

First Time Freshmen-First Night of Classes Survey- August 2001



		2000		2001	
		#	%	#	%
1=Not a Chance or Unlikely, 2=Neutral, 3=Likely or A Sure Thing					
1. Live successfully with your roommate	1	57	5	44	4
	2	109	9	104	10
	3	1076	87	921	86
2. Manage your time effectively	1	39	3	39	4
	2	252	20	192	18
	3	955	77	839	78
3. Get at least a 3.0 for your first semester GPA	1	37	3	20	2
	2	245	20	166	16
	3	965	77	884	83
4. Utilize an academic support service such as a tutor, resource center, or the writing center	1	172	14	166	16
	2	382	31	330	31
	3	686	55	573	54
5. Be significantly homesick	1	699	56	613	57
	2	328	26	262	24
	3	221	18	196	18
6. Get into difficulty because of drinking too much	1	937	75	812	76
	2	207	17	174	16
	3	101	8	82	8
7. Study with other students in some form of a study group (2000 Q=Join a study group in your residence hall)	1	217	17	78	7
	2	474	38	270	25
	3	555	45	721	67
8. Have experiences which challenge your beliefs (2000 Q=Have experiences which challenge your value system)	1	237	19	221	21
	2	400	32	378	35
	3	604	49	470	44
9. Spend more than 3 hours a day on the internet (for any purpose)	1	485	39	288	27
	2	390	32	306	29
	3	356	29	475	44
10. Get involved in volunteer work	1	298	24	255	24
	2	450	36	395	37
	3	497	40	419	39
11. Have conversations with faculty members outside of the classroom	1	90	7	91	8
	2	283	23	266	25
	3	867	70	714	67
12. Join a campus, departmental or hall organization	1	212	17	164	15
	2	386	31	327	31
	3	642	52	579	54
13. Have significant conflict with your parent(s)/guardian(s) (2000 Q=Have conflict with your parent(s)/(guardian(s))	1	594	48	668	63
	2	322	26	235	22
	3	322	26	164	15
14. Seek out opportunities to learn about different cultures or lifestyles	1	200	16	166	15
	2	480	39	401	37
	3	556	45	504	47
15. Feel connected to a formal or informal group of other students (New Q in 2001)	1			98	9
	2			286	27
	3			685	64

For the second year, first-time freshmen participated in a survey on their first night of classes for Fall Semester. Approximately 1100 freshman responded to questions about the coming semester, and their expectations for personal, social and academic experiences.

Many of the questions were repeated from 2000. In comparing identical questions, three produced significant differences between the two years (all higher for 2001): getting a 3.0 the first semester, spending more than 3 hours per day on the internet and getting a part time job.

ACADEMICS

Students coming to MSU for 2001 have high expectations for their achievement. More than eight of ten expect to get a 3.0 their first semester. Nine out of ten expect to keep up to date with classes and assignments. Two-thirds believe they will study with other students in some form of a study group. The same number expects to have out of classroom contact with faculty. Half report that they will utilize an academic support service if they need to. One third believe they will skip a class.

MULTICULTURAL COMPETENCE

Almost half of the incoming freshmen expect to seek out opportunities to learn about different cultures or lifestyles. One-third expects to change their views because of conversations with others different from themselves. In response to a new question in 2001, almost twenty percent think that they will have a conflict with someone based on ethnicity, background or lifestyle.

ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT, CITIZENSHIP AND CHARACTER

Almost eight in ten expect to learn a great deal about who they are, and what is important to them. More than one-third expects to be caught between doing what is "right" or "wrong". Almost three in ten expect to be pressured to do something they don't want to do.

Residence halls utilize a process of democratic community development that emphasizes each resident's right and responsibility to participate in developing and maintaining standards for floor living. While almost three-quarters believe they will attend community meetings, only half believe they will be involved in the community standards process.

16. Get into difficulty because of gambling	1	1074	87	967	90
	2	92	7	59	6
	3	65	5	44	4
17. Exercise regularly	1	105	8	113	11
	2	295	24	262	24
	3	841	68	696	65
18. Consume alcohol while underage (Skip if you are over 21 years of age)	1	435	36	363	34
	2	246	20	217	21
	3	542	44	476	45
19. Think about leaving MSU	1	812	66	703	66
	2	253	21	223	21
	3	167	14	143	13
20. Find yourself caught between doing what is "right" and what is "wrong"	1	326	26	287	27
	2	406	33	385	36
	3	507	41	394	37
21. Attend the regular community meetings on your floor	1	91	7	74	7
	2	250	20	203	19
	3	891	72	792	74
22. Get a part-time job	1	299	24	208	19
	2	281	23	215	20
	3	657	53	646	60
23. Keep up-to-date with classes and assignments	1	37	3	33	3
	2	82	7	65	6
	3	1114	90	968	91
24. Use an illegal substance (drug or marijuana, not alcohol)	1	908	74	780	73
	2	166	13	136	13
	3	157	13	151	14
25. Be involved in establishing and maintaining floor-based community standards	1	156	13	112	10
	2	424	35	375	35
	3	646	53	583	54
26. Spend more money than you had planned on spending	1	173	14	162	15
	2	311	25	293	27
	3	744	61	611	57
27. Be pressured by others to do something you don't want to do	1	513	42	475	45
	2	346	28	293	27
	3	375	30	298	28
28. Feel overwhelmed by all that you have to do	1	122	10	130	12
	2	298	24	246	23
	3	809	66	690	65
29. Skip a class	1	449	36	406	38
	2	359	29	306	29
	3	423	34	356	33
30. Learn a great deal about who you are and what is important to you (2000 Q=Learn a great deal about yourself)	1	63	5	40	4
	2	208	17	182	17
	3	966	78	847	79
31. Develop a significant romantic relationship	1	247	20	209	20
	2	456	37	412	39
	3	529	43	441	42
32. Change your plan for your career or major	1	320	26	322	30
	2	424	34	351	33
	3	486	40	388	37
33. Feel personally safe while living on campus (New Q in 2001)	1			66	6
	2			300	28
	3			690	65

PERSONAL MANAGEMENT

One of the greatest concerns reported by incoming freshmen is living successfully with their roommate. Though concerned, almost nine of ten believe they will. Six of ten believe that by the end of the first semester they will feel connected to a formal or informal group. Over 40% think that they will develop a significant romantic relationship.

Fifteen percent think that they will have significant conflict with their parents/guardians, and almost two in ten think that they will be significantly homesick. Thirteen percent report on the first day of classes that during the first semester they will think about leaving MSU.

Almost two thirds believe they will feel overwhelmed by all that they have to do. More than half think they will spend more money than they planned to. Forty-five percent believe that they will consume alcohol while underage, and 8% believe they will get into difficulty because of their drinking.

There is no doubt that the first semester in college is filled with opportunity and challenge. As the campus community takes on the roles of mentor, coach, advisor, teacher it is helpful to consider the complex developmental, academic, social and personal challenges students experience. It is a time of tremendous potential. ***Eight in ten believe that they will have the best time of their lives.***

34. Change your views because of conversations with people different from yourself	1	238	19	236	22
	2	501	41	453	43
	3	487	40	372	35
35. Have a conflict with someone which you feel is based on ethnicity, background or lifestyle (New Q in 2001)	1			584	55
	2			299	28
	3			178	17
36. Maintain your health so that you do not get ill enough to seek a doctor's attention (New Q in 2001)	1			72	7
	2			258	24
	3			731	69
37. Have the best time of your life	1	50	4	39	4
	2	235	19	161	16
	3	945	77	837	81

