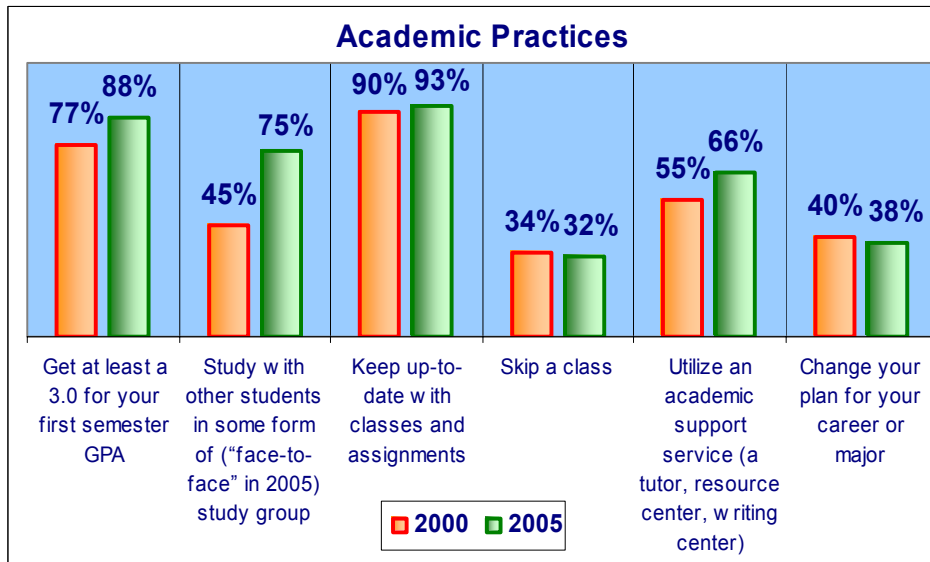


The entering class of the Millennial generation has for the most part completed their undergraduate educations and moved into the employment sector. The 2005 first-year students should have retained many of the characteristics of their 2000 cohorts (team-oriented, sheltered, close to their parents and their parents' values, achievement and grade oriented, confident, involved in extra-curricular activities, fascinated by new technologies and racially and ethnically diverse) but may have begun some mid-generational shifting. The impact of 9-11, the continuing war in Iraq, and the cultural infusion of various information and communication technologies may be shaping these "mid-Millennials" in ways which warrant our attention as educators and mentors. The "Net Generation" is now a common term for the mid-Millennials. "Net Gens" are described as instantaneous and perpetual communicators, immediate, always "on", fast, visual, multi-tasking, team and social-network oriented, interactive, and experiential learners.

For the past six years, during the first week of classes, all first-time freshmen have been invited to participate in a survey about their expectations for their first semester in college. To explore the possible changes taking place in the Millennial generation, the responses of first-year students taking the survey in 2000 were compared with their 2005 cohorts. For both years, approximately 20% of freshmen responded. In 2000 the survey was a paper survey, and in 2005, the survey was on-line. There were 31 questions asked in both years. Significant differences were found on 26. The five items which reflected no significant changes in expectations over the five-year time period were: managing time effectively, getting regular exercise, drinking alcohol while underage, being involved in establishing and maintaining community standards on their floors and learning a great deal about themselves and what was important to them.

The comparisons are grouped into the following areas: academic practices; character, values and culture; connections; engagement; self management; substance use and other health-related topics. Each section contains several selected comments by the first-year students who were asked "Do you have any thoughts you would like to share about your first week here? Any surprises? Challenges?"



Academic Practices

Academic success remained a strong concentration for first-year students. In 2005 more students expected to get a 3.0 their first semester, get involved in study groups and use on-campus academic support services. From 2000 to 2005 there remained a consistent 90% planning to keep up to date with classes and assignments and one-third expecting to skip a class.



