



**FALL 2011
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 2011
AAIR No. MWF-S3-2011*



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Ball State University
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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. Half way into their first semester, first-year matriculates are asked follow-up questions to the original *MAP-Works* survey. This report is a summary of the *MAP-Works: Check Up* survey responses from freshman first-year matriculates, not including transfers, who participated in Fall 2011.
- In Fall 2011 the response rate of first-year matriculates for the *MAP-Works: Check Up* was 21%. Given that this is a fairly low response rate, there is an over-representation of females, Caucasians, and students with higher SAT scores.

Academic Adjustment

- Roughly 8 out of 10 respondents (79%) reported that they think their Fall 2011 GPA will be a 3.00 or higher.
- Fewer than 3 out of 10 respondents (29%) stated that they are struggling in more than one of their courses.
- Nearly all respondents (99%) indicated that they are attending class more than half the time, and about 8 out of 10 respondents (78%) reported they are participating in class that often.
- While about 8 out of 10 respondents (84%) reported that more than half the time they are spending sufficient time studying to earn good grades, slightly

more than half of respondents (54%) stated that they spend 10 hours at most in an average week studying or doing out-of-class schoolwork.

Socio-Emotional Adjustment

- Roughly 3 out of 4 respondents (77%) reported being more than moderately satisfied with their living situation.
- About 4 out of 10 respondents reported participating in student organizations more than moderately.
- Approximately 9 out of 10 respondents (91%) stated to an extreme degree that they intend to come back to Ball State for the spring term, and about 3 out of 4 respondents intend as strongly to come back for the next academic year.

Overall Evaluation of Ball State University

- More than 8 out of 10 respondents (83%) reported to a more than moderate degree that they would choose Ball State again if they had it to do over.
- Roughly 9 out of 10 respondents (91%) indicated to a more than moderate degree that they would recommend Ball State to someone who wants to attend college, and about 3 out of 4 respondents (78%) rated their overall experience at Ball State 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 respondents, their advisors, and residence hall directors. In Fall 2006, Ball State partnered with Educational Benchmarking (EBI) to move the survey and reporting online; the survey was revised as part of that move. 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 2011 semester, all first-year matrics were emailed an invitation to participate in the *MAP-Works: Check Up* survey. Of the 3,864 first-year *non-transfer* matrics contacted, 805 completed the survey for a 21% response rate. Tables 1 and 2 contain the demographic and high school academic characteristics of all Fall 2011 first-year non-transfer students and first-year non-transfer *MAP-Works: Check Up* survey respondents. A higher percentage of females completed the survey than are represented in the population. There is also a larger representation of Caucasians in the sample than in the population.

The remainder of this report is a summary of responses from Fall 2011 first-year *non-transfer* matriculates who participated in the *MAP-Works: Check Up* survey.

TABLE 1
Demographic Characteristics

	Respondents	All First-Year Matriculates
	<i>Percentages</i>	
Gender		
Female	73.2	60.5
Male	26.8	39.5
Ethnicity		
African American/Black	3.1	5.9
American Indian/Native American	0.1	0.2
Asian	1.1	0.9
Caucasian	88.2	84.8
Foreign	0.1	0.4
Hispanic	3.5	3.9
Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1
Two or more races	2.9	2.8
Not specified	1.0	0.9

TABLE 2
Academic Characteristics

	Respondents		All First-Year Matriculates	
	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentages</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
SAT Verbal				
700 and above	27	4.0	63	1.9
600 – 699	128	18.8	479	14.7
500 – 599	310	45.5	1447	44.3
400 – 499	207	30.4	1218	37.3
Below 399	9	1.3	62	1.9
SAT Writing				
700 and above	16	2.3	40	1.2
600 – 699	117	17.2	343	10.5
500 – 599	294	43.2	1390	42.5
400 – 499	232	34.1	1385	42.4
Below 399	22	3.2	111	3.4
SAT Math				
700 and above	14	2.1	41	1.3
600 – 699	164	24.1	523	16.0
500 – 599	276	40.5	1460	44.7
400 – 499	215	31.6	1172	35.9
Below 399	12	1.8	73	2.2

ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENT

Summary Students were asked to respond to questions regarding their academic adjustment. Questions pertained to their expectations about their GPA, the number of courses they are struggling in, how many of their scheduled classes they have attended, and their class and study behaviors.

Roughly 8 out of 10 respondents (79%) reported that they think their GPA will be at least a 3.00 this term. About 7 out of 10 respondents (72%) indicated they are struggling in one or more of their courses.

Nearly all respondents (95%) reported that they are keeping up with their course work more than half the time, but fewer respondents (86%) indicated they are balancing their time between classes and other activities as often.

