

## Memorandum

**To:** President Brown  
Vice Presidents Bagley, Laska, Pattillo, and Saunders  
Deans Chappell, Cleveland, Davis, Hadley, and Harrison

**From:** Terry D. Norris

**Date:** December 2, 2002

**Subject:** **ACT Entering Student Survey Results**

**Copies:** Kathy Carlisle, Tom Dolan, Carl Wallman

The ACT Entering Student Survey was completed by 253 students in ENGL 1101 classes during September 2002. The survey and results include three parts: I. Background Information, II. Educational Plans and Preferences, and III. College Impressions. Several summary comments follow.

- ❑ The background information indicates these 253 students are generally representative of the CSU population of undergraduate students. The respondents are 57.3% white, 60.6% female, and 93.5% residents of Georgia.
- ❑ Some type of financial aid was received by 86.7% of the students.
- ❑ The four reasons selected most often for continuing education after high school included the following: to meet educational requirements for my chosen occupation (2.78), to qualify for a high-level occupation (2.7), to increase my earning power (2.66), and to become a better-educated person (2.62).
- ❑ The four reasons selected least often for continuing education after high school included the following: to develop and use my athletic skills (1.26), couldn't find anything better to do at this time (1.24), to continue my religious training (1.18), and to find a spouse (1.18).
- ❑ Morning classes were preferred by 54.1% of the students; small group instruction was preferred by 30.6% of the students; and 22.4% of the students preferred lecture.
- ❑ The need for special help was expressed by 61.7% of the students for study skills, 54.2% for mathematics skills, 53.8% for test-taking skills, and 52.2% for public speaking skills.

- ❑ Students showed some interest in participation in a variety of extracurricular activities: fraternity or sorority (39.9%), campus or community service organizations (37.2%), intramural athletics (32%) and special interest groups (29.6%) selected the most frequently. (Students marked yes or no for each option.)
- ❑ The two highest occupational choice areas were business and management (17.6%) and health sciences/allied health (16.7%).
- ❑ The four most favorable college impressions were: the location of the college (3.35), the availability of financial aid/scholarships (3.3), the availability of a particular program of study (3.2), and the cost of attending the college (3.17).
- ❑ The four least favorable college impressions were: the racial/ethnic makeup of the college (1.68), the male/female ratio of the student body (1.68), the religious affiliation of the college (1.49), and sports opportunities for varsity athletics (1.48).
- ❑ The most agreement with statements about the university was expressed for the following: the cost of attending this college is reasonable (3.84), the college has many activities/organizations for students (3.83), there are comfortable residence halls (3.78), and students from various racial/ethnic backgrounds get along well (3.72).
- ❑ The most disagreement with statements about the university was expressed for the following: the foreign language requirement at this college is too strict (2.62), it is difficult to earn good grades (2.52), there are too many rules/regulations (2.44), and students must be above average to be admitted to this college (2.36).
- ❑ This college was selected as the student's first choice by 57.8% of the respondents and the selection was made during the 12<sup>th</sup> grade by 56.5% of the students.
- ❑ Sources of information about this college were provided by: visits to campus (32%), college brochure or pamphlet (31.2%), parents or relatives (27.3%), and the college catalog (26.1%). (Students could mark more than one source of information.)

Written comments by particular students included suggestions for: a reliable shuttle system for disabled students, housing and organizations for married students, the desire for a football or a soccer team, and more financial assistance including "not having a 'must take a meal plan' with dorm rooms."

Copies of the complete survey are available upon request from Carl Wallman or Terry Norris.