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**FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN –
FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES SURVEY - 2003**



For the fourth year, The First-Time Freshman – First Week of Classes Survey (FTF-FWCS) was conducted by the Department of Residence Life during the first week of classes of Fall Semester 2003. For 2002 and 2003, the survey was an on-line survey.

The fall survey focuses on the expectations freshmen have for their first semester of college. In January, a follow-up survey will be conducted with those who voluntarily provided their PIDs. The follow-up survey provides the same questions, allowing for comparisons between pre-semester expectations and post-semester realities.

Responses from First-Time Freshmen - First Week of Classes Surveys – 2000 to 2003

Percent responding (4) "Likely" or (5) "A Sure Thing" on a 5 point scale with 1=Not a Chance, 2=Unlikely and 3=Neither Likely nor Unlikely" (Questions are abbreviated and empty cells indicate no comparable question in that year.)

Freshmen Expectations for Fall Semester

	2000	2001	2002	2003
<i>Number of Surveys Returned</i>	1251	1072	1102	1101

ACADEMICS

<i>Get at least a 3.0 for fall 2003</i>	77%	83%	85%	90%
<i>Utilize an academic support service</i>	55%	54%	58%	57%
<i>Study in some form of study group</i>	45%	68%	72%	67%
<i>Talk to faculty outside of class</i>	70%	67%	64%	61%
<i>Study w/other students on the floor</i>				67%
<i>Keep up-to-date on assignments</i>	90%	91%	96%	95%
<i>Skip a class</i>	34%	33%	33%	32%
<i>See other floor members as serious about their academics</i>				68%
<i>Have significant out-of-class conversations with faculty</i>				34%
<i>Change plan for career or major</i>	40%	37%	39%	38%

PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

<i>Have experiences that challenge your beliefs</i>	49%	44%	51%	49%
<i>Get involved in volunteer work</i>	40%	39%	49%	48%
<i>Join a student organization</i>	52%	54%	58%	60%
<i>Feel caught between doing what is "right" and what is "wrong"</i>	41%	37%		44%
<i>Attend community meetings on floor</i>	72%	74%	78%	76%
<i>Be involved in establishing and maintaining floor-based community standards</i>	53%	55%	61%	59%
<i>Be pressured to do something you don't want to do</i>	30%	28%	36%	26%
<i>Take on a leadership position</i>			32%	30%
<i>Attend parties in E. Lansing neighborhoods</i>				67%

The demographics of the freshmen responding to the survey were not fully representative of the MSU freshman class. Respondents to this survey were more likely to be female and white, similar to previous years. See the chart below:

	FTF-FWCS	All MSU Freshmen
US Citizens/ Non US	96%/4%	95%/5%
Males/Females	31%/69%	45%/55%
White	84%	75%
African-American/Black	6%	12%
Chicano or Hispanic	2%	4%
American Indian	1%	1%
Asian American	4%	6%
Bi-or Multi-Racial	2%	Not Known

Freshmen gave statistically significantly different responses in 2003 (compared to 2002) on the following items:

What's UP?

- ↑ Get at least a 3.0 for fall (+5%) from 85% to 90%
- ↑ Get into difficulty because of drinking too much (+2%) from 3% to 5%

What's DOWN?