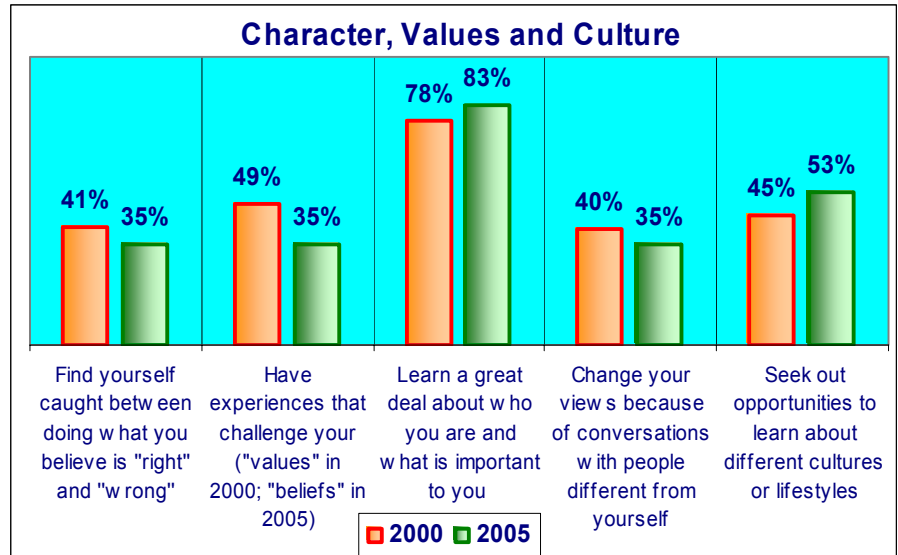
ACADEMIC PRACTICES

- ▶ *I think that they should have had more seminars on what to expect at a regular week at college. I had no idea what to expect, in class or out. They should warn you that teachers go by a syllabus, or what that even is. I had no idea what it was and no idea that teachers don't tell you that your homework is on it and that they won't tell you what to do and when it is due! That would have helped me out a bunch!*
- ▶ *I am surprised with how friendly my professors are and how helpful they are trying to be with the transition to college*
- ▶ *I was surprised with how soon class work began for students. I didn't expect to read as much as I have in the first week alone*

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Character, Values & Culture

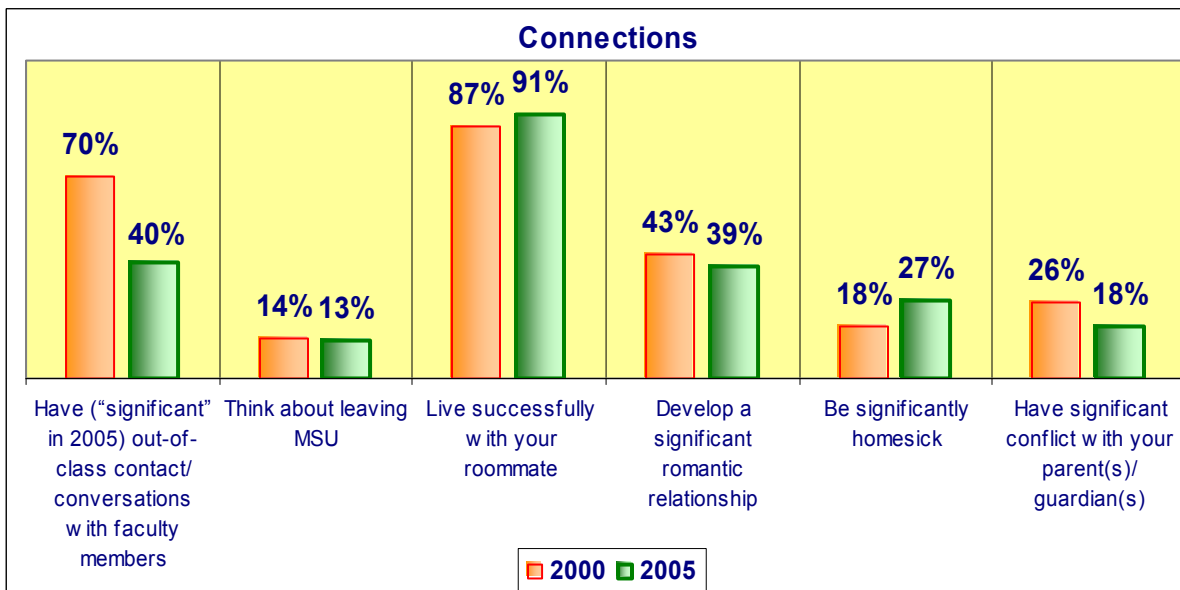
First-year students in 2005 reflected a stronger commitment to their own personal values and beliefs than in 2000. In 2005 fewer expected that they would find themselves caught between “right” and “wrong”; have experiences which would challenge their values/beliefs, or change their views because of conversations with others. More students expressed an interest in learning about different cultures and lifestyles and more expected to learn about themselves and what was important to them.



