



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Office of Institutional Research

2009 Spring Check-In Survey Report

All surveys

All surveys:

Number of surveys = 500

Number of completed surveys = 123

Percent of surveys completed = 24.60 %

Number of people who have asked to be removed from survey pool = 0

Number of bad email addresses = 0

Number of inactive UofM email addresses = 0

Number of inactive UofM email addresses where survey was completed = 0

Full Report:

9. What can the University do to help you feel more successful?

Get rid of lazy TAs.

I am not sure. I feel that I'm involved and that making more friends will come as I going on in school.

Give me a higher hourly wage.

more resources to help me decide my major to get a sense of direction.

can't

I'm a part of the dance program, which is already a tight nit community. Personally there doesn't need to be anything else. School wise, there could be a better advertised or welcoming of tutors. Event wise, I really liked Funk at the Fred, so small performance venues of that sort.

Give students more opportunities in order to understand what the instructor expects from them primarily on exams.

a lot

Give us more for our money. Professors who actually know the art of teaching for example my physics professor: Heger. He can't teach and I am paying how much money for him to copy equations from the book.

GEt teachers who speak english

provide better commuter resources

Continue to provide hours for outside classroom help

nothing.

nothing

The University has done a good job providing me with the opportunity to be successful; the only changes I need to make are on my own, such as with good study habits and time management.

Provide more oportunites for students to interact with faculty.

I find that every professor has different tests and types. It would be helpful if teachers told you the average they were shooting for so you don't feel so dumb after taking a test.

Get better teachers instead of choosing them because they had published works.

Students should have more opportunities to get to know their professors. I have personally been able to accomplish a first named basis with multiple professors by seeking them out and talking to them. But I think if professors were to be a part of campus events, it would give other students a chance to get to know them as well.

I feel that the reason I have excelled academically is because the U has low academic standards and fails to present challenging, thought-provoking academia, only busy-work. Honors classes are only more difficult due to a few harder questions and more busy-work associated with them/

I don't know that the University can do anything else. I just need to better utilize my time.

I think the University has done quite a lot already! Academic advisors aren't that great though. Especially in the MLK dept. SEAM sucked. It was such a waste of time. I did so much writing and reading for only 2 credits. Furthermore, Professor Brewer did not show up much. Crystal, our TA, had to deal with us most of the time

n/a

Provide more environments that foster uniting over common interests. Just saying that there are clubs out there and then letting us fend for ourselves isn't a very effective strategy.

I feel very successful so far in my college experience. The university has done an excellent job of making sure the first year students adapt to college life.

make more tutors available in more places

Keep up with the Welcome week activities but allow for more free time for students to mingle.

teach how to manage their time because that is all about it to succeed, learning how to manage your time.

Give me more on-on-one tutoring.

One stop services advisors have not been helping me with my financial situation at all. I worked very hard to get into this university and I might not be here next year because of the cost. I have gone into one stop and they just give me one small answer and send me on my way. Its very frustrating.

Have a wider array of funded student groups.

I wish I was able to get to know more people. At first it was difficult to find friends that I like and want to spend time with.

The University has pretty much offered everything.

Provide better food

Create more opportunities to meet people at the beginning of the year.

Bump me up to a 4.0

Make it easier to get us more involved i.e. help find research opportunities

Provide more concrete ways during welcome week/orientation etc. to manage time, study, and do scholarly things. I feel like we discussed it a lot, but none of this was actually effective. In one of my classes, about halfway through first semester, my professor had everyone in the room sit in a circle and share a few little ideas, skills, knick knacks, tidbits of things that they have picked up on that have helped them here at the University of Minnesota: from study skills to meeting people and dealing with teachers... the exercise was extremely helpful in our 30 person class and I learned invaluable information that should be brought up more in class and during welcome week. specific examples help new freshman out so much!!!!

Give me more time!

minimize scheduling conflicts

Use TAs that don't call you stupid for using a calculator on calc hw

Fix the bridge. Makes no sense what they are doing to it, if the problem is that too much weight in one area can make it collapse, why put everyone in the middle of the bridge? If you're going to shut down an entire bridge and make it impossible to bike across, at least have more buses running. To catch a bus you have to cram in a bus with 400 other kids that comes once every 10 minutes... Also, the bike cops on the bridge are a waste of funds, they just sit there and threaten to give people on roller blades or scooters tickets when they're safely riding along and trying to get to class. Such a waste of time and money.

Everyone should be a part of a living-learning community

Just keep presenting students with the large amount of opportunities, as you do now.

N/A

The information sessions at Welcome Week were very helpful for everyday things that aren't so everyday to incoming college students. I feel that if there were more sessions during Welcome Week, I would feel more successful.

offer more job oppurtunities.

I am not sure of, they have done there best at everything, I think it's just me, weather I like it or not.

Office hours should be more accessible for students. The times never seem to work with my schedule.

Create a single spot where a student can check his or her grade in all of his or her classes. It would help the student understand exactly where they stand academically.

Everything's fine as it is.

Force Professors to get involved with Undergraduates for research. If you really want people involved, this would be a way to do it. It isn't as though professors don't need help, or that some should be completely removed from students. The current suggestions on your site for UROP seem to indicate the only problems with Undergraduate involvement could be solved by this (i.e. you wish you tell students that they shouldn't feel as though they aren't qualified. Since some undergraduates ARE approached for research, this is a natural feeling for those who aren't.) This could also raise the standing of the University as a research organization. Since a great deal more research could and would be done by the professors, a great deal of the smaller projects done nearly independently by the students, even for its size, the University would stand out as not only encouraging research and getting involved in the field of choice, they nearly require it! It would also raise the value of a degree from the University of Minnesota. While Bruininks talks a lot about making the University a center of excellence in education, it seems the most well known facts are those of ridiculous fiscal irresponsibility. People should know the University of Minnesota for the research and field of student engagement at least as well as they know that the best paid employee of the University is the football coach, who receives about a million dollars a year for his job. Although the football team is most probably a profitable venture, and this isn't strictly speaking, financially irresponsible, that doesn't force it to leave the public ethos. And by having a way for undergraduates to do research doesn't make people think of civic engagement. The University would benefit beyond simple research explosion, as the marketing for such a mild investment literally writes itself. And the cost would be marginal. No new staff be hired, per se, and no new buildings need be built. The cost is simply courage to get professors to engage every student.

In the large classroom settings its really hard to make a connection with the professor and other students. Smaller classes would be much appreciated.

Some of my professors in my hardest classes like physics seem to not care about their students. They dont show passion when they teach so it makes it harder for me to have a passion about what they're teaching.

N/A

Integrate the genders in the dorms more. For example, my hallway is all boys, so the majority of my friends are boys. I know a girl whose hallway is all girls, so almost all of her friends are girls. It would be helpful to have them more mixed up so we could get to know both genders better. This way, we could have mixed groups of friends right away.

Send technical questions/comments to J. Scott Murdoch at: j-murd@umn.edu.

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