suspension.
Financial Reasons	g. ___ I have to work full-time/part-time. h. ___ My job(s) was/were off-campus. i. ___ I didn't have enough financial resources.
Personal Reasons	j. ___ I have to take care of my family. k. ___ I lacked the motivation to complete the degree in four years.
Other Reasons	l. ___ My academic advisor didn't give me good information. m. ___ Some courses were not offered at convenient times for me. n. ___ I transferred from another institution. o. ___ Other, please specify _____ _____ _____

4. Among ALL of the factors above, what was the MOST important one in extending your time to complete a baccalaureate degree? Please write down the letter (**A to O**) from the above list. _____

5. Have you ever officially changed your major while you were a Mason student?

a. ___ No	b. ___ Yes, once	d. ___ Yes, 3 times
	c. ___ Yes, twice	e. ___ Yes, 4 times or more

6. If you answered **YES**, please indicate why you changed your major. (Select **ALL** that apply.)

a. ___ Academic difficulties in the previous major.	f. ___ The new major better fits my career goals.
b. ___ Lack of interest in the previous major.	g. ___ I could earn more money with the new major.
c. ___ Dissatisfaction with the previous program.	h. ___ Reputation of the new program or the faculty in the new program.
d. ___ More interest in the subject matter of the new major.	i. ___ Other, please specify _____
e. ___ The new major was easier for me.	

7. At graduation, how much money will you owe for tuition, books, and other educational expenses?
 None \$5,001-10,000 \$15,001-20,000
 \$5,000 or less \$10,001-15,000 \$20,001 or more

8. Indicate the extent to which George Mason University contributed to your growth in each of the following:

	Very much	Somewhat	A little	Not at all
Arts (<i>understand the aesthetic and intellectual components of the arts or creative works through critical analysis</i>)	4	3	2	1
Critical Thinking and Analysis (<i>judge the consistency, adequacy, and relevance of ideas, data, and arguments</i>)	4	3	2	1
Global Understanding (<i>understand global society and compare cultural traditions</i>)	4	3	2	1
Information Technology (IT) (<i>use IT to communicate and to conduct research</i>)	4	3	2	1
Literature (<i>use critical analysis to understand the aesthetic and intellectual components of major works</i>)	4	3	2	1
Natural Sciences (<i>understand and apply natural science knowledge and methods; e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Physics</i>)	4	3	2	1
Oral Communication (<i>use speaking to think, learn, and share ideas</i>)	4	3	2	1
Quantitative Reasoning (<i>use and evaluate numerical information and evaluate logical arguments</i>)	4	3	2	1
Scientific Reasoning (<i>use and understand the scientific process and evaluate scientific information</i>)	4	3	2	1
Social and Behavioral Sciences (<i>understand and apply social science knowledge & methods to the study of human behavior; e.g., Psychology, Government, Sociology</i>)	4	3	2	1
Synthesis (<i>understand the connections among different disciplines</i>)	4	3	2	1
Understand and Apply Ethics in Information Technology	4	3	2	1
US History (<i>understand US institutions, traditions, values, and history</i>)	4	3	2	1
Western Civilization (<i>understand western civilization and its global impact</i>)	4	3	2	1
Written Communication (<i>use writing to discover and express ideas</i>)	4	3	2	1

- 9-1. Have you ever checked your MID-TERM grades on-line for any 100 or 200 level courses you took?
 Yes No I did not take any 100-200 level courses at Mason.

9-2. If **YES**, please read the following statements and check **ALL** that apply.

- a. The mid-term grades helped me to assess my academic performance.
b. The mid-term grades were available to me early enough to improve my academic performance.
c. I have discussed my mid-term grade(s) with my instructor(s).
d. I withdrew from a course because of the mid-term grade I received.
e. The mid-term grade(s) motivated me to work harder or continue my efforts.
f. The mid-term grade(s) had no impact on my academic performance.
g. Other, please specify _____

