Mercer County Community College  
Report on the Spring, 2006 Graduating Student Survey  
Institutional Research & Assessment, October 2006

The Spring 2006 Graduating Student Survey (GSS06) marks the first implementation of new survey software on Mercer’s campus to facilitate the gathering and processing of survey feedback and other types of data. The students filled out the survey as they collected their caps and gowns. The rapid processing time allowed Acting President Thomas N. Wilfrid to share some preliminary findings of the survey, completed just that afternoon, with the graduates at Commencement that same evening. The students, their parents, their family and friends gave the graduates lots of applause for some of the key findings of this year’s survey (presented below based in the number of students responding to each survey question).

With regards to Mercer’s main two-pronged mission – transfer and career preparation, 90% of students felt that Mercer was useful or very useful in helping them become self-directed learners. Fifty-one percent of students reported that transfer to a baccalaureate institution was their primary goal for attending Mercer. Of those, 80% had accomplished that goal by the time of Commencement, and another 10% had applications pending.

Over 90% of students felt that Mercer had helped them prepare for a career in their field. Seventy percent of students had found employment in a field related to their coursework at Mercer. And 58% of those who said that career was their main focus at Mercer received salary increases because of their coursework.

In terms of Student Services, 87.6% of students reported being satisfied with the services of the Academic Testing Center up from 80% last year. This indicates that the programs enacted by the ATC continue to serve students well. Satisfaction with computer labs improved from 70% in 2004 to over 76% in 2006. Satisfaction with network and Internet access registered at 87% of those who rated it. The trend toward web registration continued, with 38% of students reporting that as their primary method of registration compared with 36% in 2005 and 24% in 2004. Additional online resources, such as the web portal for grades and payments were also given high marks (84% approval) by students.

On issues of diversity, another key component of Mercer’s mission, 84% of students rated the campus climate to be free of biased behavior. Finally, overall 94% percent of survey completers agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend Mercer to others – possibly because nearly 90% of all responding students felt they had attained their primary goal for attending Mercer.

Raw data are presented below. Please note that the percentages after open-ended questions represent the number of students who provided an answer to that question.
Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions thoughtfully. Your responses will help Mercer to serve students better in the future.
Mark the box for your choice neatly with an X. Thank you and congratulations!

Q1 Please rate your level of agreement with the statements below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I would recommend Mercer to others.</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The MCCC student web portal (online registration, grades, tuition payment, transcripts) was user-friendly and valuable.</td>
<td>53.6%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I find the campus climate overall (including staff, faculty and other students) to be inclusive and free of biased behavior toward persons of differing abilities, gender, race, age, ethnicity, sexuality, or personal values.</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q2 How useful was your academic program at Mercer in the following areas?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Very useful</th>
<th>Useful</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Not very useful</th>
<th>Not at all useful</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for career in your field</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for transfer to another college</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness as a student - becoming a self-directed learner</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Communication in English</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Communication in English</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading more actively and critically</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking and Problem Solving</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethical Decision-Making</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Literacy (knowing how to find and use information correctly)</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Literacy</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Collaboratively and Cooperatively</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding your role in a diverse community</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your professors’ use of technology in the classroom was useful in helping you learn better.</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q3 How satisfactory did you find the following college services or areas?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Very satisfactory</th>
<th>Somewhat satisfactory</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Somewhat unsatisfactory</th>
<th>Very unsatisfactory</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Testing services in the Academic Testing Center</td>
<td>53.6%</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>Q6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutoring and the Learning Center</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Counseling Center</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardware in computer labs</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software in computer labs</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network and Internet access</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of open computer labs</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom audio/visual resources</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classrooms overall</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Eatery</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus security overall</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus facilities overall</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel 26 telecourses</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web-based courses (TVC)</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Access and Services</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Q4** What method of registering for courses did you use most?
- Early registration: 41.4%
- In-person registration: 30.3%
- Web registration: 0.5%
- Mailed registration: 22.3%

