

# FALL 2009 MAKING ACHIEVEMENT POSSIBLE SURVEY (MAP-WORKS)

# FIRST-YEAR STUDENT CHECK UP

SUMMARY REPORT

## **VISION**

Ball State University will be a national model of excellence for challenging, learner-centered academic communities that advance knowledge and improve economic vitality and quality of life.



Office of Academic Assessment and Institutional Research December 2010 AAIR No. MWF-S4-2010



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# FIRST-YEAR STUDENT CHECK UP SUMMARY REPORT



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Making Achievement Possible (*MAP-Works*) is a survey designed to reveal student strengths and talents, as well as to identify areas for further development. This report is a summary of the *MAP-Works*: Check Up survey responses from freshman first-year matriculates who participated in Fall 2009.
- In Fall 2009 the response rate of first-year matriculates for the *MAP-Works*: Check Up was 50%.

# **Academic Adjustment**

- At least 84% of respondents stated that they think they will achieve grades of mostly A or B this term.
- Two out of 3 respondents reported they are struggling in one or two courses.
- About 64% of respondents reported that they are more than moderately certain they can do well in their hardest course.
- Nearly 45% of respondents stated that they are always attending class.
- About 29% of respondents claimed that they spend 5 hours or less per week studying.
- At least 85% of respondents indicated that they are balancing their time between classes and other activities more than half the time.

# **Socio-Emotional Adjustment**

- Approximately 26% of respondents reported that they are moderately involved in student activities; about 8% indicated they are involved to an extreme degree.
- At least 55% of respondents reported that to less than a moderate degree they think about going home all the time.
- Nearly 62% of respondents stated that they are experiencing stress to a moderate or lesser degree.
- Seventy-one percent of respondents reported that to an extreme degree they intend to come back to Ball State for the next academic year.

# **Overall Evaluation of Ball State University**

- Just over three fourths of respondents stated to a more than moderate degree that they feel they belong at Ball State.
- Nearly 9 out of 10 respondents reported that they would to at least a moderate degree choose Ball State again if they had it to do over, and about 96% indicated to the same degree that they would recommend Ball State to someone who wants to attend college.
- Seventy-one percent of respondents rated their experience at Ball State overall as very good, excellent, or exceptional.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Making Achievement Possible (MAP-Works) is a survey system designed to reveal student strengths and talents, as well as to identify areas for further development. The survey is given to incoming first-year students during the early part of their first semester as a Ball State University student. The original survey was developed by the Office of Academic Assessment and Institutional Research, the Office of Housing and Residence Life, Academic Advising, and the Learning Center. Reports based on individual responses are sent to the respondents, their advisors, and residence hall directors. In Fall 2006, Ball State partnered with Educational Benchmarking (EBI) to move the survey and reporting online. As part of that move, the survey was revised. A check-up survey was created to measure the academic and social adjustment of the first-year matrics as their first semester progressed.

Nine weeks into the Fall 2009 semester, all first-year matrics were emailed an invitation to participate in the *MAP-Works*: Check Up survey. Of the 3,942 first-year *non-transfer* matrics contacted, 1,968 completed the survey, for a 50% response rate. Thirty-six students did not receive the email due to failed delivery. Tables 1 and 2 contain the demographic and high school academic characteristics of all Fall 2009 first-year non-transfer students and first-year non-transfer *MAP-Works*: Check Up survey respondents.

The remainder of this report is a summary of responses from Fall 2009 first-year *non-transfer* matriculates who participated in the *MAP-Works*: Check Up survey.

**TABLE 1 Demographic Characteristics** 

|                                 | Respondents | All First-Year<br>Non-Transfers |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
|                                 | Perc        | entages                         |
| Gender                          |             |                                 |
| Female                          | 69.2        | 58.2                            |
| Male                            | 30.8        | 41.8                            |
| Ethnicity                       |             |                                 |
| African American/Black          | 4.4         | 5.5                             |
| American Indian/Native American | 0.2         | 0.2                             |
| Asian                           | 0.7         | 0.7                             |
| Caucasian                       | 88.1        | 86.2                            |
| Hispanic                        | 2.6         | 3.0                             |
| Pacific Islander                | 0.0         | 0.0                             |
| Two or more races               | 2.1         | 2.3                             |
| Not specified                   | 1.9         | 2.1                             |

TABLE 2 Academic Characteristics

|               | Respondents | All First-Year<br>Non-Transfers |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
|               | Perce       | ntages                          |
| SAT Verbal    |             | -                               |
| 700 and above | 2.5         | 1.7                             |
| 600 – 699     | 15.9        | 13.2                            |
| 500 – 599     | 42.0        | 42.1                            |
| 400 - 499     | 36.7        | 40.1                            |
| Below 399     | 2.9         | 3.0                             |
| SAT Math      |             |                                 |
| 700 and above | 1.4         | 1.4                             |
| 600 – 699     | 19.5        | 16.6                            |
| 500 – 599     | 42.6        | 42.2                            |
| 400 - 499     | 33.5        | 37.0                            |
| Below 399     | 3.1         | 2.9                             |

## ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENT

<u>Summary</u> At least 84% of respondents stated that they think they will achieve grades of mostly A or B this term. About 66% of respondents indicated they are struggling in one or two courses.