II. Synthesis Courses

10. How often did the following statements apply to your SYNTHESIS COURSE? (*Synthesis courses include: ADJ 303, ANTH 400, ARTH 394, AVT 497, AVT 498, BINF 354, BIOL 301, CEIE 490, COMM 326, COMM 362, COMM 454, CS 306, CS 491, DANC 490, ECE 447, ECE 492, ECE 493, ECON 309, ENGL 325, EOS 304, GEOG 304, GOVT 490, GOVT 491, HIST 300, HIST 499, IT 492, MUSI 490, NURS/HSCI 465, PHIL 309, PHIL 377, PHIL 378, RELI 490, RUSS 353, SOCI 377, SOCW 323, SOM 498, SYST 495, THR 440, THR 496, UNIV 342, UNIV 442, etc.*)

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the synthesis course you have taken.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The course held my interest.	4	3	2	1
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
The course was well organized.	4	3	2	1

III. Writing Experience in Courses of 300-level or above (excluding English 302)

(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. ___ sometimes c. ___ rarely d. ___ not at all

13. To what extent did the 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 has 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

IV. Civic Engagement

14. Please indicate how closely you follow various types of news.

	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not very closely	Not at all
Local and state news	4	3	2	1
National news	4	3	2	1
International news	4	3	2	1

15. Please indicate how frequently you did the following activities during the past year.

	Frequently	Occasionally	Not at all
Discussed politics	3	2	1
Participated in organized demonstrations	3	2	1
Performed community service as part of a class	3	2	1
Performed volunteer work	3	2	1
Voted in a student election	3	2	1
Worked on a local, state, or national political campaign	3	2	1

16. How important do you think it is for college-age students to vote in a presidential election?

- a. ___ very important b. ___ important c. ___ unimportant d. ___ very unimportant

17. Did you personally vote in the 2004 presidential election?

- a. ___ I was not eligible to vote because I was not a U.S. citizen.
 b. ___ Yes, I did vote
 c. ___ No, I did not vote

V. Satisfaction

18. If you were to do it all over again, would you attend George Mason?

- _____ definitely yes _____ probably yes _____ probably no _____ definitely no

19. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your education at Mason?

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Not applicable
Academic courses	4	3	2	1	NA
Education you received in general	4	3	2	1	NA
Education you received in your major	4	3	2	1	NA
Advising you received in your major	4	3	2	1	NA
Opportunities to improve your writing	4	3	2	1	NA
Preparation for work	4	3	2	1	NA
Preparation for post-baccalaureate study	4	3	2	1	NA
Overall Mason experience	4	3	2	1	NA
Sense of belonging at Mason	4	3	2	1	NA

20. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of campus life and services?

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Not applicable
Campus life	4	3	2	1	NA
Campus climate for the broad diversity of students at Mason	4	3	2	1	NA
Life in residence halls	4	3	2	1	NA
Opportunities to interact with students from diverse backgrounds	4	3	2	1	NA
Out-of-class access to Mason faculty	4	3	2	1	NA
Career counseling	4	3	2	1	NA
Counseling for personal concerns	4	3	2	1	NA
Financial aid services	4	3	2	1	NA
Food services	4	3	2	1	NA
Parking	4	3	2	1	NA

VI. Future Plans

21. Do you plan to pursue additional education within the next year?
- ___ Yes, I will enroll full-time in graduate/professional school.
 - ___ Yes, I will enroll part-time in graduate/professional school.
 - ___ Yes, I will enroll in courses leading to a certificate/professional license.
 - ___ Yes, I plan to take courses, but not as part of a degree or certificate program.
 - ___ No, I don't plan to be enrolled in course work.
22. As a Mason alumnus, which of the following would bring you back to campus? (Select ALL that apply.)
- ___ Career networking
 - ___ Professional development seminar
 - ___ Interaction with classmates
 - ___ Faculty presentation
 - ___ Interaction with current students
 - ___ Alumni homecoming
 - ___ Sports events
 - ___ Recreational events
 - ___ Short courses
 - ___ Interaction with faculty
 - ___ Other, please specify _____

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

23. 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.)*
- ___ Academic advising
 - ___ Admissions and tuition
 - ___ Career services and counseling
 - ___ Education in Major
 - ___ Faculty, general
 - ___ Financial aid
 - ___ General Education
 - ___ Resources (lab, Internet, library, book store, etc.)
 - ___ Staff, general
 - ___ Student life and residence halls
 - ___ University Management (food, gym, parking, etc.)
 - ___ Other

**Please enter your GMU student identification number which begins with the letter "G."
 Student identification number: G _____**

Your G- number is 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
<http://assessment.gmu.edu>

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