

## **Students and the Daily Class Schedule**

The Class Scheduling Task Force conducted a survey of students during the Spring 2006 semester. The survey was available online and was announced twice on the student listserv. The sample size was 155 students. No attempt was made to randomize or stratify the sample.

The results of the survey suggest several conclusions:

- Students prefer taking courses before 2 p.m.;
- Most students arrive on campus by 10 a.m. each day;
- Though interested in more half-semester and evening courses, students are not interested in more weekend offerings;
- Students reacted positively to having more 75 minute classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, creating a four-day week for them;
- Students have occasional difficulty in balancing three and four credit classes in their schedule because of time overlap;
- Though some students would not take a 7:30 a.m. class, there is interest in that time slot by a number of students;
- Students adjust their work schedules to their class schedules, with most students working in the afternoon, evening, or on weekends.

Respondents were asked to provide written comments about the class schedule as well. Some repeated comments include:

- Being done by early afternoon to go to work—scheduling classes during the “actual school day”;
- Taking evening courses only when day courses are full;
- Classes students take are too spread out over the day;
- Taking Tri-College classes is difficult because of the time it takes to get from campus to campus

In sum, the survey results suggest that some minor tweaking of the current class schedule would be helpful, but that larger changes to accommodate their lifestyles is not necessary at this time.

Additionally, the task force examined the number of part-time students enrolled in evening courses. There were 3,340 students enrolled in classes that begin after 4 p.m. during the Fall 2007 semester. Of those students, 505 (15%) were enrolled in fewer than 12 credits that semester. The remaining 2,835 students (85%) were registered in 12 or more credits for the term.

## Survey Results Summary

The demographic information of the respondents is shown below.

<b>Year in School</b>	
First year	13%
Second year	16%
Third year	37%
Fourth or more	18%
Graduate	Less than 1%
<b>Residence</b>	
On campus	28%
Off campus	72%
<b>Primary Major</b>	
Arts/Humanities	14%
Business/Industry	21%
Education/Human Services	36%
Social/Natural Sciences	28%
Undeclared	2%

The students surveyed indicated that they prefer taking classes before 2 p.m.

<b>Favorite Time for Classes</b>	
Between 8-10 a.m.	27%
Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.	61%
Between 2-4 p.m.	4%
4 p.m. and later	8%

Offering more evening classes was met with mixed results by the students, though more students agreed or strongly agreed that more evening classes should be offered than those who disagreed or strongly disagreed.

<b>More evening classes?</b>	
Strongly Agree	9%
Agree	26%
Neutral	35%
Disagree	17%
Strongly Disagree	12%
Total	99%

However, more students were opposed to offering more weekend classes than were in favor of an expanded weekend schedule.

<b>More weekend classes?</b>	
Strongly Agree	7%
Agree	11%
Neutral	32%
Disagree	23%
Strongly Disagree	28%

Students were interested in having more classes that meet for half the semester.

<b>More half semester classes?</b>	
Strongly Agree	18%
Agree	39%
Neutral	29%
Disagree	11%
Strongly Disagree	4%

Though 24% said they would never enroll in a 7:30 a.m. class, 18% said they would even if they had other options for taking the course.

When asked when they arrive on campus, 82% of the students said they were here by 10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays while 80% reported being here by that time on Tuesdays and Thursdays. By 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 89% of the students reported being on campus.

When asked if they would prefer more 75 minute classes that meet on Mondays and Wednesdays (and not Fridays), 74% of the students agreed or strongly agreed.

A major concern of the task force are classes that overlap in time. Of the students surveyed, 12% reported they usually have difficulty balancing three and four credit classes because of time overlap. An additional 55% said they sometimes have difficulty with time overlaps.

When asked how they balance their work schedule with their class schedule, 22% reported that their work schedule depends on their class schedule. Fewer students work in the mornings than in the afternoons, evenings, or weekends. Only 5% reported that their class schedule depends on their work schedule.