**Q5** Before registering, by whom were you most often advised?
- Faculty: 46.4%
- Advisor in the Advisement Center: 23.8%
- Other Student Services staff: 5.5%
- Not advised/Self-advised: 25.6%
- Other, Please specify: 4.5%

**Q6** Which ONE of the following best describes your primary objective for attending Mercer?
- Transfer to 4-year college: 50.6%
- Prepare for first career: 20.3%
- Prepare for career change: 18.1%
- Other, Please specify: 2.5%

**Q7** Have you achieved your objective from Question 6?
- Yes: 80.4%
- No: 19.6%

**Q8** Have you already been accepted to another college or university?
- Yes: 39.7%
- No: 60.3%

**Q9** If Yes, where?
- Rider: 9.7%
- Rutgers: 7.7%
- TCNJ: 7.9%
- Thomas Edison S C NJIT: 7.7%
- Other private school: 3.0%
- Other NJ public school: 5.7%
- Out of state: 9.9%

**Q10** If you’ve transferred, what portion of your Mercer credits were you able to transfer smoothly?
- All: 30.3%
- Most: 8.4%
- Some: 4.0%
- None: 13.4%

**Q11** How satisfied were you with the amount of credits that transferred?
- Very satisfied: 8.7%
- Somewhat satisfied: 2.5%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 8.7%
- Very dissatisfied: 15.4%
- Neutral: 29.5%
- Not applicable: 1.5%

**Q12** Please explain any problems you had transferring credits:
- Other, Please specify: 18.6%

**Q13** If you have not transferred, why not?
- Planning to work first: 8.7%
- Not planning on more college: 9.4%
- Lack of finances: 6.5%
- Application pending: 2.5%
- Other, Please specify: 10.9%

**Q14** After graduation, how will you be employed?
- Part-Time: 57.6%
- Full-Time: 12.9%
- N/A: 25.3%

**Q15** How would you classify your employment after graduation?
- I will be employed directly in the field of my academic program at Mercer: 36.5%
- I will be employed in a field related to my academic program at Mercer: 28.0%
- I will be employed in a field not related to my academic program at Mercer: 21.8%
- I will not be employed after Mercer: 7.2%
Q16 Employer Name: (optional) 25.6%

Q17 Approximate annual salary?
- 14.6% Under $14,999
- 11.9% $15,000 - $24,999
- 15.6% $25,000 - $34,999
- 11.7% $35,000 - $44,999
- 11.9% $45,000 - $54,999
- 4.2% $55,000 - $75,000
- 2.0% More than $75,000
- 14.9% Not applicable

Q18 Have you or will you gain a salary increase because of the completion of your coursework?
- 37.5% Yes
- 26.6% No
- 30.5% Not applicable

Q19 Is your graduation award a degree or a certificate?
- 79.7% Degree
- 10.2% Certificate

Q20 When did you most frequently attend classes?
- 47.9% Mostly day
- 24.3% Mostly night
- 23.8% Some of both
- 1.0% Mostly weekends
- 3.0% Mostly online

Q21 Where did you primarily attend classes?
- 89.3% West Windsor Campus
- 3.2% James Kerney Campus
- 1.2% The Virtual Campus

Q22 Where did you attend classes second most often after the campus in Question 21?
- 33.3% West Windsor Campus
- 16.6% The Virtual Campus
- 11.4% James Kerney Campus
- 29.5% Not Applicable
Q23 Please take a moment to write neatly so that we can be sure to understand your response.
If you could change one thing about Mercer, what would it be? 56.3%
Why?
Please share any additional thoughts about Mercer - good or 43.9%
bad
What 70.0%
program of study did you complete? (If nursing, please specify
whether you were in Mercer’s program or a cooperative
program with Capital Health or St. Francis.)
Your name (optional): 27.8%

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUED INPUT,
AND CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION!