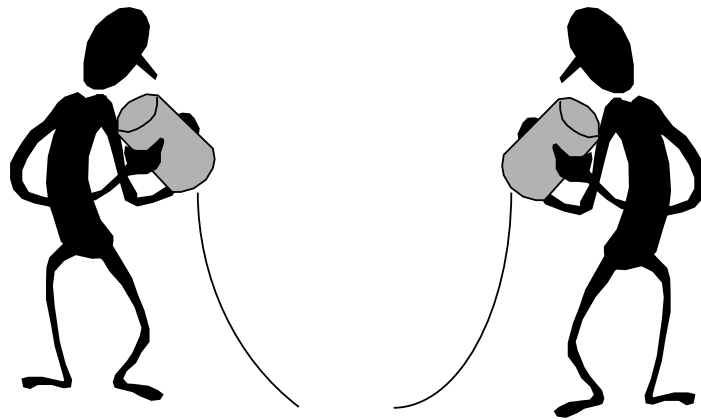


Spring 2002 Student Opinion Survey Overview Report



Prepared by

**North Idaho College
Office of Planning, Assessment & Research**

Fall 2002

NIC Student Opinion Survey Overview Report Fall 2002

As part of the College's outcomes assessment activities, a student opinion survey was given to a stratified random sample of NIC students at the end of spring semester, 2002. Of the 1406 surveys that were distributed in credit classes both on and off campus, 876 student responses were returned. Those responses have provided the Outcomes Assessment Committee with a wealth of information about the opinions of NIC students and their satisfaction with NIC's college services and programs.

The survey instrument which was used is a nationally recognized instrument published by the American College Testing (ACT) Service. It is designed to gather demographic data as well as user satisfaction data from students in two year colleges. The survey was chosen by the Outcomes Assessment Committee due to its overall design and its manageable length. Students were able to complete the survey in about 10-15 minutes. The survey asked students to rate a variety of college services based on whether the students had used the service or not. Students were also asked to rate various aspects of the College's environment.

In April of 2002, the survey was distributed to academic transfer students and professional technical students in both day and night classes, and in both Monday/Wednesday/Friday sections as well Tuesday/Thursday sections. The Outcomes Assessment Committee believes that the results of the survey generally represent the student population as a whole. It should be noted that the results did show a somewhat higher percentage of responses from full-time students and a slightly higher percentage of responses from younger students than appear in the overall student population during the spring semester 2002. (See percentages in the Demographic Data section below)

Following the return of the survey results, a sub-committee of the Outcomes Assessment Committee reviewed five different ACT reports. These reports were based on the NIC data and included a Graphics Report, a Summary Report, a Statistical Comparison Report, a Normative Data Report, and a report which isolated the responses of several subgroups of NIC students (such as full-time and part-time students, male and female students, older and younger students, day and night students, etc.)

Based on the review of these reports, the sub committee has chosen the following items of interest to share in this overview report.

Demographic Data

AGE – Of the 876 students responding to the survey, 61.6% of the students were 22 or younger. In the student population as a whole during spring semester 2002, 55.4% of the students were 22 or younger. Thus, the survey results represent a slightly younger population than the general population of students in the spring semester, 2002.

FULL-TIME / PART-TIME – Of the 876 students responding to the survey, 81.4% of the students were full-time and 18.6% were part-time. In the student population as a whole during spring semester 2002, 57.9% of the students full-time and 42.1% were part-time. Thus, the survey results represent a student population with more full-time students than were found in the general population of students in the spring semester, 2002.

STUDENT PURPOSE FOR ATTENDING - Of the 876 students responding to the survey, 42.4% indicated their purpose was to take courses necessary for transferring to another 4 year college/university. 21.1% indicated their purpose was to obtain an Associate's Degree and 15.7% indicated their purpose was to complete

a Vocational- Technical Program. 20.7% indicated their purposes were to take job related or self- improvement courses, to obtain or maintain a certificate or other reasons not stated.

AT THE TIME STUDENTS FIRST ENTERED NIC - Of the 876 students responding to the survey, 43.4% entered directly from high school; 30.6% entered after working a period of time (excluding summer work); 7.6% transferred from another college and 2.2% entered after completing military service.

HOW FAR FROM NIC DO STUDENTS LIVE - Of the 876 students responding to the survey, 64.5% live within 10 miles of NIC; 14.5% live between 11 and 20 miles; 8.5% live between 21 and 40 miles and 12.5% live over 40 miles from NIC.

NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK STUDENTS ARE EMPLOYED - Of the 876 students responding to the survey, 30.0% indicated they were not working; 29.9% indicated they were working up to 20 hours a week; and 40.2% indicated they were working from 21 to 40+ hours a week.

