

March 2, 2004

MEMO TO: Roger Barber, Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education
FROM: Cheri Jimeno, Provost, MSU-Northern
SUBJECT: Transfer Student Survey

Attached are the results of the transfer student survey conducted by MSU-Northern for AY 2004. We mailed 281 surveys; 102 surveys were returned. Of the 102 surveys returned, data from 95 surveys were usable, or a 34 percent response rate.

Some highlights of the survey results are as follows:

1. The highest number of transfer students were into Elementary Education, Business Technology and Nursing. These are also the three largest programs on MSU-Northern's campus.
2. Over 80 percent of the transfer students met with an advisor to develop a plan of study. Almost 50 percent of the students who developed a plan of study, met with the Advising Center staff.
3. Of the students who responded, almost 94 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the help they received from their advisor.
4. Almost 70 percent of the respondents who had transcript evaluation completed showed how their credits would apply to their program of study.
5. Approximately 55 percent of the students who responded were satisfied or very satisfied with how their credits transferred to MSU-Northern.
6. Almost 54 percent of the respondents indicated they fully understood the transfer process
7. Almost 32 percent of the respondents didn't understand why some of their credits couldn't be used to fulfill degree requirements.
8. Approximately 58 percent of the respondents encountered some frustrations in transferring to Northern. Of this percentage, respondents defined their primary frustrations were courses did not fulfill degree requirements or courses did not fulfill general education requirements.
9. At the time of the survey, almost 76 percent of the respondents have had all transfer problems resolved. The transfer problems that have not been resolved are transcript evaluation or course transfer.

The results of the entire survey are attached. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call or send me an e-mail.

Surveys Mailed = 281
Surveys Returned = 102
Not Usable = 7

Transfer Student Survey *Montana State University - Northern* *AY 2004*

Please indicate the program(s) you are pursuing at MSU- Northern.

BA degree with a major in

- 2 Communication
- 3 Community Service
- 3 Graphic Design
- 4 Liberal Studies

- 0 Graphic Design
- 10 Nursing
- 0 Program of Study in Business Technology
- 2 School Business Administration
- 0 Water Quality Technology: Environmental Health

BS degree with a major in

- 2 Agricultural Operations Technology
- 2 Automotive Technology
- 0 Biology
- 16 Business Technology
- 0 Design Drafting Technology
- 1 Computer Engineering Technology
- 6 Computer Information Systems
- 2 Diesel Technology
- 1 Education: Business Education
- 17 Education: Elementary Education
- 1 Education: English
- 1 Education: General Science
- 2 Education: Health and Physical Education
- 1 Education: Industrial Technology
- 3 Education: Social Science Broadfield
- 1 Engineering Technology: Civil Engineering Technology
- 0 Health Promotion (Non-Teaching)
- 0 Industrial Technology (Non-Teaching)
- 15 Nursing
- 1 Water Quality Technology: Environmental Health

Other: 10

- 4 Masters Degree in Counselor Education
- 4 Non-Degree Seeking
- 2 Undecided

AS/AA/AAS degree with a major in

- 0 Agricultural Mechanics Technology
- 0 Agricultural Technology
- 1 Associate of Arts
- 0 Automotive Technology
- 0 Automotive Technology (Auto Body)
- 0 Computer Engineering Technology
- 0 Computer Information Systems
- 1 Design Drafting Technology
- 0 Diesel Technology
- 0 Engineering Technology: Civil Engineering Technology
- 0 Engineering Technology: Electronics Engineering Technology

- 2. Did you visit with an advisor to develop a plan of study?**
 80 YES
 17 NO
- 3. If yes, who helped you develop this plan?**
 42 Advising Center Staff
 29 Faculty Member
 1 Dean
 16 Other
- 4. If yes, how satisfied were you with the help you received from your advisor?**
 47 Very Satisfied
 31 Satisfied
 3 Dissatisfied
 2 Very Dissatisfied
- 5. If no, how did you develop your plan of study at MSU-Northern?**
 3 Had a friend help me.
 5 Did not develop a plan of study.
 11 Developed on my own plan of study.
 2 What is a plan of study?
- 6. Did you have a transcript evaluation completed that showed how your transfer credits would apply to your program (degree) at MSU-Northern?**
 65 YES
 29 NO
- 7. If yes, how satisfied were you with the way your credits transferred to MSU-Northern?**
 23 Very satisfied
 28 Satisfied
 4 Dissatisfied
 5 Very Dissatisfied
- 8. If no, why was a transcript evaluation not completed?**
 8 I didn't send my transcripts in advance to be evaluated.
 5 All transcripts from all previous institutions were not available to evaluate.
 4 I was unsure of my education goals and didn't select a program of study.
- 9. What part of the credit transfer process do you/do you not understand? (Check all that apply)**
 49 I understand all parts of the process, and I am very satisfied.
 29 I don't understand why some of my credit can't be used to fulfill degree requirements.
 5 I don't understand the part about General Education.
 4 I don't understand the part about requirements for my program of study.
 4 I don't understand any part and I need help.

10. What services did MSU-Northern provide that helped make your transfer go smoothly? (Check all that apply.)

- 31 My transcript evaluation was completed before I selected my courses
- 28 I received a transcript evaluation worksheet that explains degree requirements.
- 18 I met with an advisor from MSU-Northern while still enrolled at my previous college.
- 10 My advisor at my previous college was aware of and advised me on transfer equivalency.
- 7 I used a Transfer Guide to plan my academic program.
- 47 I met with an advisor to develop a plan of study.

11. What frustrations did you encounter in transferring to MSU-Northern? (Check all that apply.)

- 46 I had no frustrations.
- 11 I was not able to have my transcript evaluated prior to selecting courses.
- 5 I didn't understand what courses were required for my major.
- 14 Courses from my previous school did not transfer to MSU-Northern
- 11 Courses from my previous school did not fulfill degree requirements at MSU-Northern
- 12 Courses from my previous school did not fulfill General Education requirements at MSU-Northern
- 5 I was not able to meet with an advisor prior to selecting classes.

12. Are there any problems that have not been resolved related to your transferring to MSU-Northern?

- 21 YES
- 66 NO

13. If yes, what is the nature of the problem? (Check all that apply.)

- 20 Transcript evaluation or course transfer
- 2 Career planning (I have not selected a major.)
- 5 Academic advising issues
- 0 Housing (on-campus)
- 1 Housing (off-campus)
- 1 Child Care
- 6 Financial aid issues
- 4 Employment (I can't find a job)
- 1 Transportation

14. Comments were solicited from students and are available upon request.