

Assessment Note

Office of Academic Assessment and Institutional Research
Ball State University

AAIR No. MSC-AI-2006

Who Are Ball State's Transfer Students? Differences in *MAST* Respondents by Year

The Ball State survey, *Making a Successful Transfer (MAST)*, is designed to help transfer students identify their strengths and talents, as well as to reveal areas for further growth and development. The survey, developed by the Office of Academic Assessment and Institutional Research (AAIR), is given to incoming transfer students during the early part of their first semester on campus. *MAST* is based on a similar survey, *Making Achievement Possible (MAP)*, which is administered to incoming freshmen. The *MAP* survey was also developed by AAIR staff, working in collaboration with the Office of Housing and Residence Life, the Office of Academic Advising, and the University College Learning Center. Further information regarding the *MAST* survey can be obtained from the *2002 Making a Successful Transfer Survey Summary Findings* and the *2003-2004 Making a Successful Transfer Survey Summary Report*. These reports are available at the AAIR web site (bsu.edu/assessment).

This assessment note, the second in a series of three related to *MAST*, summarizes some of the significant differences observed between the *MAST* administrations. Of the 1,408 students who completed the *MAST* survey, 507 (36%) responded in 2002-2003, 476 (34%) responded in 2003-2004, and 425 (30%) responded in 2004-2005. Key results appear below.

- Four out of 10 respondents in 2002-2003, 46% of respondents in 2003-2004, and 49% of respondents in 2004-2005 indicated that they were currently living in the residence halls. These differences were statistically significant. (Table 1)

TABLE 1
Where Are You Currently Living by Year*

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
	<i>Percentages</i>		
Residence Hall	40.0	46.2	49.3
Off campus	54.5	51.6	46.8
On-campus apartment	5.5	2.2	3.9

* Significant differences exist between 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005 respondents on this item. ($p < .05$)

- Eighty-three percent of respondents living in a residence hall in 2002-2003, 85% of respondents in 2003-2004, and 76% of respondents in 2004-2005 strongly agreed or agreed that they could study in their room. These differences were statistically significant. (Table 2)
- Respondents living in a residence hall in 2002-2003 were significantly more likely than residence hall respondents in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 to strongly agree or agree that they had made friends in their residence hall (83% of respondents in 2002-2003 compared to 73% of respondents in 2003-2004 and 77% of respondents in 2004-2005. (Table 2)

TABLE 2
Residence Hall Attitudes and Experiences by Year*

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
	<i>Percentages</i>		
I can study in my room.**	83.1	84.8	75.6
I have made friends in my residence hall.**	83.0	72.6	77.4

* Percentages are of those living on campus who responded "Strongly Agree" or "Agree."

** Significant differences exist between 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005 respondents on this item. (p<.05)

- Sixty-eight percent of respondents in 2002-2003, 73% of respondents in 2003-2004, and 58% of respondents in 2004-2005 strongly agreed or agreed that they were managing their time well. These differences were statistically significant. (Table 3)
- Approximately 24% of respondents in 2003-2004 strongly agreed or agreed that they feel very different than other students, compared to 29% of respondents in 2002-2003 and 2004-2005 who indicated that same. This difference was statistically significant. (Table 3)
- Forty-two percent of 2004-2005 respondents and 33% of 2003-2004 and 2002-2003 respondents strongly agreed or agreed that they were involved in campus activities. This difference was statistically significant. (Table 3)
- A significantly greater percentage of respondents in 2004-2005, compared to respondents in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, indicated that they were feeling more tense and nervous than expected (25% of 2004-2005 respondents compared to 21% of 2002-2003 respondents and 18% of 2003-2004 respondents). (Table 3)

TABLE 3
Adjusting to Ball State by Year*

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
	<i>Percentages</i>		
I am managing my time well. **	67.6	73.2	58.1
I feel very different from other students. **	28.5	23.6	29.4
I am involved in campus activities. **	33.4	33.4	42.0
I have been feeling more tense or nervous than I expected. **	20.9	17.9	25.2

* Respondents indicating "Strongly Agree" or "Agree"

** Significant differences exist between 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005 respondents on this item. (p<.05)

- About 50% of respondents in 2004-2005 rated their ability to maintain their physical health and well-being as well above or somewhat above average, compared to 53% of respondents in 2002-2003 and 52% of respondents in 2003-2004 who indicated the same. This difference was statistically significant. (Table 4)
- A significantly greater percentage of respondents in 2004-2005 rated their ability to use computers as well above or somewhat above average (57% of respondents in 2004-2005 compared to 48% in 2002-2003 and 43% in 2003-2004). (Table 4)
- Forty-six percent of respondents in 2002-2003, 48% of respondents in 2003-2004, and 45% of respondents in 2004-2005 rated their ability to ask questions and get feedback from instructors as well above or somewhat above average. This difference was statistically significant. (Table 4)

TABLE 4
Personal Characteristics by Year*

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
	<i>Percentages</i>		
Ability to maintain physical health and well-being**	52.9	52.3	50.4
Ability to use computers **	48.1	43.4	57.3
Ability to ask questions of and get feedback from instructors **	45.5	47.9	45.4

* Respondents indicating "Well Above Average" or "Somewhat Above Average"

** Significant differences exist between 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005 respondents on this item. (p<.05)

- Approximately 59% of respondents in 2002-2003, 63% of respondents in 2003-2004, and 57% of respondents in 2004-2005 indicated that they had made a choice regarding their major and were certain of their decision. (Table 5)

TABLE 5
Decision on Academic Major by Year

About my choice of academic major...*	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
	<i>Percentages</i>		
I have made a choice and am certain of it.	58.9	62.9	57.1
I have made a choice but may change it.	30.2	26.6	26.2
Many different majors appeal to me, but I haven't decided on one yet.	4.0	3.7	5.0
I have examined the requirements for at least one major, but haven't made a decision.	3.6	4.8	5.0
I am completely undecided.	3.2	2.2	6.7

* Significant differences exist between 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005 respondents on this item. (p<.05)

- Forty-one percent of respondents in 2002-2003, 43% in 2003-2004, and 39% in 2004-2005 indicated that they had made their choice of career and were certain of it. These differences were statistically significant. (Table 6)

TABLE 6
Decision on Career by Year

About my choice of career...*	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
	<i>Percentages</i>		
I have made a choice and am certain of it.	41.0	43.1	38.9
I have made a choice but may change it.	29.3	34.5	27.5
Many different careers appeal to me, but I haven't decided on one yet.	18.2	13.4	16.8
I have examined the requirements for at least one career, but haven't made a decision.	4.8	5.6	7.2
I am completely undecided.	6.7	3.4	9.7

* Significant differences exist between 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005 respondents on this item. (p<.05)

For more information, contact the Office of Academic Assessment and Institutional Research.

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