

**Graduating Senior Survey  
Summer and Fall 2006, Spring 2007  
George Mason University**

Congratulations on your impending graduation from George Mason University! Your satisfaction and evaluation of your educational and student life experiences at Mason are important to us and will be used in educational planning. To contact the Office of Institutional Assessment: Mason Hall, D111, Phone: 703-993-8834 or E-mail: [assessment@gmu.edu](mailto:assessment@gmu.edu). We can be reached by mail at the address below.

**Directions:** Circle, mark, or write in the most appropriate response and return the completed survey to the Office of Institutional Assessment, George Mason University - MS 3D2, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. If you prefer to complete this survey online go directly to: <http://assessment.gmu.edu/surveys/2006-2007/letter-senior.cfm> or access the survey through our website at: <http://assessment.gmu.edu>. Once there click on "Graduating Student Exit Survey."

**I. Educational Experience**

1. Which of the following statements best describes your enrollment status at Mason?
  - a.  I started college at Mason as a freshman.
  - b.  I started college at another institution and transferred to Mason.  
If you transferred, how many credit hours were accepted by Mason?
    - 14 or less
    - 15 – 29
    - 30 – 44
    - 45 – 59
    - 60 or more

2. How competent do you feel about your knowledge/abilities in each of the following:	Very competent	Competent	Not very competent	Not at all competent	NA*
Knowledge of important work (e.g. research, literature, works of art, etc.) in my field	4	3	2	1	NA
Ability to analyze work in my field	4	3	2	1	NA
Ability to create original work in my field, such as, poetry, art, software, new products, etc.	4	3	2	1	NA
Ability to conduct original research in my field	4	3	2	1	NA

\*Not applicable

3. Which synthesis course did you take/are you taking? (Please circle one)

None       I don't know       Other: \_\_\_\_\_

ADJ 303	COMM 362	FREN 376	MUSI 491*	SOCI 377
ANTH 400	COMM 454	GEOG 303	MUSI 495*	SOCI 483
ARTH 394	CS 306	GEOG 304	NCLC 308	SOCW 323
AVT 497	CS 491	GEOL 406*	NEUR 354	SOM 498
AVT 498	DANC 490	GOVT 490	NURS 465/HSCI 465	SPAN 461*
BINF 354	ECE 447	GOVT 491	PHIL 309	SPAN 466*
BIOL 301	ECE 492	HIST 300	PHIL 377	SYST 495
BIS 490	ECE 493	HIST 499	PHIL 378	THR 440
CAS 313	ECON 309	IT 492	PHYS 390	THR 496
CEIE 490	ENGL 325	MATH 400	RELI 490	UNIV 342
COMM 326	EOS 304	MUSI 490	RUSS 353	UNIV 442

\*No longer approved for synthesis after August 2005

4. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the synthesis course you have taken/are taking:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The course held my interest.	4	3	2	1
The course improved my oral presentation skills.	4	3	2	1
The course improved my writing skills.	4	3	2	1
The course linked issues in my major to wider intellectual and community concerns.	4	3	2	1
The course required me to organize ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships.	4	3	2	1
The course required me to think critically.	4	3	2	1
The course was intellectually challenging.	4	3	2	1
The course was well organized.	4	3	2	1

5. Using the competencies listed below, please tell us:

5-1. Have you taken any courses at Mason that emphasize the following:

5-2. How competent do you feel about your knowledge or skill in each of the following:

Yes	No	Don't know		Very competent	Competent	Not very competent	Not at all competent
Y	N	DK	<b>Arts</b> ( <i>understand the aesthetic and intellectual components of the arts or creative works through critical analysis</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Critical Thinking and Analysis</b> ( <i>judge the consistency, adequacy, and relevance of ideas, data, and arguments</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Global Understanding</b> ( <i>understand global society and compare cultural traditions</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Information Technology (IT)</b> ( <i>use IT to communicate and to conduct research</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Ethics in Information Technology</b> ( <i>understand and apply</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Literature</b> ( <i>use critical analysis to understand the aesthetic and intellectual components of major works</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Natural Sciences</b> [ <i>understand and apply natural science (e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Physics) knowledge and methods</i> ]	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Oral Communication</b> ( <i>use speaking to think, learn, and share ideas</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b> ( <i>use and evaluate numerical information and evaluate logical arguments</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Scientific Reasoning</b> ( <i>use and understand the scientific process and evaluate scientific information</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences</b> [ <i>understand and apply social science (e.g., Psychology, Government, Sociology) knowledge &amp; methods to the study of human behavior</i> ]	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Synthesis</b> ( <i>understand the connections among different disciplines</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>US History</b> ( <i>understand US institutions, traditions, values, and history</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Western Civilization</b> ( <i>understand western civilization and its global impact</i> )	4	3	2	1
Y	N	DK	<b>Written Communication</b> ( <i>use writing to discover and express ideas</i> )	4	3	2	1

