

**Highlights**  
**College Student Survey (CSS) - Messiah College Seniors**  
**Spring 2001**

Sample made up of 152 graduating seniors. With the sample 23.7% male and 76.3% female, the balance is tipped toward a larger number of female students than the actual profile of the senior class.

Approximately 1 in 5 students plan on graduate study in the fall (19.1%) while most of the rest plan on working either part time or full time.

Compared with protestant colleges, Messiah students (MC) were more likely to report working on campus as opposed to working off-campus. MC students were more likely to discuss courses with other students, be in professors' homes and take ethnic studies courses.

Some 28.9% of the students report drinking beer and 48.0% report drinking wine or alcohol during the past year. Generally these rates are lower than comparison protestant colleges (beer drinking - 56.5%; wine/alcohol - 67.5%). Significant numbers of students reported being occasionally or frequently homesick (75.7%) and depressed (68.3%). About half of the students said they *frequently* felt overwhelmed (46.7%; protestant colleges - 35.2%).

MC students spent about 28 hours per week on academic pursuits (classes/studying) while the comparison students (protestant colleges) reported about 21 hours per week on the same activities.

Compared to other colleges, MC students were more likely to rate themselves higher in areas of knowledge (majors; general knowledge) but lower in drive to achieve.

MC students found their professors *frequently* provided intellectual challenge / stimulation (MC 54.6%; Prot. 46.8%) but were less likely to provide emotional support / development (MC 26.3% Prot. 33.8%).

Some 90.8% of the MC students are satisfied with their overall college experience (Prot. 82.4%) and most (MC 84.1%; Prot. 77.0%) would definitely or probably choose Messiah again.

The top three objectives were helping others in difficulty (85.5%), raising a family (80.3%) and developing a philosophy of life (62.3%); less important were writing original works (9.9%), being successful in one's own business (9.9%) and making a contribution to science (3.9%).

While at Messiah, there are some shifts in political identity. By their senior year, MC students are more likely to say they are "middle of the road" (31.2% versus first year-23.3%) and less likely to be "conservative" (53.9% versus first year-70.0%).

In regard to certain social/political issues, by their senior year, MC students are more supportive of a national health care plan (64.3% versus first year - 47.6%), and more in favor of abolishing the death penalty (48.4% versus first year - 32.0%).

### Supplementary Questions - Spring 2001

Seniors were asked to respond to a set of twenty additional questions concerning their experiences in their major. These questions were used in spring 2000 with seniors as part of the College Student Experiences Questionnaire. They were repeated in 2001 to give additional information on how Messiah College students rate their experiences in their majors. Below are the twenty statements ranked from high to low in terms of “strongly agree” or “agree” responses combined. The [ \* ] identifies greater than 5% differences between years.

My major....	Percent agreeing or strongly agreeing....	
	Spring 2001 (n=152)	Spring 2000 (n=162)
introduced me to the major issues in the field	95.4%	94.4%
enabled me to become competent to <i>discuss</i> theoretical and practical problems in the field	90.8	88.2
the professors in my major were normally available and very helpful	90.1	88.9
in my major the student/teacher rapport was very good	90.0	84.2*
helped prepare me for my career objectives	87.4	75.3*
I would highly recommend this major to interested students	83.4	78.4*
contributes to Messiah College’s mission of preparing alumni for “lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church/society”	83.4	79.0
internships should be an important part of the total program of my major	82.8	90.7*
overall, the professors in my major rank among the best I have every had	78.8	79.6
the professors in my major effectively integrated learning and Biblical truth	76.2	80.9
overall, the courses in my major rank among the best I have ever taken	76.1	77.1
expanded my world view in distinctive ways	73.5	63.0*
was well organized with clear objectives	72.2	71.0
interdisciplinary study should be an important part of my major	70.9	63.8*
helped me to learn how to accept and work effectively with diverse people	68.9	61.1*
has enriched my day to day living	67.6	68.5
made a unique contribution to my Christian development	67.5	69.1
helped me to know how to develop healthy interpersonal relationships	64.9	61.7
introduced me to issues that involve the church today	59.6	66.7*
contributed significantly to my involvement in Christian service	40.4	37.9