CHARACTER, VALUES AND CULTURE

- ▢ *Some people aren't as open about different races being together, and I experienced some real ignorant bigots, while I was walking down Michigan Ave, with my high school friend, during Move-In Weekend. The people were complete jerks, said something to me (the N word)...and one girl pushed me..... But I wasn't going to let them get to me, because I'm better than that.*
- ▢ *It's definitely a huge change of scenery for me. I do love the fact that no one cares - you can wear what you want, be who you want, and act how you want without worrying about repercussions. High school was defined by its social consequences, and although I typically never concerned myself with them, for once I can feel totally and completely free in an environment of diversity and a lack of a behavioral and fashion code.*
- ▢ *I hope just being registered on allmsu.com to look at professor ratings isn't bad...Just as long as you don't find tests you should be okay shouldn't you?*

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Connections

In the area of relationships and connections, more first-year students expected to live successfully with their roommates, and fewer expected to develop a significant romantic

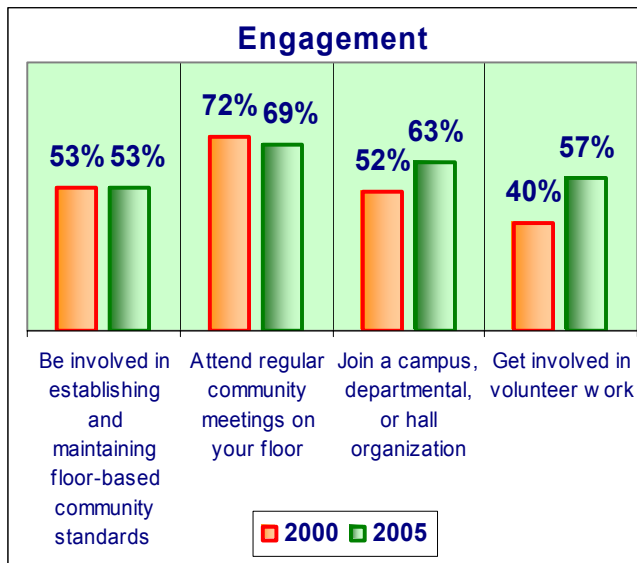
relationship or have significant conflict with their parents. More in 2005 expected that they would be homesick, but slightly fewer believed that they would think seriously about leaving MSU. The biggest difference from 2000 to 2005 was that fewer first-year students expected to have contact or conversations with faculty members outside of class. The word “significant” was added in 2005 and could account for a portion of the difference. It is however interesting to note the shift from 70% to 40%.



CONNECTIONS

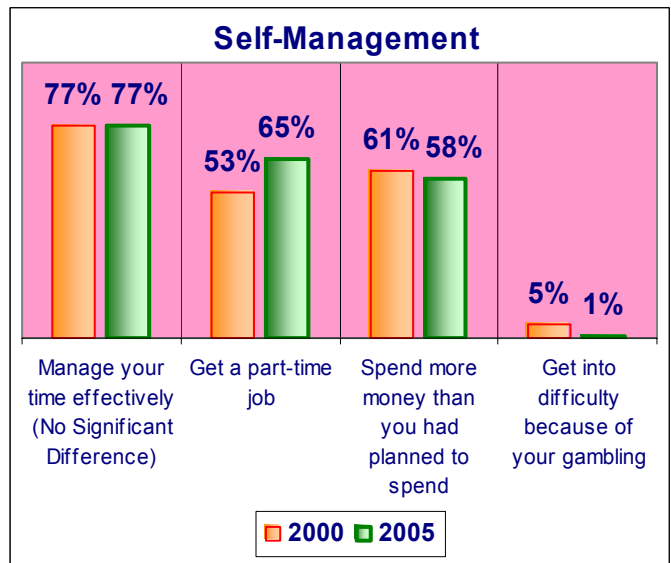
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- ▶ *I loved my first week here!! It really made me realize how this is the right place for me and I now know that if I continue to work hard and make the right choices I can be successful here at MSU!!!*
- ▶ *My room-mate and I are complete opposites. Usually opposites can work together but I'm finding more and more everyday that she's difficult to live with.*
- ▶ *I felt lonely and unsure on where I was. I got lost and didn't know where to go. Bus system is crazy!!*
- ▶ *I found the campus to be extremely welcoming. Although it's a large campus and it's easy to get lost, both within campus or within interpersonal experiences, I have found that no matter what the situation there are always some people there to help you with the situation (getting lost or more serious situations such as assault, etc.) Also we have the most beautiful campus I have ever visited and found it very relaxing to stroll along the river. GO GREEN GO WHITE. I love MSU. It's made me forget all of my previous apprehensions towards moving away from home (homesickness, long lost friends, etc.).*
- ▶ *I got here expecting to make instant best friends and have no problems but the first few days turned out to be very difficult... kind of hard to make friends, very homesick and hard to adjust. Soon however I realized that was how EVERYONE was feeling and that I wasn't alone and it has been a lot easier adjusting now that I realize I'm not alone. Freshmen should be informed that this is a very common thing; I thought I was alone on these issues.*
- ▶ *People are not friendly like I thought they would be. My mentor is really unhelpful and did not answer any of my questions. My roommate is going home after a week, so now I will have to start all over again, because MSU did not provide her with any loans and she cannot afford it here. Basically I am very homesick, and I wish that I would have never come here.*
- ▶ *The fact that the campus is huge was a bit overwhelming at first, but I am already growing accustomed to it. I was surprised at how much friendlier everyone was, especially returning students, to help me find my way if I asked them any questions.*