Seventy-four percent of the respondents stated that they are more than moderately satisfied with their academic life on campus.

Approximately 85% of respondents indicated that more than half the time they are balancing their time between classes and other activities. About 45% of the respondents claimed they are always attending class. Nearly 82% of respondents reported they spend 15 hours or less studying per week.

- Approximately 30% of respondents indicated that they think they will achieve grades of mostly A this term, and nearly 55% think they will achieve grades of mostly B. (Table 3)
- Seventy-seven percent of respondents stated that their final grades would be mostly A or B if the term ended at the time of their response. (Table 3)
- About 28% of respondents indicated that they are not struggling in any of their courses; at least 66% reported they are struggling in one or two. (Table 3)

TABLE 3
Academic Adjustment

|                                                           | $\mathbf{N}$ | Percentages |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| What grades do you think you'll achieve this term?        |              |             |
| Mostly A                                                  | 578          | 29.5        |
| Mostly B                                                  | 1074         | 54.8        |
| Mostly C                                                  | 288          | 14.7        |
| Lower than a C                                            | 21           | 1.1         |
| If the term ended today, what would be your final grades? |              |             |
| Mostly A                                                  | 525          | 26.9        |
| Mostly B                                                  | 979          | 50.1        |
| Mostly C                                                  | 372          | 19.0        |
| Lower than a C                                            | 79           | 4.0         |
| How many courses are you struggling in?                   |              |             |
| None                                                      | 547          | 27.9        |
| 1                                                         | 844          | 43.1        |
| 2                                                         | 450          | 23.0        |
| 3                                                         | 89           | 4.5         |
| 4                                                         | 17           | 0.9         |
| 5                                                         | 8            | 0.4         |
| More than 5                                               | 4            | 0.2         |

- Approximately 64% of respondents reported that they are more than moderately certain they can do well in their hardest course. (Table 4)
- Seventy-four percent of respondents stated they are more than moderately satisfied with their academic life on campus. (Table 4)
- About 94% of respondents stated that they are keeping up with their course work more than half the time. (Table 5)
- At least 85% of respondents stated that they are balancing their time between classes and other activities more than half the time. (Table 5)

TABLE 4
Academic Success

| To what degree are you:                              |      | (1)        | (2) | (3) | (4)         | (5)  | (6)  | (7)       |
|------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|-----|-----|-------------|------|------|-----------|
|                                                      |      | Not at all |     |     | Moderately  |      |      | Extremely |
|                                                      | N    |            |     |     | Percentages |      |      | _         |
| certain that you can do well in your hardest course? | 1959 | 2.5        | 3.6 | 6.5 | 23.2        | 27.1 | 29.1 | 8.0       |
| satisfied with your academic life on campus?         | 1956 | 1.5        | 1.9 | 3.8 | 18.8        | 23.1 | 36.2 | 14.7      |

TABLE 5
Potential Academic Success Issues

| To what degree are you:                                                                          |      | (1)        | (2) | (3) | (4)           | (5)  | (6)  | (7)    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|-----|-----|---------------|------|------|--------|
|                                                                                                  |      | Not at all |     |     | Half the time |      |      | Always |
|                                                                                                  | N    |            |     |     | Percentages   |      |      |        |
| keeping up with your course work?                                                                | 1952 | 0.2        | 0.5 | 1.0 | 4.3           | 14.7 | 42.7 | 36.7   |
| balancing your time between<br>classes and other activities<br>(work, student activities, etc.)? | 1943 | 0.5        | 1.0 | 3.1 | 10.1          | 22.1 | 39.6 | 23.6   |

- About 45% of respondents reported that they are always attending class; fewer than 1% of the respondents reported attending less than half the time. (Table 6)
- Approximately 95% of respondents indicated that at least half the time they are spending sufficient study time to earn good grades. (Table 6)
- Nearly 92% of respondents reported that at least half the time they are studying in a place where they can avoid distractions. (Table 6)

- Approximately 69% of respondents reported that more than half the time they are working on large projects well in advance of the due date. (Table 6)
- Approximately 29% of respondents indicated that they spend 5 or fewer hours per week studying, nearly 63% spend 6-20 hours, and about 9% spend 21 hours or more. (Table 7)

