

**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.

# Mercer County Community College

## Graduating Student Survey 2006

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:**

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>N/A</i>
I would recommend Mercer to others.	61.5%	32.5%	3.7%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%
The MCCC student web portal (online registration, grades, tuition payment, transcripts) was user-friendly and valuable.	53.6%	30.0%	6.0%	0.5%	0.2%	0.7%
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.	45.7%	37.7%	9.4%	1.7%	1.0%	0.5%

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

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

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

	<i>Very satisfactory</i>	<i>Somewhat satisfactory</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Somewhat unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Very unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
Testing services in the Academic Testing Center	53.6%	34.0%	10.2%	5.0%	3.2%	5.5%

Tutoring and the Learning Center	41.2%	23.6%	15.9%	5.2%	3.5%	16.6%
Career Counseling Center	32.3%	27.5%	21.3%	6.5%	4.2%	16.4%
Hardware in computer labs	39.2%	32.3%	16.4%	4.0%	0.5%	12.2%
Software in computer labs	42.9%	33.3%	16.1%	4.0%	2.5%	10.9%
Network and Internet access	50.9%	34.0%	11.4%	4.0%	3.5%	8.4%
Availability of open computer labs	48.4%	29.8%	13.6%	5.2%	3.2%	11.2%
Classroom audio/visual resources	42.7%	40.7%	14.1%	5.2%	3.0%	6.7%
Classrooms overall	43.9%	41.2%	14.1%	5.0%	3.2%	4.7%
Campus Eatery	31.8%	37.2%	23.1%	7.9%	4.0%	8.4%
Campus security overall	42.7%	35.7%	17.9%	5.5%	3.7%	5.2%
Campus facilities overall	43.9%	39.0%	13.2%	4.7%	2.5%	2.7%
Channel 26 telecourses	29.3%	23.1%	21.6%	3.7%	2.2%	27.5%
Web-based courses (TVC)	32.0%	19.1%	19.6%	1.2%	0.0%	24.3%
Library Access and Services	50.6%	32.0%	10.7%	1.2%	0.0%	3.2%

**Q4 What method of registering for courses did you use most?**

29.3%	Early registration	41.4%	In-person registration
38.0%	Web registration	0.5%	Mailed registration

**Q10 If you've transferred, what portion of your Mercer credits were you able to transfer smoothly?**

All	Most	8.4%	Some	4.0%	None
13.4%	30.3%				

**Q5 Before registering, by whom were you most often advised?**

46.4%	Faculty	23.8%	Advisor in the Advisement Center
5.5%	Student Advocate	5.2%	Other Student Services staff
25.6%	Not advised/Self-advised		
	Other, Please specify	4.5%	

**Q11 How satisfied were you with the amount of credits that transferred?**

29.5%	Very satisfied	8.7%	Neutral	1.5%	Very dissatisfied
15.4%	Somewhat satisfied	2.5%	Somewhat dissatisfied	8.7%	Not applicable

**Q6 Which ONE of the following best describes your primary objective for attending Mercer?**

50.6%	Transfer to 4-year college	7.2%	Improve existing job skills
20.3%	Prepare for first career	7.7%	Personal interest
18.1%	Prepare for career change		
	Other, Please specify	2.5%	

**Q12 Please explain any problems you had transferring credits:**

18.6%

**Q13 If you have not transferred, why not?**

25.3%	Planning to work first	8.7%	Not planning on more college
6.5%	Lack of finances	9.4%	Application pending
	Other, Please specify		10.9%

**Q7 Have you achieved your objective from Question 6?**

80.4%	Yes	10.4%	No
-------	-----	-------	----

**Q14 After graduation, how will you be employed?**

25.3%	Part-Time	57.6%	Full-Time	12.9%	N/A
-------	-----------	-------	-----------	-------	-----

**Q8 Have you already been accepted to another college or university?**

39.7%	Yes	56.1%	No
-------	-----	-------	----

**Q15 How would you classify your employment after graduation?**

36.5%	I will be employed <b>directly</b> in the field of my academic program at Mercer
28.0%	I will be employed in a field <b>related</b> to my academic program at Mercer.
21.8%	I will be employed in a field <b>not related</b> to my academic program at Mercer
7.2%	I will not be employed after Mercer.

**Q9 If Yes, where?**

9.7%	Rider	3.0%	Thomas Edison S C	2.7%	Other NJ private school
7.7%	Rutgers	1.2%	NJIT	9.9%	Out of state
7.9%	TCNJ	5.7%	Other NJ public school		

**Q16 Employer Name: (optional)**

25.6%

**Q17 Approximate annual salary?**

14.6%	<i>Under \$14,999</i>	11.9%	<i>\$45,000 - \$54,999</i>
11.9%	<i>\$15,000 - \$24,999</i>	4.2%	<i>\$55,000 - \$75,000</i>
15.6%	<i>\$25,000 - \$34,999</i>	2.0%	<i>More than \$75,000</i>
11.7%	<i>\$35,000 - \$44,999</i>	14.9%	<i>Not applicable</i>

**Q18 Have you or will you gain a salary increase because of the completion of your coursework?**

37.5%	<i>Yes</i>	26.6%	<i>No</i>	30.5%	<i>Not applicable</i>
-------	------------	-------	-----------	-------	-----------------------

**Q19 Is your graduation award a degree or a certificate?**

79.7%	<i>Degree</i>	10.2%	<i>Certificate</i>
-------	---------------	-------	--------------------

**Q20 When did you most frequently attend classes?**

47.9%	<i>Mostly day</i>	1.0%	<i>Mostly weekends</i>
24.3%	<i>Mostly night</i>	3.0%	<i>Mostly online</i>
23.8%	<i>Some of both</i>		

**Q21 Where did you primarily attend classes?**

89.3%	<i>West Windsor Campus</i>	3.2%	<i>James Kerney Campus</i>	1.2%	<i>The Virtual Campus</i>
-------	----------------------------	------	----------------------------	------	---------------------------

**Q22 Where did you attend classes second most often after the campus in Question 21?**

33.3%	<i>West Windsor Campus</i>	16.6%	<i>The Virtual Campus</i>
11.4%	<i>James Kerney Campus</i>	29.5%	<i>Not Applicable</i>

**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!**