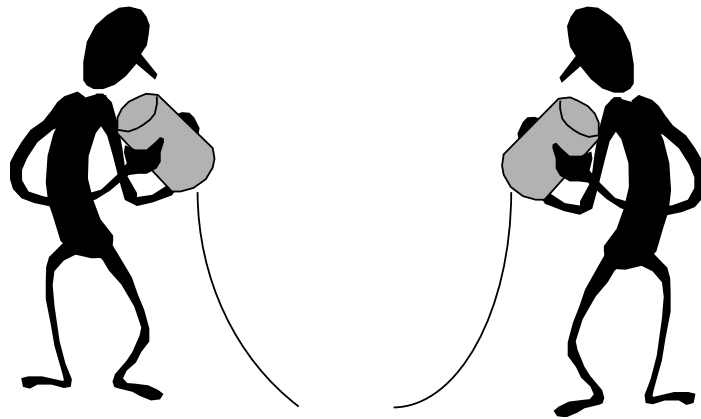


Spring 2006 Student Opinion Survey Overview Report



Prepared by

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

Fall 2006

NIC Student Opinion Survey

Overview Report

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As part of the College's outcomes assessment activities, a student opinion survey was given to a stratified, random sample of NIC students in the spring semester, 2006. Of the 1400 surveys that were distributed in credit classes both on and off campus, 902 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.

The results of the survey generally represent the student population as a whole in terms of male/female percentages and in terms of race/ethnicity. It should be noted that the results did show a higher percentage of responses from full-time students than appear in the overall student population during the spring semester 2006 (77.7% vs. 55.3%), and a higher percentage of responses from younger students – 22 years of age and younger - (62.2% vs. 54.5%) than appear in the overall student population during the spring semester 2006.

Following the return of the survey results, the Office of Planning, Assessment and Research 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 902 students responding to the survey, 62.2% of the students were 22 or younger. In the student population as a whole during spring semester 2006, 54.5 % of the students were 22 or younger. Thus, the survey results represent a student population with 7.7% more students 22 or younger than the general population of students in the spring semester, 2006.

FULL-TIME / PART-TIME – Of the 902 students responding to the survey, 77.7 % of the students were full-time and 22.3 % were part-time. In the student population as a whole during spring semester 2006, 55.3% of the students full-time and 44.7% were part-time. Thus, the survey results represent a student population with 22% more full-time students than were found in the general population of students in the spring semester, 2006.

STUDENT PURPOSE FOR ATTENDING - Of the 902 students responding to the survey, 48.4% indicated their purpose was to take courses necessary for transferring to a 4 year college/university. 23.3% indicated their purpose was to obtain an Associate's Degree and 8.0% indicated their purpose was to complete a Vocational-Technical Program. 4.3% indicated their purpose was to take courses necessary for transferring to another 2-year college. 16% 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 902 students responding to the survey, 44.6% entered directly from high school; 31% entered after working a period of time (excluding summer work); 6.8% transferred from another college and 2.6% entered after completing military service.

HOW FAR FROM NIC DO STUDENTS LIVE - Of the 902 students responding to the survey, 39.9% live within 5 miles of NIC; 23.3% live from 6-10 miles of NIC; 15.4% live between 11 and 20 miles; 8.7% live between 21 and 40 miles and 12.6% live over 40 miles from NIC.

NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK STUDENTS ARE EMPLOYED - Of the 902 students responding to the survey, 31.4% indicated they were not working or working only occasional jobs; 26.4% indicated they were working up to 20 hours a week; and 42.2% indicated they were working from 21 to 40+ hours a week.

NUMBER OF YEARS STUDENTS HAVE ATTENDED NIC - Of the 902 students responding to the survey, 57.9% indicated they have attended NIC one year; 24.3% indicated they have attended two years and 12.3% indicated they have attended three years and 5.4% indicated they have attended four or more years.

College Impressions

MAJOR REASON FOR SELECTING NIC – Of the 902 students responding to the survey, the top three major reasons for selecting NIC were “convenient location,” “offered the courses I wanted,” and “low cost of attending.”

NIC FIRST CHOICE - Of the 902 students responding to the survey, at the time they applied for admission to NIC, 76.7% indicated that NIC was their first choice of colleges.

WOULD STUDENTS CHOOSE NIC AGAIN - Of the 902 students responding to the survey, 73.7% indicated they would definitely or probably choose NIC again. (41.6% definitely and 32.1% probably)

QUALITY OF EDUCATION AT NIC - Of the 902 students responding to the survey, 81.8% indicated that their overall impression of the quality of education at NIC was excellent or good. (24.4% excellent and 57.4% good) 15.8% rated the quality as average and 2.4% 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 902 responses)	Level of Satisfaction (5=Very Satisfied ; 4 = Satisfied; 3=Neutral; 2= Dissatisfied; 1=Very Dissatisfied)
1. Computer Services	553	4.27
2. Library Facilities and Services	656	4.27
3. Academic Advising	639	3.72
4. Cafeteria/Food Services	568	3.65
5. Parking Facilities	731	2.67

The only college service or program scoring in the dissatisfied range was Parking which received a 2.67. (Note: Parking was ranked 2.21 in 2004.)

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	4.31
2. Attitude of teaching staff toward students	4.17

Highest Ranking College Aspects

Level of Satisfaction

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

3. General condition and appearance of the buildings and grounds	4.14
4. This college in general	4.10
5. Laboratory facilities	4.03
6. Student community center/student union	4.02

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. Opportunities for student employment	3.47
2. Academic probation and suspension policies	3.42
3. Athletic facilities	3.41
4. Student voice in college policies	3.41
5. Student government	3.38
6. Availability of adequate housing for students	3.38
7. Purposes for which student activity fees are used	3.25

None of the 44 aspects scored in the dissatisfied range.

Student Comments

Of the 902 students who completed the survey, 144 students or 15.9% of the respondents took time to add written comments to the survey form. The largest number of comments on one topic was the dissatisfaction with parking on the campus.

If you have questions about the survey or its results, please contact Kathy Christie, Assistant Vice President for Planning, Assessment & Research, at 769-3403.