TABLE 6 Core Academic Behaviors

| To what degree are you:                                    |      | (1)        | (2) | (3) | (4)           | (5)  | (6)  | (7)    |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|-----|-----|---------------|------|------|--------|
|                                                            |      | Not at all |     |     | Half the time |      |      | Always |
|                                                            | N    |            |     |     | Percentages   |      |      |        |
| attending class?                                           | 1961 | 0.1        | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.8           | 8.3  | 44.9 | 44.6   |
| spending sufficient study time to earn good grades?        | 1962 | 0.5        | 1.5 | 3.2 | 13.1          | 27.7 | 39.7 | 14.4   |
| studying in a place where you can avoid distractions?      | 1956 | 1.1        | 2.2 | 4.8 | 16.6          | 23.7 | 36.5 | 15.1   |
| working on large projects well in advance of the due date? | 1919 | 1.7        | 3.5 | 8.4 | 17.7          | 24.8 | 28.3 | 15.6   |

TABLE 7 Study Hours

| How many hours do you spend studying | ng per week? |             |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                      | N            | Percentages |
| 0  hrs. - 5  hrs.                    | 526          | 28.5        |
| 6 hrs. – 10 hrs.                     | 650          | 35.2        |
| 11 hrs. − 15 hrs.                    | 333          | 18.0        |
| 16  hrs. - 20  hrs.                  | 176          | 9.5         |
| 21  hrs. - 25  hrs.                  | 58           | 3.1         |
| 26  hrs. - 30  hrs.                  | 49           | 2.7         |
| 31 hrs. or more                      | 54           | 2.9         |

## SOCIO-EMOTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

<u>Summary</u> Nearly 62% of respondents indicated that they are experiencing stress to a moderate or lesser degree.

About 26% of respondents reported that they are moderately involved in student activities, while nearly 8% indicated they are involved to an extreme degree.

At least 7 out of 10 respondents indicated they are more than moderately satisfied with their living situation.

More than 7 out of 10 respondents claimed that to an extreme degree they intend to come back to Ball State for the next academic year.

- Nearly 29% of respondents reported they are experiencing stress moderately. (Table 8)
- Six out of 10 respondents stated they are involved in student activities to at least a moderate degree. (Table 9)
- Eighty-seven percent of respondents indicated they are at least moderately satisfied with their living situation. (Table 10)
- About 89% of respondents reported that at least to a moderate degree they are meeting people on the Ball State campus with whom they enjoy spending time. (Table 10)

TABLE 8
Socio-Emotional Adjustment

| To what degree:              |      | (1)        | (2)  | (3)  | (4)         | (5)  | (6)  | (7)       |
|------------------------------|------|------------|------|------|-------------|------|------|-----------|
|                              |      | Not at all |      |      | Moderately  |      |      | Extremely |
|                              | N    |            |      |      | Percentages |      |      |           |
| are you experiencing stress? | 1934 | 4.2        | 14.3 | 14.5 | 28.9        | 15.1 | 13.8 | 9.4       |

# TABLE 9 Campus Involvement

| To what degree:                         |      | (1)        | (2)  | (3)  | (4)         | (5)  | (6)  | (7)       |
|-----------------------------------------|------|------------|------|------|-------------|------|------|-----------|
|                                         |      | Not at all |      |      | Moderately  |      |      | Extremely |
|                                         | N    |            |      |      | Percentages |      |      |           |
| are you involved in student activities? | 1951 | 19.2       | 10.7 | 10.0 | 26.4        | 14.8 | 10.9 | 7.9       |

TABLE 10 Social Environment

| To what degree are you:                                           |      | (1)        | (2) | (3) | (4)         | (5)  | (6)  | (7)       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|-----|-----|-------------|------|------|-----------|
|                                                                   |      | Not at all |     |     | Moderately  |      |      | Extremely |
|                                                                   | N    |            |     |     | Percentages |      |      |           |
| satisfied with your living situation (e.g., room/house)?          | 1925 | 3.4        | 4.4 | 5.2 | 16.5        | 16.5 | 29.6 | 24.4      |
| meeting people on this campus<br>you enjoy spending time<br>with? | 1948 | 1.2        | 3.9 | 5.9 | 18.0        | 19.3 | 28.3 | 23.5      |

- Approximately 27% of respondents reported they are having problems at least moderately with people living with or near them. (Table 11)
- About 55% of respondents reported that to a less than moderate degree they think about going home all the time; nearly 6% stated they do so to an extreme degree. (Table 11)

TABLE 11
Potential Socio-Emotional Issues

| To what degree:                                           |      | (1)        | (2)  | (3)  | (4)         | (5) | (6) | <b>(7</b> ) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|------|------|-------------|-----|-----|-------------|
|                                                           |      | Not at all |      |      | Moderately  |     |     | Extremely   |
|                                                           | N    |            |      |      | Percentages |     |     |             |
| are you having problems with people living with/near you? | 1917 | 37.4       | 23.2 | 12.3 | 13.0        | 6.5 | 5.5 | 2.2         |
| do you think about going home all the time?*              | 1771 | 13.2       | 23.6 | 18.4 | 21.5        | 9.6 | 8.2 | 5.6         |

<sup>\*</sup>Respondents were asked to mark not applicable if they live at home.