Engagement

While floor-based involvement remained fairly consistent, both becoming involved in a campus, departmental or hall organization, and in volunteer work increased.



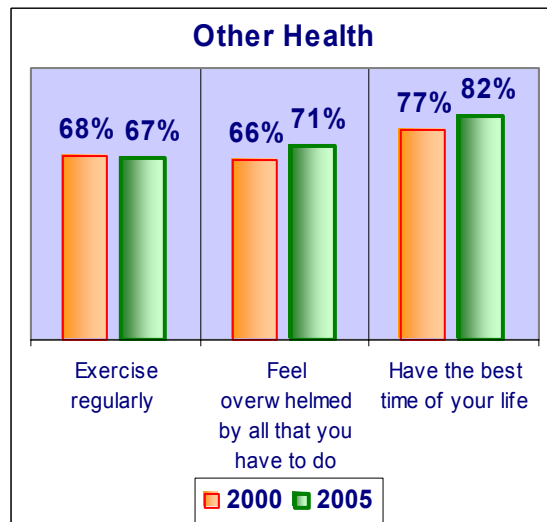
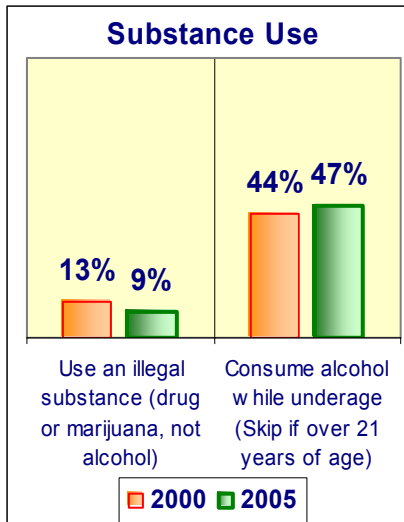
Self-Management

More first-year students in 2005 expect to get a part-time job, and fewer expect to spend more money than they had planned to, not surprising changes considering the national and state economies.



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- ▶ *It was also great to see members of the Spartan Christian Fellowship reaching out to interested freshman this past week. It's nice to know that they care and it was great to have people to keep me company.*
- ▶ *I found out that it was less overwhelming than I expected. Every one here is really friendly and helpful. Challenges I have faced so far have been time management and procrastination. I was surprised at all the events and clubs to join and how far away some buildings were. The CATA bus system itself has been a challenge, getting on the right one at the right time. My roommates are awesome, I wouldn't change them for the world, as well as my RA.*
- ▶ *I expected to be overwhelmed already, and right now I don't feel it. I personally like the freedom and being able to meet more people than the ones I've known all my life. It has been great!*
- ▶ *I need a stronger alarm clock. Maybe two or three.*
- ▶ *Welcome week was one of the best weeks of my life. I had so much fun, felt safe, and met a ton of new people. Once classes started the fun died down, but that was expected. The only thing I find difficult, is the large lecture sizes of some of the classes and keeping track of when things are due and when I have to get things done. I also spent a lot more money than I intended on and possibly will not be able to afford to stay next year.*



Substance Use and Other Health Expectations
Despite consistent messages about alcohol use and misuse, first-year students still expect to drink while underage. Fewer students did however expect to use illegal drugs. A consistent two-thirds plan to exercise regularly and a similar percentage expect to feel overwhelmed. Despite the challenges, an even higher number of first-year students expect to have the best time of their lives.