NUMBER OF YEARS STUDENTS HAVE ATTENDED NIC - Of the 876 students responding to the survey, 55.9% indicated they have attended NIC one year; 30.0% indicated they have attended two years and 9.6 % indicated they have attended three years and 4.4% indicated they have attended four or more years.

College Impressions

MAJOR REASON FOR SELECTING NIC – Of the 876 students responding to the survey, the top three major reasons for selecting NIC were “convenient location”, “low cost of attending” and “offered the courses I wanted.”

NIC FIRST CHOICE - Of the 876 students responding to the survey, at the time they applied for admission to NIC, 76.4% indicated that NIC was their first choice of colleges.

WOULD STUDENTS CHOOSE NIC AGAIN - Of the 876 students responding to the survey, 72.9% indicated they would definitely or probably choose NIC again. (35.9% definitely and 37.0% probably)

QUALITY OF EDUCATION AT NIC - Of the 876 students responding to the survey, 77.8% indicated that their overall impression of the quality of education at NIC was excellent or good. (24.0% excellent and 53.8% good) 19.6% rated the quality as average and 2.7% rated the quality as below average or very inadequate.

College Services

Out of 20 college services listed, the five services most used at NIC are shown below in order of greatest satisfaction.

College Service or Program	Number Who Used Service (out of 876 responses)	Level of Satisfaction (5=Very Satisfied ; 4 = Satisfied; 3=Neutral 2= Dissatisfied; 1=Very Dissatisfied)
1. Library Facilities and Services	689	4.23
2. Computer Services	541	4.21
3. Cafeteria/Food Services	571	3.92

4. Academic Advising	653	3.74
----------------------	-----	------

5. Parking Facilities	727	2.09
-----------------------	-----	------

The only college service or program scoring in the dissatisfied range was Parking which received a 2.09.

College Environment

The fourth and last section of the survey asked students their level of satisfaction with 44 aspects of the college environment. Those aspects which received a score of 4 and above are shown below.

Highest Ranking College Aspects

Level of Satisfaction

(5=Very Satisfied ; 4 = Satisfied; 3=Neutral
2= Dissatisfied; 1=Very Dissatisfied)

1. Class size relative to type of course	4.24
--	------

2. General condition and appearance of the buildings and grounds	4.18
--	------

3. Attitude of teaching staff toward students	4.10
---	------

Highest Ranking College Aspects

Level of Satisfaction

(5=Very Satisfied; 4 = Satisfied; 3=Neutral
2= Dissatisfied; 1=Very Dissatisfied)

4. Student community center/student union	4.07
---	------

5. Quality of instruction in your major area of study	3.98
---	------

6. This college in general	3.98
----------------------------	------

7. Challenge offered by your program of study	3.94
---	------

8. Study areas	3.92
----------------	------

The lowest ranking aspects receiving a score of 3.5 or lower are shown below.

Lowest Ranking College Aspects

Level of Satisfaction

(5=Very Satisfied ; 4 = Satisfied; 3=Neutral
2= Dissatisfied; 1=Very Dissatisfied)

1. Industrial Arts/shop facilities	3.50
------------------------------------	------

2. Opportunities for student employment	3.39
---	------

3. Student government	3.38
-----------------------	------

4. Academic probation and suspension policies	3.38
---	------

5. Availability of courses you want at times you can take them	3.34
6. Athletic facilities	3.31
7. Availability of adequate housing for students	3.26
8. Student voice in college policies	3.25
9. Purposes for which student activity fees are used	3.22

None of the 44 aspects scored in the dissatisfied range.

Student Comments

Of the 876 students who completed the survey, 150 students or 17% of the respondents took time to add written comments to the survey form. The most number of comments written were about the dissatisfaction with parking on the campus.

Other areas which prompted comments from students included financial aid, advising, bookstore, on-line registration, campus food service, campus housing/dorm, tuition, advising, times classes are offered. Students expressed concerns about the need for more classes and programs. Nine students specifically mentioned budget cuts, either those that have already taken place or to comment on any further budget cuts.

The wealth of information in the survey reports is extensive. All survey data is on reserve in the Molstead Library. If you have questions about the survey or its results, please contact Kathy Christie, Assistant Vice President for Planning, Assessment & Research, at 769-3403.

Outcomes Assessment Committee 2002-2003

Bob Bohac
Ann Cahill
Kathy Christie, Chair
Margaret Fedje
Matt Gallatin
Nils Rosdahl
Karen Sandberg
Dwight Sederholm
Jim Straub
Marilyn Wudarcki

NOTE:

The Outcomes Assessment Committee would like to thank the NIC instructors who made time in their classes for the Student Opinion Survey to be given and the NIC students who took time to complete the survey. Your willingness to help the College gather data such as this is greatly appreciated.