About 6 out of 10 respondents (63%) indicated they are always attending class. At least half of respondents (54%) reported that they spend at most 10 hours in an average week studying or doing out-of-class schoolwork.

About 8 out of 10 respondents (81%) reported being more than moderately satisfied with their academic life on campus.

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- About 3 out of 10 respondents (31%) indicated that they think their GPA will be a 3.50 or higher this term, and nearly half of respondents (48%) think theirs will be between a 3.00 and 3.49. (Table 3)
 - Fewer respondents stated that their final GPA would be a 3.50 or higher (28%) or a 3.00 to 3.49 (39%) if the term ended the day they completed the survey. (Table 3)
 - Roughly 3 out of 10 respondents (28%) indicated they are not struggling in any of their courses; nearly 2 out of 3 respondents (66%) reported struggling in one or two. (Table 3)
 - More than 6 out of 10 respondents (64%) reported that they have missed fewer than two of their scheduled classes this term. (Table 3)

TABLE 3
Academic Adjustment

	N	Percentages
What do you think your GPA will be this term?		
3.50 or higher (Mostly A's)	250	31.1
3.00 to 3.49 (Mostly B's)	388	48.2
2.50 to 2.99 (Some B's and C's)	128	15.9
2.00 to 2.49 (Mostly C's)	32	4.0
Less than 2.00 (Lower than C's)	7	0.9
If the term ended today, what would be your final GPA?		
3.50 or higher (Mostly A's)	224	28.0
3.00 to 3.49 (Mostly B's)	311	38.8
2.50 to 2.99 (Some B's and C's)	172	21.5
2.00 to 2.49 (Mostly C's)	68	8.5
Less than 2.00 (Lower than C's)	26	3.2

**TABLE 3 (cont.)
Academic Adjustment**

	N	Percentages
How many courses are you struggling in?		
Not struggling in any course	225	28.0
1	347	43.2
2	183	22.8
3	36	4.5
4 or more	13	1.6
How many of your scheduled classes have you attended this term?		
I have attended all my classes.	309	38.5
I missed one class.	201	25.1
I missed a few classes.	278	34.7
I missed class frequently.	11	1.4
I missed class most of the time.	3	0.4

- Seventy-two percent of respondents reported they are more than moderately certain they can do well in their hardest course. (Table 4)
 - Roughly 94% of respondents reported being at least moderately satisfied with their academic life on campus, while about 22% reported being extremely satisfied. (Table 4)
- Nearly all respondents (95%) reported they are keeping up with their course work more than half the time. (Table 5)
 - Approximately 86% of respondents indicated 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				
	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentages</i>						
certain that you can do well in your hardest course?	803	1.9	3.0	6.7	16.4	24.8	29.0	18.2
satisfied with your academic life on campus?	799	1.6	1.3	2.9	13.1	20.5	38.3	22.3

*Excludes respondents who selected N/A

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
	<i>N</i>				<i>Percentages</i>			
keeping up with your course work?	801	0.4	0.6	0.5	3.6	13.1	39.5	42.3
balancing your time between classes and other activities (work, student activities, etc.)?	796	0.6	1.3	2.6	9.9	21.4	37.1	27.1

*Excludes respondents who selected N/A

- Nearly all respondents (99%) reported they are attending class more than half the time. (Table 6)
- At least 8 out of 10 respondents (84%) indicated that more than half the time they are spending sufficient study time to earn good grades. (Table 6)
- About 9 out of 10 respondents stated that at least half the time they are participating in class (92%) or working on large projects well in advance of the due date (87%). (Table 6)
- Roughly 18% of respondents reported spending 5 hours or less in an average week studying or doing out-of-class schoolwork, while about 46% reported spending 11 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
	<i>N</i>				<i>Percentages</i>			
attending class?	801	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.6	3.6	32.0	63.3
spending sufficient study time to earn good grades?	805	0.5	1.0	2.1	12.8	26.2	39.6	17.8
participating in class?	798	0.8	2.6	5.0	13.5	22.4	35.6	20.1
working on large projects well in advance of the due date?	793	1.6	3.2	8.4	17.2	24.5	26.5	18.7

*Excludes respondents who selected N/A

TABLE 7
Study Hours

In an average week, how many hours do you spend studying/[doing] out-of-class schoolwork (e.g., homework, practice time, lab time, studying)?

	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
0 hrs. – 5 hrs.	144	18.3
6 hrs. – 10 hrs.	281	35.8
11 hrs. – 20 hrs.	266	33.9
21 hrs. – 25 hrs.	45	5.7
26 hrs. – 30 hrs.	21	2.7
31 hrs. or more	28	3.6

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Summary Students were also asked to respond to questions regarding their socio-emotional adjustment. Questions pertained to their adjustment to campus life, feelings of belonging, campus involvement, potential emotional issues, and the likelihood of their returning to Ball State.