## II. Global Understanding

All Mason students are required to take one approved course in “Global Understanding.” As a result of having taken that course and your overall education at Mason, please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

6. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I am able to identify causes of some significant global issues.	4	3	2	1
I have a better understanding of a specific global problem or issue than I did before I came to Mason.	4	3	2	1
I have a better understanding of a specific area or region outside my home country or region than I did before I came to Mason.	4	3	2	1
I think about the global impact of U.S. policies now more than I did before I came to Mason.	4	3	2	1

## III. Writing Experience in Courses of 300-level or above

(For Questions 7-9, please think of your experiences in courses of 300-level or above, excluding English 302)

7. In how many courses at Mason, 300-level or above, did you have the opportunity to revise your writing after receiving feedback from your instructor on an earlier draft? (This might include essays, projects, lab reports, case studies, reviews, and reports, for example.)

a. \_\_\_ None      b. \_\_\_ One      c. \_\_\_ Two      d. \_\_\_ Three      e. \_\_\_ Four      f. \_\_\_ Five or more

8. Did you have **sufficient** opportunities in those courses to revise your writing after receiving feedback from an instructor?

a. \_\_\_ Always      b. \_\_\_ Frequently      c. \_\_\_ Occasionally      d. \_\_\_ Rarely      e. \_\_\_ Never

9. To what extent did these 300-level or above courses help you in the following areas?

	A great deal	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all
The feedback and revision process in these courses helped me to improve my writing.	4	3	2	1
These courses have improved my confidence as a writer.	4	3	2	1
The writing assignments from these courses have increased my understanding of my field.	4	3	2	1

## IV. Advising

10. When you had a question or needed clarification regarding an academic problem (e.g. what courses to take, graduation requirements, etc.), from which of the following resources were you more likely to seek an answer? (Check all that apply).

- a. \_\_\_ My official academic advisor      f. \_\_\_ My major/department staff  
 b. \_\_\_ Paper version of the University Catalog      g. \_\_\_ Other students or friends  
 c. \_\_\_ Web-based version of the University Catalog      h. \_\_\_ Family members  
 d. \_\_\_ A faculty member      i. \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 e. \_\_\_ My major/department online resources

11. During your senior year, how often were you in touch with an advisor to discuss your course schedule, graduation requirements, application to graduate school, etc.?

a. \_\_\_ Not at all (Skip to Question 13)      b. \_\_\_ Once      c. \_\_\_ Twice      d. \_\_\_ Three times or more

12. If you met with an advisor during your senior year, did the meeting take place: (Check all that apply)

a. \_\_\_ In person      b. \_\_\_ On the phone      c. \_\_\_ Through email      d. \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## V. Future Plans

13. Do you plan to pursue additional education within the next year?

- a. \_\_\_ Yes, I will enroll full-time in graduate/professional school.  
 b. \_\_\_ Yes, I will enroll part-time in graduate/professional school.  
 c. \_\_\_ Yes, I will enroll in courses leading to a certificate/professional license.  
 d. \_\_\_ Yes, I plan to take courses, but not as part of a degree or certificate program.  
 e. \_\_\_ No, I don't plan to be enrolled in course work.

## VI. Comments/recommendations/observations on your experiences at Mason

14. If you were to do it all over again, would you attend Mason?

a. \_\_\_ Definitely yes

b. \_\_\_ Probably yes

c. \_\_\_ Probably no

d. \_\_\_ Definitely no

15. Please select those areas on which you wish to comment and use the space below to make comments/recommendations/observations about Mason: *(Add additional pages if necessary and attach and return with survey.)*

a. \_\_\_ Academic advising

b. \_\_\_ Admissions and tuition

c. \_\_\_ Career services and counseling

d. \_\_\_ Education in major

e. \_\_\_ Faculty, general

f. \_\_\_ Financial aid

g. \_\_\_ General education

h. \_\_\_ Resources (lab, Internet, library, bookstore, etc.)

i. \_\_\_ Staff, general

j. \_\_\_ Student life and residence halls

k. \_\_\_ University management (food, gym, parking, etc.)

l. \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please enter your GMU student identification number which begins with the letter "G."**

**Student identification number: G** \_\_\_\_\_

**GMU email address:** \_\_\_\_\_@gmu.edu

*Your G-number and email address are necessary for us to verify that only graduating seniors have completed the survey. All individual responses are confidential and no report will identify you as an individual. Thank you for your participation.*

This survey was prepared and distributed by the Office of Institutional Assessment

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