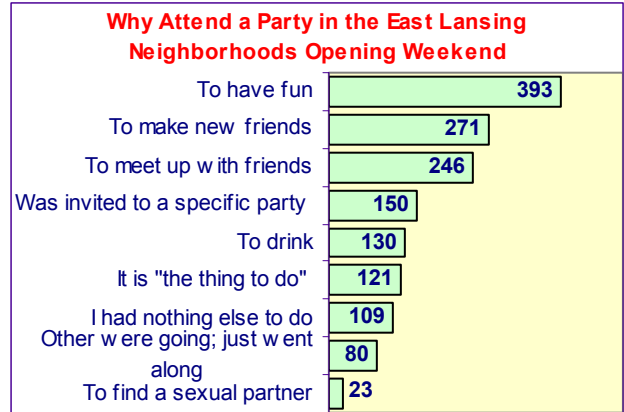
- ↓ Learn more about the US social and political systems (-12%) from 61% to 49%
- ↓ Become more aware of personal prejudices and stereotypes (-10%) from 72% to 62%
- ↓ Be pressured to do something you don't want to do (-10%) from 36% to 26%
- ↓ Seek out opportunities to learn about different cultures or lifestyles (-9%) from 49% to 40%
- ↓ Change views because of conversations with people different from self (-8%) from 43% to 35%
- ↓ Develop a significant romantic relationship (-6%) from 44% to 38%
- ↓ Broaden the diversity of social group (-5%) from 79% to 74%
- ↓ Maintain health (-5%) from 85% to 80%
- ↓ Feel connected to other students (-5%) from 74% to 69%
- ↓ Study in some form of study group (-5%) from 72% to 67%
- ↓ Gain awareness about who you are and what is important to you (-4%) from 90% to 86%
- ↓ Spend more money than planned (-4%) from 68% to 64%

MULTICULTURAL COMPETENCE				
Seek out opportunities to learn about different cultures or lifestyles	45%	47%	49%	40%
Broaden the diversity of your social group			79%	74%
Change views because of conversations with people different from self	40%	35%	43%	35%
Have a conflict that is based on ethnicity, background, or lifestyle		17%	11%	13%
Explore your family history, background, and culture				22%
Learn more about the US social and political systems			61%	49%
Become more aware of personal prejudices and stereotypes			72%	62%
PERSONAL WELL-BEING				
Live successfully with roommate	87%	86%	92%	90%
Manage your time effectively	77%	78%	87%	87%
Be significantly homesick	18%	18%	26%	27%
Get into difficulty because of drinking too much	8%	8%	3%	5%
Spend more than 3 hours a day on the internet (for any purpose)	29%	44%	62%	61%
Have significant conflict w/ parent(s) or guardian(s)	26%	15%	16%	16%
Feel connected to a formal or informal group of students		64%	74%	69%
Exercise regularly	68%	65%	69%	70%
Consume alcohol while underage (Skip if 21)	44%	45%	42%	45%
Think about leaving MSU	14%	13%	12%	13%
Get a part-time job	53%	60%	60%	58%
Use an illegal substance (drug or marijuana, not alcohol)	13%	14%	8%	8%
Feel overwhelmed by all you have to do	66%	65%	80%	79%
Learn about who you are & what is important to you	78%	79%	90%	86%
Develop a significant romantic relationship	43%	42%	44%	38%
Feel personally safe while living on campus		65%	72%	74%
Maintain your health so you do not become ill enough to need a doctor's attention		69%	85%	80%
Make informed choices about your lifestyle practices (health, sex, drugs, alcohol, etc.)			84%	81%
Spend more money than you had planned	61%	57%	68%	64%
Have the best time of your life	77%	81%	85%	82%

↓ Make informed choices about health, sex, drugs, alcohol, etc. (-3%) from 84% to 81%

QUESTIONS FROM INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

The freshmen were asked if they had attended a party during opening weekend in East Lansing neighborhoods. Fifty-seven percent said "Yes". Those who answered "Yes" were then asked to select up to three motivations from a list of nine. They most often selected having fun, meeting up with friends, and making new friends. The following chart shows the number of times each motivation was ranked first (some ranked more than one motivation first).



Reactions to RIOT - When asked how were you impacted by the presentation at AOP by Lindsay about her involvement in the campus riot last year 60% reported that they would be less likely to become involved in a campus disturbance, 2% thought they would be more likely, 13% were not influenced one way or another, and 25% could not remember or did not see the presentation.

STUDY ABROAD

Did the many study abroad options at MSU influence your decision to attend MSU?

Yes- 26% (283)
No- 74% (798)

Do you think you will participate in a study abroad program sometime while you are a student at MSU?

Yes definitely 32% (344)
I will probably participate - 25% (273)
I am undecided - 24% (256)
I will probably not participate - 12% (132)
No, I definitely do not plan to participate - 8% (82)

FRANKENSTEIN READING