About 9 out of 10 respondents (93%) reported that they feel they belong at Ball State at least to a moderate degree. Approximately 2% reported feeling that they do not belong here at all.

Roughly 6 out of 10 respondents (59%) reported participating in student organizations at least moderately.

Nearly all respondents (98%) indicated that they at least moderately intend to come back to Ball State for the next term.

- At least 3 out of 4 respondents (77%) reported being more than moderately satisfied with their living situation. (Table 8)

- Roughly 9 out of 10 respondents (88%) reported to at least a moderate degree that they are connecting with people at Ball State. (Table 8)
- About 8 out of 10 respondents (82%) stated to a more than moderate degree that they feel they belong at Ball State. (Table 8)
- Nearly 6 out of 10 respondents (59%) indicated that they are participating in student organizations at least moderately. (Table 9)
- Only about 1 out of 10 respondents (13%) reported having problems more than moderately with people living with/near them. (Table 10)
- Fewer than one fourth of respondents (23%) who live away from home indicated to a more than moderate degree that they think about going home all the time. (Table 10)

TABLE 8
Socio-Emotional Adjustment*

To what degree:		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
		Not at all			Moderately			Extremely
	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentages</i>						
are you satisfied with your living situation (e.g., room/house)?	796	2.8	3.8	4.5	11.6	13.9	32.5	30.9
are you connecting with people at Ball State?	798	1.8	4.9	5.1	15.2	17.9	29.3	25.8
do you feel you belong at this institution?	799	1.6	1.8	4.1	10.3	14.0	35.2	33.0

*Excludes respondents who selected N/A

TABLE 9
Campus Involvement*

To what degree:		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
		Not at all			Moderately			Extremely
	<i>N</i>				<i>Percentages</i>			
are you participating in a student organization?	790	27.5	7.0	7.1	18.9	13.8	12.4	13.4

*Excludes respondents who selected N/A

TABLE 10
Potential Socio-Emotional Issues*

To what degree:		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
		Not at all			Moderately			Extremely
	<i>N</i>				<i>Percentages</i>			
are you having problems with people living with/near you?	779	40.4	25.7	11.3	9.5	5.3	5.8	2.1
do you think about going home all the time?*	731	14.4	25.7	17.4	19.3	10.8	7.8	4.7

*Excludes respondents who selected N/A

**Of respondents who live away from home

- About 9 out of 10 respondents (91%) indicated to an extreme degree that they intend to come back to Ball State for the next term, but fewer respondents (75%) reported as strongly that they intend to come back for the next academic year. (Table 11)
- Roughly 2 out of 3 respondents (64%) reported being more than moderately confident that they can pay for next term's tuition and fees. (Table 11)

TABLE 11
Considering Departure*

To what degree:		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
		Not at all			Moderately			Extremely
	<i>N</i>				<i>Percentages</i>			
do you intend to come back to Ball State for the next term?	799	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3	1.5	5.6	90.6
do you intend to come back to Ball State for the next academic year?	799	1.5	1.3	0.6	4.3	4.8	12.8	74.8
are you confident that you can pay for next term's tuition and fees?	785	3.2	5.6	8.2	18.7	14.0	21.4	28.9

*Excludes respondents who selected N/A

OVERALL EVALUATION OF BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

Summary Students were also asked questions regarding satisfaction with their experiences at Ball State.

Roughly 8 out of 10 respondents (83%) reported to a more than moderate degree that they would choose Ball State again if they had it to do over. About 9 out of 10 respondents (91%) stated to the same degree that they would recommend Ball State to someone who wants to attend college.

About 3 out of 4 respondents (78%) rated their experience at Ball State as very good, excellent, or exceptional overall.

- About 4 out of 10 respondents (41%) stated to an extreme degree that they would choose Ball State again if they had it to do over. (Table 12)
- Nearly half of respondents (47%) indicated to an extreme degree that they would recommend Ball State to someone who wants to attend college. (Table 12)
- About half of respondents (45%) rated their experience at Ball State as excellent or exceptional overall. (Table 13)

TABLE 12
Choice of Ball State*

To what degree:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
	Not at all			Moderately			Extremely	
	<i>N</i>			<i>Percentages</i>				
would you choose Ball State again if you had it to do over?	794	2.0	2.4	3.9	8.7	14.4	27.8	40.8
would you recommend Ball State to someone who wants to attend college?	789	0.5	0.6	0.6	7.7	10.8	32.8	46.9

*Excludes respondents who selected N/A

TABLE 13
Overall Rating of Ball State

Overall, please rate your experience at Ball State.		
	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
Exceptional	89	11.3
Excellent	265	33.5
Very good	259	32.7
Good	125	15.8
Fair	46	5.8
Poor	6	0.8
Very poor	1	0.1