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- SUBSTANCE USE**
- ▶ *I hardly got any sleep, which wasn't much fun, but I did meet a lot of people in my dorm, & in the surrounding area. It's hard to meet people who want to study, or do something other than party, in the evening. When I stay in, I feel sort of like I'm separating myself from the majority, but I know it will pay off, & I'll meet someone else with my same type of study habits.*
 - ▶ *Everything so far has been pretty exciting. It was quite an experience during welcome week, especially going to the parties. They were just like they are shown in the movies, and I think it was fun to be a part of it.*
 - ▶ *I liked it very much. You don't have to get drunk to have a good time, because I don't drink and it was a ball.*
 - ▶ *I was really surprised by my first week at MSU. I find that the classes are not as difficult as I suspected (not yet) and the people are generally friendly and the staff nice, at least at Briggs. I do however feel very uncomfortable on weekends - the amount of alcohol in the dorm rooms. It's not, in my opinion, a safe place to be.*
 - ▶ *I didn't realize how much people talked about alcohol and getting drunk and how easily accessible it was if you wanted it. Especially coming from a private school, it was hard to get accustomed to hearing about what I use to consider 'extreme' behavior on a regular basis. It was much easier to get acquainted with the college and campus than it has been rumored, and the size and number of students is only a positive, it never has seemed as overwhelming as I had once imagined.*
 - ▶ *Oh yeah, and one more thing. I don't drink, and aren't planning on doing so until I'm 21, but this campus really unofficially encourages drinking. Mentors are constantly saying things like, "when you drink, make sure you've got*

a buddy with you and that you don't drive... because that way it's okay"... Plus there's all these posters around the residence halls with statistics like "89 percent of underage drinkers ONLY drink on the weekends", as if it's no big deal. Don't the police see this? Not that I can complain really, since all three of my roommates drink; in fact, our dorm refrigerator is behind me this very moment, full with alcohol. Doesn't anyone find these things to be an issue?

Full Results – 2005 First-Time Freshmen- First Week of Classes survey Percentage of “Likely” or “A Sure Thing”

Academic Practices

Get at least a 3.0 for your first semester GPA	88%
Study with other students on the floor	47%
Have significant out-of-class conversations with faculty members	40%
Skip a class	32%
Utilize an academic support service such as a tutor, resource center, or the writing center	66%
Study with other students in some form of face-to-face study group	75%
Change your plan for your career or major	38%
Work on academic projects, homework or class work in non-face-to-face environments (web, cell, internet, chat)	68%

Internet Use

Be on the internet for academic-related purposes more than an average of one hour per day	61%
Be on the internet for non-academic purposes more than three hours per day	39%

Multicultural Competence

Learn more about the social and political systems that govern our society	57%
Change your views because of conversations with people different from yourself	35%
Seek out opportunities to learn about different cultures or lifestyles	53%
Have a conflict with someone that you believe is based on the difference in your ethnicity, background, or lifestyle	18%
Explore your family history, background, and culture	24%
Broaden the diversity (race, sexual orientation, background, religion, culture, etc.) of your social group	69%
Become more aware of your personal prejudices and stereotypes towards others	74%

Connections

Live successfully with your roommate	91%
Feel connected to a formal or informal group of other students	75%
Develop a significant romantic relationship	39%
Find at least one university faculty or staff member who you trust enough to share something important with	47%
Have significant conflict with your parent(s)/guardian(s)	18%
Be significantly homesick	27%

Engagement

Join a campus, departmental, or hall organization	63%
Take on a leadership position on or off campus	35%
Attend regular community meetings on your floor	69%
Get involved in volunteer work	57%
Be involved in establishing and maintaining floor-based community standards	53%

Substance Use

Consume alcohol while underage (Skip if you are over 21 years of age)	47%
Experience a negative consequence because of your drinking (legal or student disciplinary)	6%
Experience a negative consequence because of your drinking (physical, interpersonal, emotional)	12%
Use an illegal substance (drug or marijuana, not alcohol)	9%