- Approximately 86% of respondents indicated that to an extreme degree they intend to come back to Ball State for the next term. (Table 12)
- Seventy-one percent of respondents reported that to an extreme degree they intend to come back to Ball State for the next academic year. (Table 12)
- Eighty-six percent of respondents indicated that they are at least moderately confident they can pay for next term's tuition and fees. (Table 12)
- Nearly 91% of respondents stated to a moderate or lesser degree that they think they will not have to leave school because of their current financial situation. (Table 12)

TABLE 12 Considering Departure

| To what degree:                                                                       |      | (1)        | (2)  | (3)  | (4)         | (5)  | (6)  | (7)       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|------|------|-------------|------|------|-----------|
|                                                                                       |      | Not at all |      |      | Moderately  |      |      | Extremely |
|                                                                                       |      |            |      |      | Percentages |      |      |           |
|                                                                                       | N    |            |      |      |             |      |      |           |
| do you intend to come back to this institution for the next term?                     | 1943 | 2.4        | 0.3  | 0.5  | 1.8         | 2.5  | 6.7  | 85.8      |
| do you intend to come back to this institution for the next academic year?            | 1931 | 4.1        | 1.6  | 1.7  | 5.2         | 6.1  | 10.3 | 71.0      |
| are you confident that you can pay for next term's tuition and fees?                  | 1921 | 2.6        | 4.5  | 6.9  | 19.3        | 15.4 | 23.7 | 27.6      |
| do you think you'll have to leave school because of your current financial situation? | 1928 | 48.1       | 22.7 | 10.6 | 9.5         | 4.5  | 3.7  | 1.0       |

## OVERALL EVALUATION OF BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

<u>Summary</u> More than three fourths of respondents indicated that to a more than moderate degree they feel they belong at Ball State.

Nearly 9 out of 10 respondents reported that they would at least to a moderate degree choose Ball State again if they had it to do over.

About 96% of respondents stated they would at least to a moderate degree recommend Ball State to someone who wants to attend college.

Seventy-one percent of respondents rated their experience at Ball State overall as very good, excellent, or exceptional. Less than 2% rated theirs as poor or very poor.

- At least 77% of respondents indicated to a more than moderate degree that they feel they belong at Ball State; only about 2% stated they do not at all feel that they belong. (Table 13)
- At least 36% of participants stated they would to an extreme degree choose Ball State again if they had it to do over. (Table 13)
- Approximately 42% of respondents indicated they would to an extreme degree recommend Ball State to someone who wants to attend college. (Table 13)
- Twenty-nine percent of respondents rated their experience at Ball State as excellent; about 8% rated theirs exceptional. (Table 14)

TABLE 13 Choice of Ball State

| To what degree:                                                                              |      | (1)        | (2) | (3) | (4)         | (5)  | (6)  | (7)       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|-----|-----|-------------|------|------|-----------|
|                                                                                              |      | Not at all |     |     | Moderately  |      |      | Extremely |
|                                                                                              | N    |            |     |     | Percentages |      |      |           |
| do you feel you belong at this institution?                                                  | 1941 | 2.4        | 3.0 | 4.2 | 13.0        | 15.6 | 33.1 | 28.6      |
| would you choose this<br>college/university again<br>if you had it to do over?               | 1944 | 3.4        | 3.9 | 3.6 | 12.2        | 13.4 | 27.3 | 36.2      |
| would you recommend<br>this college/university<br>to someone who wants<br>to attend college? | 1933 | 1.1        | 1.4 | 1.8 | 8.8         | 13.3 | 31.4 | 42.3      |

TABLE 14 Overall Rating of Ball State

| Overall, please rate your experience at this college/university. |     |             |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------|--|--|--|--|
|                                                                  | N   | Percentages |  |  |  |  |
| Exceptional                                                      | 161 | 8.3         |  |  |  |  |
| Excellent                                                        | 566 | 29.0        |  |  |  |  |
| Very good                                                        | 657 | 33.7        |  |  |  |  |
| Good                                                             | 408 | 20.9        |  |  |  |  |
| Fair                                                             | 132 | 6.8         |  |  |  |  |
| Poor                                                             | 18  | 0.9         |  |  |  |  |
| Very poor                                                        | 8   | 0.4         |  |  |  |  |