Personal Well-Being/Self-Management

Get a part-time job	65%
Feel overwhelmed by all that you have to do	71%
Feel personally safe while living on campus	79%
Spend more money than you had planned to spend	58%
Think about leaving MSU	13%
Manage your time effectively	77%
Make good personal choices about your level of sexual activity	85%
Have the best time of your life	82%
Exercise regularly	67%
Get into difficulty because of your gambling	1%
Stay healthy (or as healthy as possible if you have a chronic condition)	87%
Get adequate sleep	39%

Character Development/ Values Clarification

Learn a great deal about who you are and what is important to you	83%
Have experiences that challenge your beliefs	35%
Change your views because of conversations with people different from yourself	35%
Give in to pressure by others to do something you don't really want to do	13%
Feel caught between right and wrong	35%

Institutional Questions

One Book

Did you read <i>The Kite Runner</i> by Hosseini, which was the required/recommended freshman reading?	76% Yes
If you did read the book, did the book's content prompt you to have conversations with anyone?	54% Yes

Study Abroad

Do you think you will participate in a study abroad experience while attending MSU?	
Yes	34%
Will probably participate	32%
Undecided	23%
Will probably not participate	8%

MSU and East Lansing

If you attended a party in East Lansing during Opening weekend how would you describe the environment/ climate? Choose all that apply. (78% chose at least one option)	
Fun and Festive	68%
Crowded	53%
Lots of drunk people	51%
Loud	50%
Students, residents and police getting along well	32%
Respectful behavior among those who were there	23%
Ended at a reasonable time	16%
Out of control	14%
Dangerous	6%

allmsu.com

Have you heard of allmsu.com?	43% Yes
If Yes, are you a member?	28% Yes

facebook.com

Have you heard of facebook	95% Yes
Are you a member of facebook?	84% Yes
How likely are you to use facebook to accomplish the following?	
Get better grades	12%
Get more involved in campus life	65%
Make friends	86%
Find out about parties and social events	70%
Find people to date	27%
Keep in touch with old friends	93%
If you are a member of facebook, when did you join?	
Within past 2 weeks	13%
Between 2 weeks and 1 month ago	14%
Between 1 and 3 months ago	41%
Between 3 and 6 months ago	24%
Between 6 months and 1 year ago	7%
More than 1 year ago	<1%
In the past week, how many min. per day were you on facebook?	
Less than 10 minutes per day	26%
Between 10 and 30 minutes a day	44%
Between 31 and 60 minutes a day	19%
Between 1 and 2 hours per day	8%
Between 2 and 3 hours a day	12%
More than 3 hours per day	1%
% Strongly Agree and Agree that facebook will:	
Make it easier to meet new people at MSU	78%
Help them keep informed about social events on campus	66%
Make it easier to stay in touch with friends not at MSU	95%



MSU AND EAST LANSING

- ▶ *The second night I was here, my roommate and I (we were friends before) went out and found a lot of parties, but the cops were not being cool with all of it and they were giving lots of others MIP's. As far as my classes, they have been about as hard if not better than I expected. I expected professors to be careless and mean, and I found that a lot of them are nice and are willing to work with you.*
- ▶ *The parties did not live up to expectations*
- ▶ *While I understand the consuming an alcoholic beverage is illegal to those under the age of 21, and that the police in East Lansing do a fine job of serving and protecting, it seems that they are a little strict on those individuals, especially on football Saturdays, who consume alcoholic beverages and who are generally not breaking other laws and being a general nuisance but who instead are participating in an activity as others before them have done.*

FACEBOOK.COM

- ▶ *Based on your questions about facebook, it seems as though the school might be interested in applying things on facebook for the students? I'm not sure, but once I heard about facebook, I was skeptical about joining, but I became apart of it, and I instantly loved all of the knick-knacks, and most importantly, me being able to stay in touch with my friends. More of my friends are joining everyday, and the site is getting more and more popular. It is a great source of communication among friends.*
- ▶ *When I first got here, I was a little bit nervous. But, I met people on facebook in the summer, so I hung out with them a lot. I used allmsu.com and it was great in helping me pick classes according to professors. Thanks to my Mentors on my floor, I figured out my classes and found a schedule that works for me.*

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